

MINUTES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

April 26, 27, 28, 29, 1973

Thursday, April 26, 1973

Convened by Barnes -- 10:05 AM

Motion by Barnes: That Henderson chair the first day.

Carried.

Attendance:

Regular:

Barnes, Bolduc, Breitman, Britton,  
P. Camejo, Chertov, Coover, DeBerry,  
Garza, Halstead, A. Hansen, J. Hansen,  
Himmel, Horowitz, Jenness, Johnson,  
Jones, F. Lovell, Morrison, Ring, Sharon,  
Shaw, Sheppard, Stone, Waters, Weinstein,  
Weissman

Alternates:

Seigle, White, Wulp, Styron, Benson,  
Lipman, Henderson, C. Scheer, Thomas,  
Montauk, S. Lovell, Scott, Evans,  
Leonard, Sell, Kirsch, Edwards, Roberts,  
Pulley

Advisory:

Alvin, B. Chester, Dobbs, Kerry, Novack

Control Commission: Ferguson, R. Hansen, H. Scheer

1. ORGANIZATION OF PLENUM

Barnes reported recommendations of the Political Committee on procedure:

Motion: To approve the following procedural recommendations:

1. That in cases of procedural disputes, discussion be limited to two speakers, one for and one against, and that each speaker be limited to two minutes.
2. That general discussion be limited to ten minutes per speaker and that no one speak twice until all who wish to speak have already done so.
3. That the Presiding Committee consist of the Administrative Committee (Jones, Scott, Shaw, Sheppard, Stone) plus Political Committee reporters (Barnes, Waters).
4. To invite as observers: Control Commission members, cothinkers, heads of national departments, members of the youth NEC, branch organizers and special guests.
5. To give voice to organizers and department heads who are not members of the National Committee during discussion of the Organization and Tasks Report.

Carried.

Motion: To approve the following agenda:

1. World Political Situation Report
2. World Movement Reports

3. Political Perspectives Report
4. Organization and Tasks Report
5. Youth Report
6. Gay Liberation Movement Memorandum
7. Election of Political Committee
8. Convention Call

Carried.

Motion: To approve the following schedule (see attached):

Carried.

## 2. WORLD POLITICAL SITUATION REPORT

Barnes reported.

Discussion: Roberts, Edwards, Evans, Halstead, Garza, Henderson

Motion: To grant Henderson a 5-minute extension.

Carried.

Recess --- 1:00 PM

Reconvene --- 2:10 PM

Further Discussion: Johnson, Horowitz, Ring, Thomas, Roberts

Summary: Barnes:

Motion: To approve the general line of the World Political Situation Report.

Carried unanimously.

## 3. WORLD MOVEMENT REPORTS

### A. Discussion in the World Movement

Waters reported.

Motion: To give cothinkers voice for the discussion under the World Movement Reports.

Carried.

Motion by Presiding Committee: To have 2 hours of discussion on the World Movement Report tonight.

Carried.

Discussion: Thomas

Motion: To grant Thomas a 3-minute extension.

Carried.

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Motion: To grant Thomas a 1-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Camejo

Motion: To grant Camejo a 10-minute extension.

Carried.

Motion: To grant Camejo a 5-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Roberts

Motion: To grant Roberts a 4-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: White, Alvin, Mikan

Motion: To grant Mikan an extension to finish his remarks.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Styron

Motion: To grant Styron a 3-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Halstead

Motion: To grant Halstead a 1-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Pulley

Recess -- 6:45 PM

Friday, April 27, 1973

Reconvene -- 10:05 AM

Motion by Presiding Committee: That Lipman chair the Friday session.

Carried.

Summary: Waters

B. Development of Leninist-Trotskyist Tendency

Shaw reported.

Discussion: Sheppard

Motion: To grant Sheppard a 3-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Camejo, Horowitz

Motion: To grant Horowitz a 5-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Halstead

Motion: To grant Halstead a 5-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Margo

Recess -- 1:05 PM

Reconvene -- 2:05 PM

Motion by Presiding Committee: To cancel the Saturday evening session due to Comrade Woolf's inability to attend the plenum.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Ashbourne

Motion: To grant Ashbourne a 2-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Wulp, Evans, Roberts, Barnes, Henderson

Summary: Shaw

Motion: To grant Camejo 5 minutes for clarification.

Carried.

Motion: To approve the general line of the World Movement Reports.

Carried unanimously.

### 3. POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES REPORT

Jones reported.

Discussion: Alvin

Motion: To grant Alvin a 4-minute extension.

Carried.

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Further Discussion: Thomas

Motion: To grant Thomas a 2-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Garza, Weinstein

Motion: To grant Weinstein a 2-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Edwards, Johnson, Leonard, Barnes, Halstead

Summary: Jones

Motion: To approve the general line of the Political Perspectives Report.

Carried unanimously.

