

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 1, 1974

No. 4

NEC Present: Clark, Dixon, Finkel, Hildebrand, Little, Miah,
Mirelowitz, Perez, Pulley, Welch, Whicker

NC Alt. Present: Freiwirth

Chair: Dixon

Agenda: 1. Financial Report
2. Young Socialist Report
3. Holton Correspondence
4. Coalition of Labor Union Women

1. Financial Report

Welch reported on our September-December 1973 financial functioning and plans for the spring fund drive.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried

2. Young Socialist Report

Clark initiated a discussion on the February issue.

Discussion

Clark reported on proposals for the March issue.

Discussion

Agreed

3. Holton Correspondence

Finkel reported.

Discussion

Motion: To send the attached letter in response to Comrade Holton's letter.

Carried

4. Coalition of Labor Union Women

Whicker reported on plans for building the March 23-24 national conference of the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried

Meeting Adjourned.

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Madison, Wis.
January 27, 1974

Rich Finkel
YSA NO
New York

Dear Comrade Finkel:

I received your letter of January 17 responding to my communications to the NEC regarding excessive factionalism rampant among LTF supporters in the Madison Local, and find your response to be totally inadequate and unsatisfactory, to the point of being ludicrous..

Since I last wrote, I have been co-opted onto the Local Executive Committee. Given the differentiation in the Local of 9 LTF supporters and 8 IT members, I find the token gesture of merely adding me to the E.C. to be nothing more than an unserious mockery of democratic norms. At a minimum, the Executive Committee should reflect the reality of the differentiation within the local and as such the breakdown should be 3 LTF supporters and 2 IT supporters, exclusive of myself.

While you may be correct in stating that NC members do not have an automatic "right" to attend E.C. meetings I think that you will agree that such a procedure is a long established norm completely consonant with the traditions of American Trotskyism.

Because the factional situation in the Madison Local has not been rectified in any meaningful manner I ask once again that the National Executive Committee intervene in the situation and induce the LTF supporters in Madison to accept a 3-2 parity on the E.C. and to allow me the "privilege" of attending E.C. meetings as a member of the National Committee. If this is not done then we will have no choice but to conclude that the National leadership has assumed political responsibility for the factional situation in the Local.

In closing I take note of the last paragraph of your letter which quite correctly points out that the National Convention of the YSA has settled political differences for the coming year, and our task is to carry out the line decided by the convention in a disciplined manner. I quite agree and of course will do so. On the other hand I should like to remind you that the YSA is in fraternal solidarity with the organization that will be holding its World Congress very shortly. An extensive number of political differences will be resolved at the World Congress and I trust that the YSA will respect the decisions made at the coming Congress and carry them out in a serious and disciplined manner.

Comradely,

s/John Holton

cc: B. Massey, IMT, United Secretariat

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P.O. Box 471 Cooper Station
New York, N.Y. 10003

February 1, 1974

John Holton
Madison

Dear Comrade Holton,

The National Executive Committee rejects your request of January 27, 1974, that we "induce the LTF supporters in Madison to accept a 3-2 parity on the E.C." and allow you "the 'privilege' of attending E.C. meetings."

The Madison local -- and not the NEC -- has the responsibility of electing its executive committee and determining whether other members may sit in. In addition, the NEC does not determine how or even whether minorities should be represented on local executive committees. This is the responsibility of the local leadership and the local itself.

You do not challenge the fact that the new Madison executive committee was democratically elected by secret ballot. What you oppose are the results of that election. The NEC, however, will not overturn the democratically-elected Madison executive committee because you disagree with the vote of the local.

In two previous letters, dated January 17, 1974, and January 23, 1974, we have pointed out that your charges of "factionalism" against the majority of the Madison local are false. Since you are a voting member of the new Madison executive committee, it should not be necessary to call to your attention the fact that the Internationalist Tendency has not been excluded from the leadership of the Madison local.

Comradely,

s/ Rich Finkel,
for the National Executive
Committee

cc: Madison organizer