

MINUTES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

April 14, 15, 16, 17, 1977

Thursday, April 14

Convened by Seigle--9:34 a.m.

Motion from Presiding Committee: That Ariza chair this session.

Carried.

Attendance:

Regular: Barnes, Barzman, Blackstock, Breitman (Thursday, Friday, and Sunday), Britton, Camejo, Chertov, DeBerry, Dixon, Garza, Halstead, Hawkins, Horowitz, D. Jenness, L. Jenness, Jones, Lovell, Lund, Lyons, Miah, Morell, Morrison, Pulley (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday), Ring, Rodríguez, Scott, Seigle, Shaw, Sheppard, Stapleton, Stone, Thomas, Waters, Weinstein, Wohlforth

Alternates: LaMont, White, Foley, Evans, Jaquith, Roberts, Matson, Henderson, Manuel, Seidman, Reid, Finkel, Brundy, Mackler, Smith (Saturday and Sunday), Ntweng, McBride, Shilman, Markey, Warren, Vásquez, Wright, Heisler, Musa, Harris, Ariza

Control Commission: Dawson, Glover, Scheer, Stewart (Saturday and Sunday)

1. ORGANIZATION OF THE PLENUM

Hawkins 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 eight 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 the members of the Administrative Secretariat plus Jaquith and Matson. (Barnes, Jaquith, D. Jenness, Jones, Matson, Miah, Rodríguez, Seigle, Sheppard, and Waters.)

(over)

4. To designate Fowler and Myers as secretaries.
5. To invite as observers: Control Commission members, heads of national departments, members of the youth NEC, local organizers, branch organizers in cities where there is no local, organizing committee organizers, and special guests.
6. To give voice to all organizers and department heads during discussion of the Organization Report.

Carried.

Motion: To approve the following agenda:

1. Organization of Plenum
2. International Perspectives of U.S. Imperialism
3. Steelworkers Fight Back and Perspectives for U.S. Labor Movement
4. Women's Liberation Work
5. Antiracist Work
6. Organization Report
7. Financial Report
8. Revolutionary Marxist Committee Fusion Proposal
9. YSA Report
10. World Movement
11. Convention Call Report

Carried.

Motion: To invite representatives from the Revolutionary Marxist Committee and Spark to observe all sessions except the point on the Revolutionary Marxist Committee.

Carried.

2. INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES OF U.S. IMPERIALISM

D. Jenness reported.

Discussion: Miah (one minute extension), Seidman, Wohlforth, Foley, Roberts, Evans, Garza

Recess--11:57 a.m.

Reconvene--1:47 p.m.

Further Discussion: Markey, Barzman, Thomas

Summary: D. Jenness

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular: 33 for
0 against
1 abstention
0 not voting

Consultative: 28 for
0 against
0 abstentions
0 not voting

Carried.

3. STEELWORKERS FIGHT BACK AND PERSPECTIVES FOR U.S. LABOR MOVEMENT

Barnes reported.

Discussion: Jaquith, Thomas, Finkel, Weinstein, Henderson (three minute extension), Mackler (two minute extension), Hawkins (one minute extension), Stone (one minute extension), Heisler (one minute extension), Britton, Halstead, Lovell

Motion by Presiding Committee: To reconvene at 9:15 a.m. and to give voice to organizers in this discussion.

Carried.

Recess--6:02 p.m.

Friday, April 15

Reconvene--9:20 a.m.

Motion by Presiding Committee: That White chair this session.

Carried.

Further discussion on Steelworkers Fight Back and Perspectives for U.S. Labor Movement: Chertov, Morell, Camejo, DeBerry, Singer, Pulley, Meyers

(over)

Summary: Barnes

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular: 35 for
0 against
0 abstentions
0 not voting

Consultative: 28 for
0 against
0 abstentions
0 not voting

Carried.

4. WOMEN'S LIBERATION WORK

Jaquith reported.

Discussion: Morrison, Reid, Thomas

Recess--11:55 a.m.

Reconvene--1:27 p.m.

Further Discussion: Waters, Morell (two minute extension), Stone, Chertov, Wright, Rodríguez (one minute extension), Dixon, Britton

Summary: Jaquith

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular: 35 for
0 against
0 abstentions
0 not voting

Consultative: 28 for
0 against
0 abstentions
0 not voting

Carried.

