

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING No. 41, October 14, 1977

Present: Barnes, Blackstock, Breitman, Clark, Horowitz,
Jaquith, D. Jenness, L. Jenness, Jones, Kramer,
LaMont, Landau, Lovell, Petrin, Seigle, Stapleton,
Waters, White

Chair: D. Jenness

AGENDA

1. Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW)
2. Morgantown
3. Subscription Drive
4. Groupe Socialiste des Travailleurs du Québec (GSTQ) Convention
5. Party-YSA Suit
6. Marroquín Defense

1. COALITION OF LABOR UNION WOMEN (CLUW)
(Cole and S. Lovell invited for this point.)

S. Lovell reported on CLUW convention and our perspectives.
(See attached.)

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

2. MORGANTOWN
(Cole invited for this point.)

Jones reported on progress of establishing branch organizing committee in Morgantown. Seven comrades have transferred there and two more are on their way. Further reinforcements are being organized.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

3. SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE
(Forgione and McArthur invited for this point.)

Blackstock reported on halfway point of drive which is running about one week behind. The October 28 Militant will have an article politically assessing the progress of the subscription drive.

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Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

4. GROUPE SOCIALISTE DES TRAVAILLEURS DU QUEBEC
(Hansen invited for this point.)

Blackstock reported on October 6-10 convention of the GSTQ.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

5. PARTY-YSA SUIT
(Wang invited for this point.)

Stapleton reported.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

6. MARROQUIN DEFENSE

Seigle reported. (See October 17 mailing and October 28
Militant.)

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

October 27, 1977

TO ORGANIZERS, WOMEN'S LIBERATION DIRECTORS AND TRADE
UNION DIRECTORS

CLUW Convention Report

Dear Comrades,

The October 14, 1977, Militant reported on the convention of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) held in Washington, D.C., September 16-17. Three points should be emphasized:

1. The official leadership of the AFL-CIO has decided that CLUW has now been brought under control enough to be accepted as a legitimate formation that is part of the labor movement. This was most clearly signaled by George Meany's presence and greetings to the convention.

2. At the same time the convention reflected the special role that CLUW plays within the labor movement. Reacting to the government's offensive against the gains women have made in recent years, the convention adopted strong resolutions on abortion rights and the ERA. There was significant interest among delegates in the 'Bakke' case and its importance for women although the leadership blocked discussion of it. The seniority vs. affirmative action question, which the CLUW officials hoped they had buried at the last convention, was again an issue of contention.

The fact that resolutions on these and other questions were pushed through the convention in a bureaucratic way aroused considerable resentment among delegates.

3. The newly elected CLUW leadership stated its intention to actively build CLUW as a broadly-based rank-and-file union women's organization. There was no attempt to change the structure of CLUW or eliminate the current inter-union chapters as the basic unit. In her acceptance speech, newly elected CLUW president Joyce Miller emphasized that CLUW's priority must be to recruit new members through an increase in activities on the chapter and union local level, and that CLUW must join with other women's organizations in coalitions to win passage of the ERA, quality childcare,

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maternity benefits and other goals.

No concrete steps to implement the convention resolutions were decided upon, but the general stance adopted by the new CLUW leadership could have a positive effect in a number of local chapters. It can give a strong boost to CLUW members who want to engage in activity that will attract new members and build CLUW in their unions and cities.

While the situation will vary from one city to another, local and branch leaderships should discuss with comrades in CLUW how best to explore the new openings which may result from the convention. It would be important for comrades to attend CLUW meetings and discuss proposals for activity to build CLUW around issues like the 'Bakke' decision, ERA, abortion, pregnancy benefits, etc. We may find that it's useful for more comrades to regularly attend the monthly chapter meetings even if they are not assigned primarily to CLUW work. If new openings are there, we will want to assign more comrades to actively participate in CLUW.

We also want to encourage all women comrades who are union members to become CLUW members. Because of the decline of CLUW activity in the recent past, many women comrades who could have joined did not bother to send in their membership. We want to urge comrades to do so.

Comradely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Willie Mae Reid".

Willie Mae Reid
for the Political Committee