

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES, Number 11, August 4, 1970

Present: J. Barnes, Breitman, Britton, DeBerry, Dobbs, Horowitz, Novack, Ring, Sheppard, Waters.

Visitors: Bolduc, Seigle

Chairman: Sheppard

AGENDA: 1. Socialist Scholars Conference
2. Fall Subscription Drive
3. Middle East
4. Fall Party Propaganda Tour
5. Women's Liberation Internal Tour

1. SOCIALIST SCHOLARS CONFERENCE

Novack reported.

Socialist Scholars Conference initiated in mid 1960's. It filled needs at that time: increasing radicalization among certain strata of academic community; rallying point for homeless radicals in academic world.

Future of Socialist Scholars Conference uncertain and unclear: (1) there has been a decline in attendance (from 3,000 at high point to 500 this year). (2) Constant contention as to what the Socialist Scholars Conference should be or become.

There is less of an urgent need for the Socialist Scholars Conference as the sole rallying point for this stratum of radical intellectuals since there is a growing number of radical caucuses in many professional associations.

Socialist Scholars Conference functions in a non-exclusionist manner and our participation in it is limited but useful at this juncture.

2. FALL SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE

Britton reported.

Motion: to have a major Militant subscription drive in the fall with quotas set between 12,000 - 20,000 depending on results of consultation with branch leaderships at the Oberlin conference. In addition we will shoot for a small quota of subscriptions to the International Socialist Review in conjunction with the Militant subscriptions. To refer exact quotas to Administrative Committee.

Carried.

3. MIDDLE EAST

Breitman reported. Agreed to organize further discussion in September.

4. FALL PARTY PROPAGANDA TOUR

Sheppard reported.

Motion: To authorize the Administrative Committee to organize a national propaganda tour during the fall and winter on the Arab-Israel question for Peter Buch.

Carried.

5. WOMEN'S LIBERATION INTERNAL TOUR

Waters reported.

Motion: To authorize women's liberation steering committee to organize a primarily internal tour of B. Barnes to the party branches in the fall to aid in orienting the party on women's liberation work.

Carried.

Meeting adjourned.