5. ANTIRACIST WORK

Miah reported.

Discussion: Seidman, Thomas (six minute extension), Dixon, Musa (one minute extension), Camejo, Harris, Morrison, Halstead (one minute extension), Vásquez (one minute extension), Pulley, Wright, Warren (two minute extension), Stone, Hawkins, Reid, Manuel

Summary: Miah

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular: 35 for
0 against
0 abstentions
0 not voting

Consultative: 28 for
0 against
0 abstentions
0 not voting

Carried.

Recess--7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 16

Reconvene--9:37 a.m.

Motion by the Presiding Committee: That DeBerry chair this session.

Carried.

6. ORGANIZATION REPORT

Waters reported.

Discussion: Ring (two minute extension), Markey, Tarnopol (one minute extension), Mackler (one minute extension), Wohlforth, Lieberman (one minute extension), Galligan, L. Jenness, Chainey, Feldman

Recess--12:35 p.m.

Reconvene--2:05 p.m.

(over)

Motion by Presiding Committee: To limit speakers time to five minutes.

Carried.

Further discussion on Organization Report: White, Thomas, Brundy, Dutrow, Fein, Garza, Budka, Schneider, Lerman, Sojourner (one minute extension), Schwarz (one minute extension), Ntweng, Weinstein, Britton, Zimmermann

Summary: Waters

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular: 34 for
0 against
0 abstentions
0 not voting

Consultative: 30 for
0 against
0 abstentions
0 not voting

Carried.

Motion by Presiding Committee: To add agenda point on Militant coverage of United Steelworkers contract.

Carried.

7. SPECIAL "MILITANT" COVERAGE

Barnes reported.

Discussion: Mackler, Chertov, Meyers, Halstead, Novack, Morell

Motion: To mobilize the party for special plant gate sales of the next "Militant," which will reprint summary of Steelworkers contract.

Vote:

Regular: 34 for
0 against
0 abstentions
0 not voting

Consultative: 30 for
0 against
0 abstentions
0 not voting

Carried.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

Matson reported.

Discussion: Markey, L. Jenness, Morrison, Morell, Brundy, Chertov,
Stone

Summary: Matson

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular: 34 for
0 against
0 abstentions
0 not voting

Consultative: 30 for
0 against
0 abstentions
0 not voting

Carried.

Recess--5:55 p.m.

Reconvene--8:50 p.m.

9. REVOLUTIONARY MARXIST COMMITTEE FUSION PROPOSAL

Seigle reported.

Discussion: Ntweng, Roberts, Barzman, Mackler (two minute extension),
Wohlforth (one minute extension), Evans, Warren, Britton

Recess--10:05 p.m.

Sunday, April 17

Reconvene--9:37 a.m.

Motion by Presiding Committee that Lyons chair this session.

Carried.

(over)

Further discussion on Revolutionary Marxist Committee Fusion Proposal:
Barnes (five minute extension), Halstead, Foley

Summary: Seigle

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular: 34 for
0 against
1 abstention
0 not voting

Consultative: 30 for
0 against
0 abstentions
0 not voting

Carried.

10. YSA REPORT

Berman reported.

Discussion: Thomas, Morrison, Lyons, Chertov, Wohlforth, Garza,
Roberts, Pulley, Lund, Finkel, D. Jenness, Stone

Summary: Berman

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular: 35 for
0 against
0 abstentions
0 not voting

Consultative: 30 for
0 against
0 abstentions
0 not voting

Carried.

Recess--12:45 p.m.

Reconvene--1:45 p.m.

Motion by Presiding Committee to reverse last two agenda points.

Carried.

11. CONVENTION CALL REPORT

Rodríguez reported.

Motion: To adopt the convention call.

Carried.

12. WORLD MOVEMENT REPORT

Sheppard reported.

Motion by Presiding Committee: That Barzman speak first and be given twenty minutes and that Waters give a supplemental report on the French LCR convention with time allotment of twenty-five minutes.

Carried.

Discussion on World Movement Report: Barzman (five minute extension), Foley, Wohlforth, Thomas, Horowitz, Hansen (four minute extension)

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular: 34 for
1 against
0 abstentions
0 not voting

Consultative: 30 for
0 against
0 abstentions
0 not voting

Carried.

Singing of the Internationale

Plenum adjourned--5:55 p.m.