

MINUTES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

August 16, 1975

Convened: 7:40 PM

Chair: DeBerry

Present:

Regular: J. Barnes, G. Breitman, J. Britton, P. Camejo, P. Chertov, C. DeBerry, D. Garza, A. Hansen, J. Hansen, G. Horowitz, D. Jenness, L. Jones, C. Lipman, F. Lovell, H. Ring, L. Seigle, E. Shaw, B. Sheppard, B. Stone, T. Thomas, M. Waters, N. Weinstein

Alternate: B. Scott, L. Evans, W. Lyons, C. Lund, L. Jenness, J. White, D. Wulp, A. Pulley, D. Roberts, J. Benson, N. Blackstock, L. Henderson, S. Stapleton, A. Morell, S. LaMont, P. Seidman, F. Boehm, J. Hawkins, D. McBride, J. Mackler

Advisory: M. Alvin, F. Dobbs, A. Harer, T. Kerry, G. Novack, E. Reed

Control Commission: A. Chester, B. Matson, H. Scheer

AGENDA: 1. Organization of Convention  
2. Levitt Appeal

1. ORGANIZATION OF CONVENTION

D. Jenness reported for the Political Committee.

Motion: That the following rules govern convention procedure:

1. In cases of procedural disputes, discussion shall be limited to two speakers, one for and one against, and that each speaker be limited to two minutes.
2. Discussion from the floor shall be limited to 10 minutes per speaker.
3. A speaker may have the floor only once in a given discussion until all those who wish the floor have had the opportunity to speak.
4. All voting, except for election of National Committee and National Control Commission, will be done by voice vote unless a division of the house is called for; then the vote will be taken by a show of delegates' cards. Election of National Committee and National Control Commission shall take place by secret ballot.
5. Only delegates shall have voice and vote. Fraternal delegates shall have voice and consultative vote.
6. Alternate delegates have voice and vote only when acting to replace a regularly elected delegate.
7. In all other cases, Roberts Rules of Order shall apply.

Motion: That the presiding Committee be composed of the outgoing Political Committee: Barnes, Breitman, Camejo, Clark, Hansen, Jenness, Lovell, Seigle, Shaw, Sheppard, Thomas, Waters, and convention reporters Stone and Miah.

Motion: To adopt the following agenda:

1. World Political Situation
2. Political Resolution
3. Black Resolution
4. Tasks and Perspectives Report
5. Youth Report
6. World Movement Report
7. Election of National Committee

Motion: That the following time allotments be given to reporters:

1. World Political Situation: 1¼ hours plus ½ hour summary
2. Political Resolution: 1 hour plus ½ hour summary
3. Black Struggle Resolution: 1 hour plus ½ hour summary
4. Tasks and Perspectives: 1¼ hours plus ½ hour summary
5. Youth: 1 hour plus ¼ hour summary
6. World Movement: 1¼ hours plus ½ hour summary

Motion: To grant Milt Alvin an extension of 10 minutes during the discussion of the Political Resolution and that he be recognized as the first speaker after the reporter on the Political Resolution.

Motion: That the following workshops and fractions take place:

1. How to win new members, led by Joel Britton
2. Organizing support for SWP campaign against government harassment, led by Syd Stapleton
3. Election campaign, led by Andrea Morell
4. Defense of Iranian political prisoners, led by Caroline Lund
5. Blanco tour and Latin American defense work, led by Mirta Vidal and Jim Little
6. Writing articles and taking photos for the Militant, led by Larry Seigle
7. Teachers, led by Erich Martel
8. Defense against right-wing attacks, led by Rich Finkel
9. Blacks in the unions, led by John Hawkins
10. Chicano work, led by Olga Rodriguez
11. Antiracist work, led by Malik Miah and Maceo Dixon

12. Party finances, led by Barb Matson
13. Pathfinder literature distribution, led by Jon Britton
14. Forums, led by Susan LaMont
15. Steel workers, led by Steve Chase
16. Coalition of Labor Union Women, led by Linda Jenness
17. Disclosure suits and campaign finance laws, led by Cindy Burke
18. Puerto Rican work, led by José Pérez
19. Public employees, led by Lynn Henderson
20. Circulation of the press, led by Rose Ogden
21. United Farmworkers support work, led by Nelson Blackstock
22. Regional work and teams, led by Brian Williams
23. Printing trades, led by Sarah Lovell
24. Building trades, led by Nat Weinstein
25. Soviet and Eastern European defense work, led by Dave Frankel
26. Fundraising in the antiracist movement, led by Kipp Dawson
27. Pilipinos, Japanese-Americans, and Chinese Americans, led by Steve Chainey
28. Speakers bureau, led by Jean Savage and Rick Berman
29. Women's liberation work, led by Linda Jenness
30. ERA work, led by Nancy Brown
31. Mineworkers, led by Cindy Jaquith
32. Communication workers, led by Frank Lovell
33. Auto workers, led by Frank Lovell
34. Hospital workers, led by Frank Lovell
35. Education, led by Fred Feldman

Motion: To approve the convention schedule (see attached).

