

POLITICAL BUREAU

NUMBER 22

January 18, 1975

Present: Barnes, A. Hansen, D. Jenness, Lovell, Miah, Sheppard,
Thomas, Waters

Visitors: Camejo, Evans, J. Hansen, Scott, Seigle

Chair: Lovell

AGENDA: 1. International Socialist Review
2. Boston
3. Demonstrations on Jobs and Inflation
4. Convention Call

1. INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST REVIEW

Sheppard reported that the owners of the International Socialist Review and The Militant have proposed that the ISR become the monthly magazine of The Militant. The ISR will retain its separate identity and name and will be inserted in The Militant. The magazine in its new format will begin with 12 Militant-size pages; in those weeks when the ISR is published, The Militant will publish 20 pages making a total of 32 pages.

Making the ISR the monthly magazine of the paper will be a significant step forward for The Militant, giving it an attractive new feature. It will help the ISR and The Militant to better compliment each other politically and provide greater editorial flexibility for the paper. The circulation of the magazine will be greatly increased.

The proposal will also allow for a more efficient use of resources, both human and material, in producing both publications.

The first issue in the new format will be the April issue of the magazine.

Discussion .

Motion: To support the proposal.

Carried.

2. BOSTON

Sheppard reported on developments in building broader support for the Student Conference Against Racism and for a spring action

Discussion

3. DEMONSTRATIONS ON JOBS AND INFLATION

Jenness reported on meetings, discussions, and actions about unemployment and inflation being held or projected by various groups (see attached).

Discussion

4. CONVENTION CALL

Sheppard reported on initial thinking about convention call.

Discussion

MEETING ADJOURNED

Report on Several Responses to Economic Situation

by Doug Jenness

There are a number of responses by various organizations to the economic situation that we should follow and keep on top of:

1) Operation Push led by Jesse Jackson initiated actions on January 15 in several cities, most notably Chicago and Washington, D.C., demanding Jobs for All and supporting the Full Employment Bill introduced into Congress by Representative Augustus Hawkins (D-Calif.). Comrades actively supported and participated in these actions, and reports will be in the Jan. 31 Militant. As far as we know, PUSH has not called further actions.

2) The National Coalition to Fight Inflation and Unemployment grew out of the Nov. 16 anti-inflation rallies initiated by the Communist Party. It held a closed leadership meeting of local coalition leaders in Chicago Dec. 14 and called a national conference for Washington D.C. on March 1 and 2. They called for an April 26 March on Washington to "roll back prices" and for jobs. They are also pushing the Hawkins Bill. They have drawn around a few labor officials and received endorsement from several liberal politicians. They are using the local coalitions to make contacts and win sympathizers in unions.

3) The Coalition on the Economic Crisis was initiated by the War Resisters League (WRL). We've had observers at its Dec. 14 and Jan. 11 steering committee meetings. The main people involved in it at this point are Dave McReynolds (WRL), Norma Becker (who used to be a leader of the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice), Bob Greenblatt (like-wise with the PCPJ), New American Movement, and James Haughton of Fightback in New York City.

It is interesting to note that several of the main people working with this coalition worked with the CP in PCPJ but are not so eager to work with them now. For example, at the Jan. 11 meeting in New York Bob Greenblatt explained that he thought it would be a mistake to work with the CP because its coalition was designed only to support the CP's electoral policy. At the Dec. 14 Atlanta meeting several of the people expressed fear of being overwhelmed by the CP as they were in the PCPJ.

The Jan. 11 meeting called a national conference to be held in Philadelphia on March 1, the same date as the CP-backed conference.

One of the main disputes at the Jan. 11 meeting was between McReynolds and others who proposed a draft for a call for a spring action and NAM and the Union for Radical Political Economy who wanted to prepare a more basic programmatic analysis of capitalism for educational purposes.

Generally the sentiment was not to join with the CP in a common action for April 26 but to hold a separate action in mid-May. This was left open until the conference though.

4) The United Auto Workers is bringing busloads of unemployed workers from Detroit to Washington, D.C. on Feb. 5 for an Action Now Conference in the Washington Armory. Mayor Coleman Young has announced his plans to participate. Victor Gotbaum, head of District Council 37 of AFSCME in New York has also raised sending people down.

5) The National Black Assembly is meeting in New York City on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 and have put the question of a march on Washington on their agenda.

Locally there have also been many responses, including plans for educational conferences by unions, etc., to discuss the economic situation. In all of these things we should take an open attitude, sell our press, distribute campaign literature, speak wherever possible, and generally be a part of the ferment and discussion taking place. This will also keep us alert to any major actions that might emerge out of this process.

Reports of activities or conferences around the economic situation should be sent to the national office.