

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

April 17, 1977

TO LOCALS, BRANCHES, AND MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

Pursuant to the provisions of the party constitution, the National Committee hereby calls the Twenty-Ninth National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party to convene in Ohio at 10:00 AM on Sunday, August 7 and continue through seven days (August 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13, 1977).

AGENDA

The National Committee proposes the following agenda for the convention:

World Political Situation  
Steelworkers Fight Back and Perspectives for the  
U.S. Labor Movement  
Antiracist Work  
Women's Liberation Work  
Organization Reports  
Youth Report  
World Movement  
Election of National Committee

PRECONVENTION DISCUSSION

The party pre-convention discussion is formally opened May 9, 1977. 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 22, 1977, for acceptance of pre-convention 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 \$15.00 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 12 members or less, and one additional delegate for each 12 additional members or major fraction thereof (6 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 July 17, 1977, and who have paid their convention assessment, as certified by the branch executive committee on the day of voting.

3. Branches organized after May 9, 1977, except for those constituted through a division or consolidation of existing branches, are entitled to send fraternal delegates as provided by the party constitution.

4. Members admitted to the party after July 17, 1977, 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 9, 1977, 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.

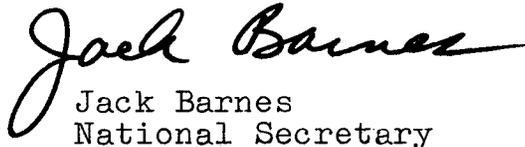
2. If there are three or more positions, those positions which received too few votes to possibly get a delegate are eliminated first, beginning with the smallest. That is, if the percentage of the vote received by a position is multiplied by the number of delegates the branch is entitled to, and the 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