

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING No. 24, June 10, 1975

Present: Barnes, Breitman, Clark, Jenness, Lovell, Seigle,  
Shaw, Sheppard, Thomas, Waters

Chair: Shaw

AGENDA: 1. NAACP Convention

1. NAACP CONVENTION

(Dixon, Lyons, Miah, Morrison, Smith invited for this point.)

Thomas reported:

The NAACP will be holding its national convention June 30 through July 4 in Washington, D.C. Up to 10,000 delegates and observers are expected. The convention and its workshops will be open to observers who are not members of the NAACP, while decisions will be made by NAACP delegates.

The convention comes at a time when the NAACP is trying to expand and identify more closely with issues attractive to younger, more radical Blacks. This has included the NAACP increased prison campaigns, its campaign against racism in the armed forces, as well as the May 17 demonstration and other desegregation activities.

Through working with the NAACP around May 17, comrades around the country have found that many NAACP chapters have a varied nature. Some are paper organizations, hostile to mass actions, even those limited to support their own programs. Others involve more radicalized younger Blacks who are interested in getting involved in actions like May 17.

One of the most important issues before the convention is the issue of job discrimination. The NAACP is practically the only national organization of any significance that opposes George Meany's position that strict seniority should be used at all times when layoffs occur. The NAACP through its court suits was a major force in getting affirmative action for Blacks, the other oppressed nationalities, and women.

In the current debate on layoffs the NAACP supports a position very close to ours. It is opposed to strict seniority where it will lead to an increase in job discrimination.

The AFL-CIO bureaucracy has launched a major attack on the NAACP's position on this question. As reported in the Militant, union bureaucrats have been urged to join the NAACP and attend the convention as delegates to attack this position and to unseat NAACP labor director Herbert Hill.

This debate will be important not only for the Black community but for organizations like CLUW and for the trade union movement as a whole.

The other central challenge before the convention is affirming the need for mass actions like those in Boston to back up the various legal initiatives the NAACP has taken.

NSCAR activists have been invited by the NAACP to attend the convention.

The Militant will carry extensive coverage of the discussions at the convention.

Discussion

Meeting Adjourned.