

POLITICAL BUREAU

NUMBER 14

October 9, 1974

Present: Barnes, Finkel, Hansen, Jenness, Lovell

Visitors: Breitman, Camejo, Pulley, Scott, Seigle, Thomas,
Waters

Chair: Finkel

- AGENDA:
1. Campaign Against Racist Offensive in Boston
 2. Evolution of the Congress of African People and Their Newark Election Campaign
 3. District One
 4. Cannon Publishing Project
 5. Political Bureau Transfers
 6. Colorado Raza Unida Party Election Campaign

1. CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACIST OFFENSIVE IN BOSTON

Jenness reported on lynch mob attacks against Black community in Boston and the party's response. National media are playing down the scope and nature of this conflict. Stone, Horowitz, and Smith have gone to Boston to help organize Militant coverage. Comrades in Boston helping to mobilize support for demonstration on October 13 called by Black organizations.

We want to go on a national campaign to get the truth out about these attacks and to explain the national stakes involved centered around sales campaign of Militant. Boston has ordered 2,000 Militants and other branches are raising their bundles as part of this campaign. We want to help initiate meetings to hear reports on Boston, discuss real issues, and demonstrate solidarity with the Black community and its demand for federal troops.

Discussion

Agreed to launch campaign.

2. EVOLUTION OF THE CONGRESS OF AFRICAN PEOPLE (CAP) AND THEIR ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Pulley reported on the evolution of CAP, which is based in Newark and headed by Baraka. Baraka is still one of the most, if not most, influential Black leaders among Black students. In the recent period CAP has broken with the Gibson administration, evolved away from pure-and-simple nationalism, and has declared its intentions to build a Marxist-Leninist party. It says it has embraced Maoism. CAP is still in flux and is grappling with many important questions.

Our comrades in New York have increased their contact with CAP members and have sought their support and collab-

oration on various actions. This contact should be increased, especially on the leadership level, as well as more articles in The Militant taking up their positions.

Agreed to propose private leadership discussion with Baraka.

Pulley also reported on CAP's election campaign in Newark. One of their central committee members, Sandra Hill, is on the ballot as an independent with the designation "Unity Movement." She is running as a socialist against Democratic incumbent Peter Rodino, who is characterized in her campaign literature as a capitalist candidate. Democrats and Republicans are characterized as the two capitalist politics and Gibson as a capitalist politician.

Agreed to run article in paper to call attention to this campaign.

3. DISTRICT ONE

Jeness reported that a small part of the leadership of the community control struggle in Manhattan's Lower East Side have been organizing picket lines demanding that Jewish merchants in the district support the struggle. The view of those initiating these actions is that the merchants are the center of power in the school district, rather than the UFT leadership. Although these actions are peripheral to the main actions of the struggle which mobilize opposition to the Shankerite board, they are dangerous because they open up the struggle to slanderous charges of anti-Semitism by Shanker. Comrades in New York are attempting to convince others of dangers of these actions. Militant article this week will take up this question.

4. CANNON PUBLISHING PROJECT

Breitman reported that Pathfinder has received Cannon's entire files and is going through the material to make recommendations for what to publish. Evans has agreed to Editorial Committee proposal to be editor of project and work with Breitman on preparing the material for publication. Editorial Committee proposes Breitman oversee the entire project as consulting editor. Evans will be able to continue as magazine editor at least during the first phase of the project.

Breitman also reported that Pathfinder plans to publish a book of reminiscences about Jim modeled on Trotsky: The Man and His Work and will want to start soliciting them immediately with the goal of having the book in print by the first anniversary of Jim's death.

5. POLITICAL BUREAU TRANSFERS

Barnes reported on proposal to transfer Sheppard back to New York to be at center; to send Jones to Los Angeles so

we continue to have a Political Committee member in California; and to send Britton and Stone to Chicago for reasons we agreed to at Bureau meeting of August 13, 1974.

Motion:To approve the proposal.

Carried.

6. COLORADO RAZA UNIDA PARTY CAMPAIGN

Scott reported on correction of the proposal to extend critical support to Raza Unida Party candidates running in the November 1974 Colorado elections for offices for which the SWP is not fielding candidates rather than to Raza Unida candidates running for state regents offices.

Motion: To concur with the Denver branch recommendation that critical support be extended to the Raza Unida candidates running in the November 1974 elections for offices for which the SWP is not fielding candidates.

Carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED