

MINUTES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

April 29, May 1, 2, 3, 1976

Thursday, April 29, 1976

Convened by D. Jenness -- 10:05 a.m.

Motion by D. Jenness: That Musa chair the first session.

Carried.

Attendance:

Regular: Barnes, Blackstock, Breitman, Britton, Camejo, Chertov, DeBerry, Dixon, Garza, Halstead, A. Hansen (Saturday and Sunday), Horowitz, D. Jenness, L. Jenness, Jones, Lovell, Lund, Lyons, Miah, Morrison, Pulley, Ring, Scott, Seigle, Sheppard, Stapleton, Stone, Thomas, Waters

Alternates: Morell, Evans, Benson, White, Foley, LaMont, Seidman, Hawkins, Roberts, Matson, McBride, Henderson, Styron, Finkel, Chase, Mackler, Manuel, Rodriguez, Reid, Chainey, Smith, Heisler, Sojourner, Markey, Vasquez, Musa

Control Commission: Brundy, Chester, Glover, Scheer

1. ORGANIZATION OF THE PLENUM

D. Jenness reported recommendations of the Political Committee on organization of the plenum:

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 Barnes, Garza, Horowitz, D. Jenness, Jones, Miah, Rodriguez, Sheppard, Stapleton, Waters.
4. To designate Bombaro, Eidsvik, and Rupp as secretaries.
5. To invite as observers: Control Commission members, heads of national departments, members of the youth NEC, local and branch organizers, and special guests.
6. To give voice to organizers and department heads who are not members of the National Committee during discussion of the Implementation of Party Turn Report.

Carried.

Motion: To approve the following agenda:

1. Organization of Plenum
2. World Political Situation
3. The Crisis of American Capitalism and the Struggle for Chicano Liberation
4. Draft Resolution on the Emerging Puerto Rican Struggle in the United States and Its Perspectives
5. Boston Desegregation Campaign
6. Party Campaign Against Government Harassment
7. Implementation of the Party Turn Report
8. Youth Report
9. Party Growth and Financial Perspectives
10. World Movement Reports
11. Convention Call

Carried.

Motion: To approve the schedule (see attached) with the understanding that time will be scheduled after Puerto Rican Struggle Resolution point for Boston Desegregation Campaign report.

Carried.

2. WORLD POLITICAL SITUATION

Barnes reported.

Discussion: Thomas, Roberts, Tussey, Foley, Ring, Horowitz

Recess -- 12:35 p.m.

Reconvene -- 2:00 p.m.

Further Discussion: Seidman

Summary: Barnes

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

Vote:

Regular members: 29 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Consultative: 30 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Carried.

3. THE CRISIS OF AMERICAN CAPITALISM AND THE STRUGGLE FOR CHICANO LIBERATION

Motion by Waters: To give voice under this point to Hernández, Ramírez, and Zárate.

Carried.

Rodriguez reported.

Discussion: Ramirez, Ring, Hernández, Musa

Summary: Rodriguez

Motion: to approve the general line of the resolution and report.

Vote:
Regular members: 29 for
 0 against
 0 abstentions
Consultative: 30 for
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Carried.

4. DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE EMERGING PUERTO RICAN STRUGGLE IN THE UNITED STATES AND ITS PERSPECTIVES

Motion by D. Jenness for the Presiding Committee: That visitors from Puerto Rican Liga de Trabajadores Internacionalista and Pérez from Militant staff be given voice in discussion of this point.

Carried.

Garza reported.

Discussion: Thomas, Markey, Roberts, LaMont, Pérez, Pulley, D. Jenness, Irrizary, Camejo, Barnes, Thomas, Sojourner

Summary: Garza

Motion: To approve the general line of the resolution and report.

Vote:
Regular members: 29 for
 0 against
 0 abstentions
Consultative: 30 for
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Carried.

Recess -- 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 29, 1976

Reconvene -- 9:30 a.m.

Motion by Presiding Committee: That Chertov chair this session.

Carried.

5. PARTY CAMPAIGN AGAINST GOVERNMENT HARASSMENT

Motion by D. Jenness for Presiding Committee: That Novack be given voice in discussion of Party Campaign Against Government Harassment.

Carried.

Stapleton reported.

Discussion: Jones, Smith, Tussey, Halstead, Miah, Morell, Sheppard, Britton, Vasquez, Seidman, Ring, Lund, Novack.

Summary: Stapleton

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular members: 29 for
0 against
0 abstentions
Consultative: 30 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Carried.

Motion by Benson for Presiding Committee: To send the following message to Partido Socialista de Trabajadores of Argentina:

Dear Comrades,

The plenum of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party conveys its fullest international solidarity with you on this May Day. Though you, along with the rest of the Argentine working class, are once again confronted with a military dictatorship and all the grave hardships that it imposes, we are confident that you will meet this test with the same revolutionary tenacity you have shown in the past, and that you will help prepare the new class battles that will overthrow this dictatorship -- and the Argentine ruling class -- once and for all. We pledge our complete support for a vigorous international campaign in defense of Argentine political prisoners and all victims of the new military dictators.

Carried Unanimously.