Motion: That Eidsvik, Rupp, Scott, and R. Wright serve as convention secretaries.

Motion: To elect a Credentials Committee consisting of five delegates.

Motion: To elect a Constitution Committee consisting of three delegates.

Motion: To elect a Nominating Commission consisting of one delegate from each branch.

Motion: To seat as fraternal delegates the following: (1) National Committee members, (2) members of the National Control

Commission, (3) heads of national departments, (4) members of the youth National Executive Committee, (5) one delegate each selected by branch organizing committees, (6) special guests.

Motion: That the convention be open to party members, YSA members, and sympathizers vouched for by the branches.

Motion: That the official convention tape recording be directed by Barbara West.

Motion: That the official convention photographers be Mary Jo Hendrickson, Walter Lippman, and Henry Snipper.

Motions carried.

## 2. LEVITT APPEAL

Barnes reported on appeal by R. Levitt of the decision of the Oakland-Berkeley branch to drop him for inactivity.

Motion by Barnes: That Jeff Powers, Oakland-Berkeley organizer, be given the floor.

Carried.

Discussion: Powers, Barnes

Motion by Barnes: That the National Committee uphold the action of the Oakland-Berkeley branch dropping R. Levitt for inactivity; that Powers present the report to the convention; and that Levitt be invited to attend the convention to directly present his appeal to the delegates.

Discussion: Wulp, Lovell

Carried.

Plenum adjourned 8:00 PM

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### Saturday, August 16

- 6:00 - 7:30 Dinner
- 7:30 - National Committee Plenum

### Sunday, August 17

- 7:00 - 8:30 Breakfast
- 9:00 - 9:45 Organization of Convention (3/4 hour)
- 9:45 -11:00 World Political Situation (1-1/4 hours)
- 11:00-12:30 Discussion (2 hours total)
- 12:30- 1:45 Lunch
- 2:00 - 2:30 Discussion
- 2:30 - 3:00 Summary (1/2 hour)
- 3:00 - 4:00 Political Resolution Report (1 hour)
- 4:00 - 6:15 Discussion (4 hours total)
- 6:15 - 7:45 Dinner
- 8:30 -10:00 Expansion Fund Presentation

### Monday, August 18

- 7:00 - 8:30 Breakfast
- 9:00 -10:45 Discussion
- 10:45-11:15 Summary (1/2 hour)
- 11:15-12:15 Black Resolution Report (1 hour)
- 12:30- 1:30 Lunch
- 1:45 - 3:45 Discussion (3 hours)
- 4:00 - 6:00 Fraction Meetings
- 6:00 - 7:30 Dinner
- 8:30 -10:00 Talk by Joe Hansen on "James P. Cannon: the Internationalist"

### Tuesday, August 19

- 7:00 - 8:30 Breakfast
- 9:00 -11:00 Discussion
- 10:00-10:30 Summary (1/2 hour)
- 10:30-11:45 Tasks and Perspectives Report (1-1/4 hours)
- 11:45-12:30 Discussion (3 hours total)
- 12:30- 1:45 Lunch
- 2:00 - 4:15 Discussion
- 4:15 - 4:45 Summary (1/2 hour)
- 6:00 - 7:30 Dinner
- 8:30 -10:30 Fraction Meetings

Wednesday, August 20

7:00 - 8:30 Breakfast  
9:00 -10:00 Youth Report  
10:00-12:00 Discussion (2 hours)  
12:00-12:15 Summary (1/4 hour)  
12:15- 1:30 Lunch  
2:00 - 4:00 Fraction meetings and workshops  
4:15 - 6:15 Fraction meetings and workshops  
6:15 - 7:45 Dinner  
8:30 -10:00 Talk by George Novack on "In Defense of Engels"

Thursday, August 21

7:00 - 8:30 Breakfast  
9:00 -10:15 World Movement Report (1-1/4 hours)  
10:15-12:30 Discussion (3 hours)  
12:30- 1:45 Lunch  
2:00 - 3:45 Discussion  
3:45 - 4:15 Summary  
4:15 - 7:00 Election of National Committee  
6:00 - 8:00 Dinner  
8:30 -10:30 Rally  
10:30- Party

Friday, August 22

8:00 - 9:45 Breakfast  
10:00-12:00 Classes (series A)  
12:00- 1:30 Lunch  
2:00 - 4:00 Classes (series B)  
4:00 - 6:00 Free  
6:00 - 7:30 Dinner  
8:00 -10:00 Classes (series A)

Saturday, August 23

8:00 - 9:30 Breakfast  
10:00-12:00 Classes (series B)  
12:00- 1:30 Lunch