

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING No. 36, September 8, 1977

Present: Blackstock, Breitman, Clark, Garza, Hawkins, Horowitz, Jaquith, D. Jenness, L. Jenness, Jones, LaMont, Lovell, Petrin, Reid, Rodríguez, Seigle, Stapleton, White

Guests: Brundy, Morell, Sheppard

Chair: Breitman

AGENDA: 1. Mexico
2. Costa Rica
3. San Antonio Conference
4. Convention Evaluation
5. Richmond
6. Morgantown Organizing Committee
7. National Committee Assignments and Party Regions
8. YSA Representative to Political Committee
9. Socialist Labor Party
10. Membership

1. MEXICO

(Baumann, Foley, and Hansen invited for this point.)

Sheppard reported on fusion conference of the Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores and the Liga Socialista in Mexico.

Discussion

2. COSTA RICA

(Baumann, Foley, and Hansen invited for this point.)

Sheppard reported on developments in Costa Rica.

Discussion

3. SAN ANTONIO CONFERENCE

Rodríguez reported on progress in building the conference.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

4. CONVENTION EVALUATION

D. Jenness initiated discussion on evaluation of the convention.

Discussion

5. RICHMOND

Morell reported on the recommendation of the Richmond branch that the branch be dissolved and the seven party members who are there be reassigned to other branches and national departments. This recommendation flows from the immediate circumstances, including the request of some of the comrades there to transfer and the personnel situation nationally, which makes it impossible to adequately reinforce the branch at this time. Therefore, the best utilization of the cadres in Richmond is to ask them to take other assignments.

This decision does not mean that either the comrades on the scene or the Political Committee think that a viable branch cannot be established there sometime in the future. However, at this time it is necessary to suspend the organizing efforts of the party in Virginia.

Discussion

Motion: To concur with the recommendation of the Richmond branch.

Carried.

6. MORGANTOWN ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Seigle reported. We had deferred a decision on the Morgantown project until after the convention for financial reasons. Although the overall financial situation of the party has not changed, the administrative secretariat has discussed a number of economies and some cuts that would eliminate the gap in the overall budget. The secretariat proposes that we proceed now to set up an organizing committee in Morgantown, and send a special Militant subscription team to the area for several weeks.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

7. NATIONAL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND PARTY REGIONS

Seigle reported on a series of National Committee assignments.

Benson has agreed to transfer to Detroit to strengthen the local leadership.

Britton will be moving to New York to assume responsibilities on trade union steering committee.

Brundy will be released from current assignment in Pathfinder to become national field organizer working out of Detroit.

D. Jenness will replace Brundy in Pathfinder.

Shilman and Olsen have agreed to go to Morgantown to help get new organizing committee going.

White has been designated editor of Perspectiva Mundial. Feldman has been named editor of the International Socialist Review to replace Lund, who will be devoting full-time to international work.

Discussion

Seigle reported that the secretariat proposes the following realignment of the party regions, reducing the number of national field organizers from 8 to 7:

1. Boston, Albany, New York, Newark, Pittsburgh, and Morgantown. Field organizer: Jones.
2. Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, and Raleigh. Field organizer: Morell.
3. Atlanta, Miami, New Orleans, Houston, and Dallas. Field organizer: Chertov.
4. Los Angeles, San Diego, Phoenix, Albuquerque, San Antonio. Field organizer: Camejo.
5. Oakland, Berkeley, San Jose, San Francisco, Portland, Tacoma, Seattle, and Salt Lake City. Field organizer: Thomas.
6. Denver, Kansas City, St. Louis, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Milwaukee, Chicago. Field organizer: Lyons.
7. Detroit, Cleveland, Toledo, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Louisville. Field organizer: Brundy.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

8. YSA REPRESENTATIVE TO POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Seigle reported that the YSA NEC has elected Chuck Petrin to be its representative to the Political Committee.

9. SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY

Stapleton reported. (See letter of September 19.)

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Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

10. MEMBERSHIP

Seigle reported on recommendation of the Upper West Side branch, New York local, that D.N. be readmitted to the party.

Motion: To concur.

Carried.

Seigle reported on recommendation of North Side branch, Chicago local, that G.M. be readmitted to the party.

Motion: To concur.

Carried.

Meeting adjourned.