

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES, No. 7, January 25, 1968

Present: Barnes, Dobbs, Hansen, Shaw, Sheppard, Kerry, Jones, Novack, DeBerry.

Chairman: Kerry

AGENDA:

1. Plenum: a) agenda, b) reporters, c) observers.
2. Antiwar
3. Election Campaign
4. International

1. PLENUM

Dobbs reported.

a. Motion: To recommend as the plenum agenda:

1. International Report
2. Political Report (with a report on the Black Liberation Struggle)
3. Trade Union Report
4. Youth Report
5. Organization Report

Carried.

b. Motion: That the following be designated as PC reporters: Hansen - International Report, Barnes - Political Report, DeBerry - Black Liberation Struggle, Dobbs - Trade Union Report, youth reporter to be assigned by youth, Shaw - Organization Report.

Carried.

c. Shaw reported.

Motion: To invite organizers who are not NCers to attend the plenum.

Carried.

2. ANTIWAR REPORT

Jones reported on Student Mobilization Conference:

About 1000 expected to attend. What we want to see come out of Conference is motion calling for mass international antiwar action in April. There seems to be support from all tendencies on this proposal.

It is clear the CP is mobilizing in large numbers for the Conference. CP proposes addition of plank to SMC platform: End Racism. They want 1) "Freedom and Peace" as slogan for spring action, 2) 50% vote for black caucus in SMC, 3) support by SMC of Peace and Freedom Party work. They hope to accomplish this by packing black caucus and coming into plenary with above proposals.

Gwen Patton (SMC) and John Wilson (SNCC) calling for black caucus participation at SMC Conference to form all-black student antiwar organization which will collaborate fraternally with SMC. Their proposal is consciously aimed at countering CP organizational gimmicks and we will support it.

The second political fight will be on the draft. Linda Morse and others want SMC on record in favor of aiding and abetting individual draft resistance. We want discussion on this point to present our perspective. We want to take the offensive on this point. We will raise GI antiwar attitudes here.

3. ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Barnes reported:

Last month we outlined main tasks of campaign in coming period to be: 1) systematic organization of trailblazes, distributions and interventions in meetings to reach out and get endorsements. 2) Early announcement of our state tickets. 3) Pushing ahead on ballot and elector work. 4) Organization of local fund raising in preparation for tours. Progress in these tasks has been as follows:

1) On trailblazing most locals have responded very well. NY, Bay Area and Atlanta organized extensive trailblazes and Boston, Chicago, Seattle and Madison have organized weekend trailblazes.

On Dec. 19 we had 432 endorsers; now we have 640. On Dec. 19 we had endorsers on 100 campuses; now we have them on 136. On Dec. 19 we had endorsers on 23 high schools; now we have them on 33. On Dec. 19 we knew of 66 Afro-American endorsers; now we have 120. We had supporters in 128 as of last month; now we have supporters in 166. We recently got 5 GIs -- not members -- as endorsers. The increased pace of activity in the locals explains this change since the tours are really just beginning. We understand the number of at-large YSAers continues to grow: by Dec. 19 there were 7 at-large members directly attributable to the campaign; 11 more have been recruited since then.

On tours, since they have just begun, there are not many generalizations that can be made. Two points to note: Paul is finding Afro-American student groups on almost every campus. While the size of Fred's meetings has varied, he is having at least one very large one in each area -- 250-300 at U. of Wisconsin, 200 at U. of Illinois Chicago campus, see Minneapolis tour round-up previously sent out.

10 locals have mimeographed local Campaigners; including Texas.

2) On state tickets: NY, NJ, Pa., Ohio, Calif. already set on candidates. Others who will announce soon are Wisc., Ga., Texas. We don't know when Illinois, Mass., Mich., Minnesota, and Wash. plan to announce.

3) On ballot status, see Campaign Committee report to accompany next mailing.

4) We have been weak on getting speakers' fees and taking collections for candidates on tour. One or both are possible at almost every campus meeting.

New brochure out -- letter to GIs. Working on Spanish language brochure -- going to printer next week. Fred finishing text on Why White Workers Should Support Black Power. 2 buttons laid out. Reprint of ISR article with introduction by Paul -- Case of Independent Black Political Party.

Four YSHB chapters -- Madison, Austin-Houston, Washington, D.C., and Atlanta -- are doing very well in distribution of campaign literature, trailblazing and endorsers.

Campaign Committee will send out full statistical report next week.

4. INTERNATIONAL

Hansen reported on legal challenge to name of World Outlook. A house organ published in Cincinnati claims to have trademark, established in the thirties. It is not listed in any of the standard library indexes, nor is it obtainable from any public sources in New York. Lawyer consulted on the matter considered that it would be expensive to pursue the matter in court and that in the end the case would probably be lost although it does have some interesting legal aspects. He saw the lawyers representing the other side and said that while they recognize that the audiences are completely different and no practical problem is involved, they do not want to let a precedent be established because of what this would signify legally and therefore they are prepared to go to court. In view of the costs, it was decided to change the name. The new name should be selected as rapidly as possible, but not later than April and it must go into effect by July.

Meeting adjourned.