Recess -- 6:00 PM

Saturday, April 28, 1973

Reconvene -- 10:05 AM

Motion by Presiding Committee: That Pulley chair the Saturday session.

Carried.

## 5. ORGANIZATION AND TASKS REPORT

Stone reported.

Discussion: Roberts, F. Lovell

Motion: To grant F. Lovell a 1-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Morell, White, Thomas, Ring, Alvin, T. Kerry, Montauk, D. Jenness, Morrison

Recess -- 1:05 PM

Reconvene -- 2:05 PM

Further Discussion: DeBerry, Lipman

Motion: To grant Lipman a 5-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: H. Meyers, Henderson

Motion: To grant Henderson a 5-minute extension.

Carried.

Motion: To grant Henderson a 1-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Zimmermann, Studer

Motion by Presiding Committee: To cut speakers' time to 8 minutes for the remainder of the discussion of the Organization and Tasks Report, to allow no extensions, and to close the speakers' list.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Kelly, Boehm, Pulley, Savage, Schiff, Britton, Singer, Vidal, Weissman, Marcus, Horowitz

Summary: Stone

Motion: To approve the general line of the Organization and Tasks Report.

Carried unanimously.

## 6. YOUTH REPORT

Rose reported.

Discussion: Garza, Pulley, Edwards, Halstead

Recess -- 7:05 PM

Sunday, April 29, 1973

Reconvene -- 10:10 AM

Motion by Presiding Committee: That Montauk chair the Sunday session.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Chertov

Summary: Rose

Motion: To approve the general line of the Youth Report.

Carried unanimously.

## 7. GAY LIBERATION MOVEMENT MEMORANDUM

Sheppard reported.

Discussion: Edwards, Sell, Ring, Wulp, Evans, Johnson, Jenness, Chester, Waters, Himmel, Garza, Thomas, Pulley, Roberts, Barnes

Motion: To grant Barnes a 10-minute extension.

Carried.

Motion: To grant Barnes a 2-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Henderson, Stone, Weinstein, Kerry, Ring

Motion: To grant Ring a 5-minute extension.

Carried.

Summary: Sheppard

Motion: To approve the general line of the Gay Liberation  
Movement Memorandum.

Regular: for, unanimous  
Consultative: against, none  
abstentions,  
Kerry  
for, all others

Carried.

Statement by Ring:

As I indicated during the discussion, I generally agree with the general line of the report, but consider it insufficient in several respects, and reserve the right to offer amendments to it.

Statement by Chester:

I support the Gay Liberation Movement Memorandum, but I think it should emphasize the point that this is a first assessment of a movement in its early stages -- that further experience will enable us to make more precise analyses to guide our work in this field.

Recess -- 2:00 PM

Reconvene -- 3:10 PM

## 8. ELECTION OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Barnes reported.

Motion: To elect a Political Committee of 16 members.

Carried.

Barnes nominated: Barnes, Breitman, Britton, P. Camejo, A. Hansen, J. Hansen, Horowitz, Jenness, Jones, Lovell, Morrison, Shaw, Sheppard, Stone, Waters, and a representative to be designated by the youth NEC.

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No further nominations.

Motion: To elect the 16 nominees.

Carried.

Motion: To designate Dobbs, Kerry and Novack as consultative members of the Political Committee.

Carried.

#### 9. CONVENTION CALL

Jones reported.

Motion: To issue call for the Twenty-Fifth National Convention to take place August 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 in Ohio(see attached).

Carried.

Singing of "The Internationale."

Plenum adjourned -- 4:15 PM



PLENUM SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 26

10:00 - 10:30      Organization of Plenum (½ hour)  
10:30 - 12:00      World Political Situation Report (1½ hours) --  
                         Barnes  
12:00 - 1:00        Discussion (2 hours)  
1:00 - 2:00        Lunch  
2:00 - 3:00        Discussion  
3:00 - 3:30        Summary (½ hour)  
3:30 - 5:00        World Movement Report (1½ hours) -- Waters  
5:00 - 6:30        World Movement Report (1½ hours) -- Woolf  
6:30                Recess

Friday, April 27

10:00 - 12:00      Discussion (2 hours)  
12:00 - 12:30      Summary (½ hour) -- Woolf  
12:30 - 1:00        Summary (½ hour) -- Waters  
1:00 - 2:00        Lunch  
2:00 - 3:30        World Movement Report (1½ hours) -- Shaw  
3:30 - 5:30        Discussion (2 hours)  
5:30 - 6:00        Summary (½ hour)  
6:00 - 7:00        Dinner  
7:00 - 8:30        Political Perspectives Report (1 ½ hours) --  
                         Jones  
8:30 - 10:00        Discussion (3 hours)  
10:00                Recess