Recess -- 12:45 p.m.

Reconvene -- 2:15 p.m.

6. BOSTON DESEGREGATION CAMPAIGN

Motion by Barnes for Presiding Committee: To schedule one and one half hours of discussion following report by Miah; and to give voice to Boston organizers, Harris, and Severs in that discussion.

Carried.

Miah reported.

Discussion: Thomas, Severs, Hillson, LaMont, Dixon, Tussey,
Waters, Warren, Henderson, Reid, DeBerry, Barnes

Summary: Miah

Recess -- 5:30 p.m.

Reconvene -- 7:10 p.m.

7. IMPLEMENTATION OF PARTY TURN

Jones reported.

Discussion: Thomas, Hawkins, Feldman, Rudenstein

Recess -- 9:10 p.m.

Saturday, May 1, 1976

Motion by Presiding Committee that Scott chair this session.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Kelly, Ugolini

Motion: To grant Ugolini a 30-second extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Ugolini, Mackler

Motion: To grant Mackler a one-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Mackler, Markey, Jaquith

Motion: To grant Jaquith a three-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Jaquith, Roberts, Little, L. Jenness,
Heisler, Libby

Motion from Presiding Committee: To reduce speaking time on this
point to eight minutes per speaker.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Seidman, Meyers, Morell

Motion: To grant Morell a two-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Morell

Motion: To grant Morell a one-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Morell, Moriarty, Henderson, DeBerry, Chertov

Motion: To grant Chertov a one-minute extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Chertov, Reimers

Motion: To grant Reimers a 30-second extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Reimers, Tussey, Camejo, Studer

Recess -- 12:55 p.m.

Reconvene -- 2:30 p.m.

Further Discussion: Bak

Motion: To grant Bak a 30-second extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Bak, Vidal, Mahn

Motion: To grant Mahn a 30-second extension.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Mahn, Warren, Britton, Votava, Ellis,
Buchanon, Hilson, Vasquez

Summary: Jones

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:
Regular members: 30 for
 0 against
 0 abstentions
Consultative: 30 for
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Carried.

8. YOUTH REPORT

Motions on procedure by Presiding Committee:

1. To maintain eight-minute time limit for speakers in discussion of youth report.

2. To reduce discussion period of youth report from two to one-and-one-half hours, and summary from one-half to one-fourth hour.
3. To reduce time for Party Growth and Financial Perspectives Report from one hour to one-half hour.

Carried.

Gersh reported.

Discussion: Pulley, Seidman, D. Jenness

Motion by Barnes for Presiding Committee: To give voice to organizers in this discussion.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Stone, L. Jenness, Chertov, Soares, Singer

Motion by Presiding Committee to take final speakers list and reduce speaking time to five minutes per speaker.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Meyers, Britton, Rowand, Reid, Scheff, Reimers

Summary: Gersh

Motion: To register consultative approval of the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular members: 30 for
0 against
0 abstentions
Consultative: 30 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Carried.

Recess -- 6:45 p.m.

Reconvene -- 8:20 p.m.

9. PARTY GROWTH AND FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVES

Sheppard reported.

Motion by Presiding Committee: To limit discussion on this point to eight minutes per speaker.

Carried.

Discussion: Morell

Motion by Presiding Committee: To give voice to organizers in this discussion.

Carried.

Further Discussion: Uhl, Warren, Matson, Roland, Budka, Rowand,
Mackler, Studer, LaMont

Summary: Sheppard

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular members: 30 for
0 against
0 abstentions
Consultative: 30 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Carried.

Recess -- 9:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 2, 1976

Reconvene -- 9:35 a.m.

Motion by Presiding Committee that Finkel chair this session.

Carried.

Motions by Presiding Committee for procedure:

1. To change schedule to recess plenum at lunch for international faction meetings in the afternoon, and to reconvene plenum at 4:30 p.m. for discussion of convention call.
2. To give IEC members voice for discussion of World Movement Report.

Carried.

10. WORLD MOVEMENT REPORT

Horowitz reported.

Discussion: Roberts, Foley, Mackler, Barzman, Thomas, Vasquez

Summary: Horowitz

Recess -- 12:00 p.m.

Reconvene -- 4:15 p.m.

11. REPORT ON SPARK

Motion by Presiding Committee: To add a point to the agenda about recent meetings with SPARK.

Carried.

Seigle reported.

Discussion: Tussey, Mackler, Barnes

12. CONVENTION CALL

Waters reported. (See attached).

Discussion: Breitman

Motion: To adopt the convention call.

Carried.

Singing of the Internationale

Plenum Adjourned -- 5:15 p.m.

