

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING No. 35, August 1, 1977

Present: Barnes, Blackstock, Breitman, Garza, Hawkins, D. Jenness, L. Jenness, Jones, Lovell, Lund, Miah, Petrin, Rodríguez, Seigle, Stapleton, Waters

Guests: Brundy, Clark, Heisler, Jaquith, LaMont, Reid

Chair: Waters

AGENDA: 1. Party Financial Situation
2. Canada
3. Beren Request

1. PARTY FINANCIAL SITUATION

(Aspoy, Baumann, Feldman, Hansen, Jurenas, M. Montauk, Novack, Prince, and White invited for this point.)

Seigle reported.

Discussion

Motion: To extend time allotted for the Organization Report to the convention to allow incorporation of national financial picture into the report.

Carried.

2. CANADA

Barnes reported.

Discussion

3. BEREN REQUEST

D. Jenness reported that Steve Beren has requested a room at the national convention for meetings of supporters of his viewpoint on gay liberation expressed in the Discussion Bulletin.

At the request of the administrative secretariat Jenness met with Beren and explained that his proposal was contrary to the party's norms. Jenness particularly drew Beren's attention to the 1965 resolution on the Organizational Character of the Socialist Workers Party

Beren and his supporters, like several other comrades, expressed opinions in the Discussion Bulletin differing with majority positions. However, Beren submitted no documents for a vote. No tendency or faction has been declared. No delegates were selected on the basis of agreement with the positions of Beren and his supporters.

After the deadline on submitting articles to the bulletin

(over)

and the closing of the verbal discussion in the branches, the only proper form for organized discussion on line questions is by the elected delegates meeting at the national convention. The preconvention discussion is over. Implementation of party policy is discussed at workshops and fraction meetings scheduled by vote of the delegates.

If Beren's request were granted it would open the door to allowing any comrade or group of comrades who expressed a particular viewpoint in the bulletin to hold meetings during the convention. This would turn the convention into a gathering where much of the political discussion took place in separate caucuses, rather than before the whole party in the convention sessions. It would foster cliques. It would be totally contrary to the Leninist norm that a convention is a convention of delegates elected by the membership, responsible for discussing the issues before the party and arriving at decisions on them.

Motion: To concur with the secretariat decision that Beren's request be rejected.

Discussion

Carried.

Meeting adjourned.