Saturday, April 28

10:00 - 11:30      Discussion  
11:30 - 12:00      Summary (½ hour)  
12:00 - 1:00        Lunch  
1:00 - 2:30        Organization and Tasks Report (1 ½ hours) --  
                         Stone  
2:30 - 5:30        Discussion (3 hours)  
5:30 - 6:00        Summary (½ hour)  
6:00 - 7:00        Dinner  
7:00 - 8:15        Youth Report (1¼ hours) -- Rose  
8:15 - 9:30        Discussion (2 hours)  
9:30                Recess

Sunday, April 29

10:00 - 10:45      Discussion  
10:45 - 11:15      Summary (½ hour)  
11:15 - 11:45      Gay Liberation Movement Report (½ hour) --  
                         Sheppard  
11:45 - 1:15        Discussion (1½ hours)  
1:15 - 1:30        Summary (¼ hour)  
1:30 - 2:30        Lunch  
2:30 - 3:15        Election of Political Committee Report  
                         (¾ hour) -- Barnes  
3:15 - 4:45        Discussion (1½ hours)  
4:45 - 5:00        Summary (¼ hour)  
5:00 - 5:30        Convention Call (½ hour)  
5:30                ADJOURN

CALL FOR THE TWENTY-FIFTH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE  
SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

April 29, 1973

TO ALL LOCALS, BRANCHES AND MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

Pursuant to the provisions of the party constitution, the National Committee hereby calls the Twenty-Fifth National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party to convene in Ohio at 10:00 AM on Sunday, August 5 and continue through five days (August 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, 1973).

AGENDA

The National Committee proposes the following agenda for the convention:

World Political Situation Report  
World Movement Reports  
Political Resolution  
Political Reports  
Organization Reports  
Youth Report  
Election of National Committee

PRECONVENTION DISCUSSION

The party preconvention discussion is formally opened May 7, 1973. The Discussion Bulletin is open for all party members on the subjects listed in the agenda or others which they may wish to present for the consideration of the party. As authorized by the party constitution, the Political Committee has set a deadline of July 28, 1973, for acceptance of preconvention discussion articles for the bulletin.

Branch membership meetings shall be arranged for discussion of the various subjects on the agenda. Our traditional provisions and safeguards for the adequate and free presentation of all points of view shall govern all discussion.

CONVENTION ASSESSMENT

As authorized by the party constitution, a convention assessment of \$10.00 per member is hereby levied, the payment of which is obligatory for every member not totally unemployed.

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION

1. Representation from the branches shall be as follows: One delegate for the first 15 members or less, and one additional delegate for each 15 additional members or major fraction thereof (8 or more constituting a major fraction).

2. Delegates are to be elected by branches in accordance with the actual number of members in good standing who have been admitted to the party prior to April 29, 1973, and who have paid their convention assessment, as certified by the branch executive committee on the day of voting.

3. Branches organized after April 29, 1973, are entitled to send fraternal delegates as provided by the party constitution.

4. Members admitted to the party after April 29, 1973, are entitled to voice in the party discussion but no vote on resolutions or in the selection of delegates.

5. Absentee votes on political resolutions and in the election of delegates shall not be permitted except in clearly established cases of occupational necessity (for example, regular night workers, etc.). In all such cases the votes must be submitted in writing and recognized by motion at the branch meeting at the time of the branch voting.

6. Members transferring from one branch to another within the same locality subsequent to April 29, 1973, must vote in the branch from which they transferred.

#### PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

In case of political differences defined by conflicting resolutions, the election of delegates in the branches is to be on the basis of the vote on resolution or resolutions voted on at the meeting at which the delegates are elected. Members voting for a given resolution are entitled to designate the delegate or delegates to which they are entitled on the basis of proportional representation laid down in this call, the designations to be ratified by the branch. Abstentions in no case count as votes.

1. If a branch is entitled to one delegate, the delegate goes to the majority of those present and voting at the time of the election.

2. If two delegates, a minority with 40 percent gets one.

3. If three delegates, a minority with  $33\frac{1}{3}$  percent gets one.

4. If four delegates, a minority with 25 percent gets one delegate, but a minority with 40 percent is entitled to two delegates.

5. If five delegates, a minority with 20 percent gets one.

6. If six delegates, a minority with  $16\frac{2}{3}$  percent gets one delegate, a minority with  $33\frac{1}{3}$  percent, two delegates, but a minority with 40 percent gets one-half the delegates.

In general, if a branch is entitled to  $n$  delegates, then a minority is entitled to  $x$  delegates if it receives at least  $x/n$  of the votes, with the one exception that if  $n$  is even, a minority receiving at least 40 percent of the vote is entitled to half of the delegates.

#### CONVENTION ATTENDANCE

The National Committee proposes that all party members in good standing may attend the convention as visitors, and that friends may be admitted to the sessions provided they have been invited by a branch.

Fraternally yours,

NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

Jack Barnes  
National Secretary