PROPOSED PLENUM SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 29

- 10:00 - 10:15 Organization of Plenum (1/4 hour)
10:15 - 11:30 World Political Situation Report (1-1/4 hours)
11:30 - 12:30 Discussion, World Political Situation (2 hrs. total)
12:30 - 2:00 Lunch (1-1/2 hours)
2:00 - 3:00 Discussion continued, World Political Situation
3:00 - 3:30 Summary, World Political Situation (1/2 hour)
3:30 - 4:00 Convention Perspectives Report (1/2 hour)
4:00 - 4:45 The Crisis of American Capitalis and the
Struggle for Chicano Liberation Report (3/4 hour)
4:45 - 6:45 Discussion, Chicano Liberation (2 hours)
6:45 - 7:00 Summary, Chicano Liberation (1/4 hour)

Friday, April 30

- 9:30 - 10:15 Draft Resolution on the Emerging Puerto Rican
Struggle in the United States and Its Perspectives
Report (3/4 hour)
10:15 - 12:15 Discussion, Puerto Rican Struggle (2 hours total)
12:15 - 1:45 Lunch (1-1/2 hours)
1:45 - 2:00 Summary, Puerto Rican Struggle (1/4 hour)
2:00 - 3:00 Party Campaign Against Government Harassment
Report (1 hour)
3:00 - 5:00 Discussion, Party Campaign (2 hours)
5:00 - 5:30 Summary, Party Campaign (1/2 hour)
5:30 - 7:00 Dinner (1-1/2 hours)
7:00 - 8:15 Implementation of Party Turn Report (1-1/4 hours)
8:15 - 9:30 Discussion, Party Turn (4 hours total)

Saturday, May 1

- 9:30 - 12:15 Discussion continued, Party Turn
12:15 - 1:45 Lunch (1-1/2 hours)
1:45 - 2:15 Summary, Party Turn (1/2 hour)
2:15 - 3:15 Youth Report (1 hour)
3:15 - 5:15 Discussion (2 hours)
5:15 - 5:45 Summary, Youth Report (1/2 hour)
5:45 - 7:15 Dinner (1-1/2 hours)
7:15 - 8:15 Party Growth and Financial Perspectives Report
(1 hour)

Saturday, May 1 continued

- 8:15 - 9:15 Discussion, Party Growth (1 hour)
- 9:15 - 9:30 Summary, Party Growth (1/4 hour)

Sunday, May 2

- 9:30 - 10:30 World Movement Report I (1 hour)
- 10:30 - 12:00 Discussion, World Movement I (1-1/2 hours)
- 12:00 - 12:30 Summary, World Movement I (1/2 hour)
- 12:30 - 1:30 Lunch (1 hour) (YSA serving)
- 1:30 - 2:30 World Movement Report II (1 hour)
- 2:30 - 4:00 Discussion, World Movement II (1-1/2 hours)
- 4:00 - 4:30 Summary, World Movement II (1/2 hour)
- 4:30 - 5:00 Convention Call Report (1/2 hour)
- 5:00 - 5:30 Discussion, Convention Call (1/2 hour)
- 5:30 - 5:45 Summary, Convention Call (1/4 hour)

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

May 2, 1976

TO ALL LOCALS, BRANCHES, AND MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

Pursuant to the provisions of the party constitution, the National Committee hereby calls the Twenty-Eighth National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party to convene in Ohio at 10:00 AM on Sunday, August 8 and continue through six days (August 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13, 1976).

AGENDA

The National Committee proposes the following agenda for the convention:

World Political Situation
World Movement Reports
Political Resolution and Reports
Black Liberation Report
Chicano Liberation Resolution
Puerto Ricans in the U.S. Resolution
Organizational Reports
Youth Report
Election of National Committee

PRECONVENTION DISCUSSION

The party preconvention discussion is formally opened May 10, 1976. The Discussion Bulletin is open for all party members and provisional 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 the last business mail of July 23, 1976, 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 \$12.00 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 10 members or less, and one additional delegate for each 10 additional members or major fraction thereof (5 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 May 10, 1976, and who have paid their convention assessment, as certified by the branch executive committee on the day of voting.

3. Branches organized after May 10, 1976, except for those constituted through a division of an existing branch, are entitled to send fraternal delegates as provided by the party constitution.

4. Members admitted to the party after May 10, 1976, 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, illness, or party assignment. 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 May 10, 1976, 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 to be elected. Members voting for a given resolution 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 there are two counterposed political positions, the delegates are apportioned between the majority and the minority in proportion to the vote each receives. The percentage of the vote received by the majority, multiplied by the number of delegates the branch is entitled to, is rounded off to the nearest whole number to give the number of delegates going to the majority. The remainder are assigned to the minority.

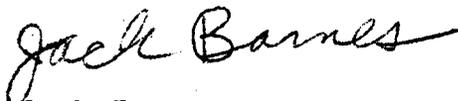
2. If there are three or more positions, those positions which received too few votes to possibly get a delegate are eliminated first, beginning with the smallest. That is, if the percentage of the vote received by a position is multiplied by the number of delegates the branch is entitled to, and the result is "0" when rounded off, this position is not considered and its votes are subtracted from the total vote. After such positions have been eliminated, the delegates are apportioned to the remaining positions, beginning with the one with the highest vote. Using the new vote total, the percentage received by the position with the highest vote is multiplied by the number of delegates the branch is entitled to and the result is rounded off to the nearest whole number, to give the number of delegates going to this position. The same procedure is repeated with the position receiving the second highest vote, and so on, until all the delegates the branch is entitled to have been apportioned.

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