

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING No. 20, April 28, 1977

Present: Barnes, Berman, Blackstock, Breitman, Garza, L. Jenness, Lovell, Lund, Miah, Seigle, Stapleton, Waters, Wohlforth

Guests: Brundy, Jaquith, LaMont, Matson

Chair: Stapleton

AGENDA: 1. NOW Convention  
2. Albuquerque Organizing Committee  
3. Membership  
4. Al Duncan

1. NOW CONVENTION

(Cole, Lubrano, Morell, and Reid invited for this point)

Jaquith reported.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

2. ALBUQUERQUE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Seigle reported on recommendation to admit N.K. as provisional member at-large in Albuquerque and proposal to establish an organizing committee there consisting of the four members and one provisional member.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Seigle reported on the recommendation of the Cincinnati branch that S.M. be readmitted to the party.

Discussion

Motion: To concur with recommendation of Cincinnati branch.

Carried.

Seigle reported on the recommendation of the Chicago Westside branch that D.C. be readmitted

to the party.

Discussion

Motion: To concur with the recommendation of the Chicago Westside branch.

Carried.

Seigle reported on the recommendation of Chicago Northside branch that M.Q. be readmitted to the party.

Discussion

Motion: To concur with the recommendation of the Chicago Northside branch.

Carried.

#### 4. AL DUNCAN

(Reid invited for this point)

Reid reported on new incident involving Al Duncan. (See attached letter from Pat Wright.)

Motion: To assign Hawkins to meet with comrades involved and if facts are as indicated, to ask Al Duncan to resign from the party.

Discussion

Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

New York, N.Y.  
April 26, 1977

Political Committee  
Socialist Workers Party  
14 Charles Lane  
NYC 10014

Dear Comrades,

On the weekend of the NOW conference in Detroit, April 22-24, I stayed at Gloria Swartz's home. (A Black woman comrade in one of the Detroit branches) On Sunday morning, April 24, I witnessed an act of violence against Gloria by another comrade, Al Duncan.

It happened about 7:00 am, when Gloria came home, and Al had been waiting for her there. He was extremely upset that she had come in at that hour, and proceeded to yell, curse, and push her around the house. He pushed and chased her from the living room to the dining room and then to the kitchen, where he shoved her against the refrigerator, and again against the wall. During this time he was calling her names such as "bitch," "mother-fucker," and accusing her of so called acts of adultery. When he first started pushing her, I called out to him to stop, but he told me to mind my own business. I told him this was my business because he had no right to treat another comrade that way. He continued to push and shove her around, and when I told him to get himself together he said "I'm always together." Al continued to curse and shout at Gloria about where she had been, and she pleadingly asked him to calm down so they could discuss it.

For a short while (5 minutes or so) he did calm down, and when I asked him if he realized what he had done he told me "he didn't give a fuck" and that I could "go ahead and press charges" against him. He even began to yell and swing his arms at me as if he wanted to strike me.

Things calmed down again, and I tried to talk to him about why he was wrong. He didn't seem to think so and responded, that he was always the blame. He then began to yell again, telling me to take Gloria with me because he would "kill the bitch." He also made this last statement earlier. We ended the conversation shortly and he quieted down. I had to leave for the convention, and Al was still there. But Gloria tells me there were no other incidents after I left. She says also that he apologized and admitted he was wrong.

Although Gloria was not injured, she was very shook up, and I felt this should be reported, and action taken as soon as possible. Gloria also told me the next day over the phone that there have been worse incidents that have not been reported. (This was her decision not to do so) I feel very strongly that

this cannot be tolerated, and that although Al has agreed to change, Gloria says, it will not happen while he continues to be a member of the SWP, in my opinion.

Gloria tells me this was a small incident compared to others, but I do not feel we can measure physical violence within the movement, letting some go by, and others not.

I feel I should also report that some comrades have mentioned to me that one incident of violence in New Orleans between a white and Black comrade, caused the attacker to be asked to resign. But here an incident between a Black and another Black comrade does not get asked to resign. I think this has to be explained.

I recommend a discussion with Gloria and Al. If Gloria does not want to press charges against Al, I feel that I should. I think Al should be asked to resign from the party until he and the party think he has solved his problem. I also think he should be encouraged to continue to work with the SWP. I'm hoping that his political expertise will enable him to understand this move and force him to more adequately grapple with his problem.

I think, finally, that if something is not done soon about this situation, it will set a bad example for the party as a whole.

Comradely,

s/Pat Wright