

MINUTES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

February 23, 24, 25, 26, 1978

Thursday, February 23

Convened by Rodríguez--9:38 a.m.

Welcoming of international guests, and observers from the SLP.

Motion from Presiding Committee: That Pendás chair this session.

Carried.

Attendance:

Regular: Bailey, Barnes, Blackstock, Breitman, Britton, Camejo, Chertov, Clark, DeBerry, Dixon, Garza, Halstead, Hawkins, Heisler, Horowitz, Jaquith, D. Jenness, L. Jenness, Jones, Kramer, LaMont, Levine, Lovell, Lund, Lyons, Manuel, Miah, Morell (Thursday and Friday), Morrison, Reid, Ring, Rodríguez, Seigle, Sheppard, Stapleton, Stone, Thomas, Warren, Waters, Weinstein, White, Wohlforth (Friday, Saturday, Sunday), Wright

Alternates: Brundy, Ntweng, Benson, Foley, Evans, Matson, Henderson, Pendás, Zimmermann, Harris, Feldman, Gallo, Shilman, Roberts, Flint, Finkel, McBride (Thursday, Friday, Saturday), Mackler, Dawson, Rose, Markey, Smith (Saturday and Sunday), Meyers, Ariza, Musa, Prince, Wright, Austin (Thursday, Saturday, Sunday), Feeley, Leonard, Lubrano, Sedwick, Sojourner, McCutcheon, Johnston, Williams

Control Commission: Glover, Scheer

1. ORGANIZATION OF THE PLENUM

Rodríguez 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 reporters
(over)

for the Political Committee: Barnes, Lund, Miah, Reid, Rodríguez, Seigle, Sheppard, Waters.

4. To designate Fowler and Myers as secretaries.
5. To invite as observers: Control Commission members, heads of national departments, members of the YSA National Executive Committee, local organizers, branch organizers in cities where there is no local, organizing committee organizers, and special guests.
6. To give voice to all organizers during discussion of the Leadership and Character of the Party Report, Tasks and Perspectives Report, and Party Finances and Organization Report.
7. To give voice to the national officers of the YSA during the discussion on the YSA Collaboration Report.

Carried.

Motion: To approve the following agenda:

1. Organization of the Plenum
2. World Political Report
3. Leadership and Character of the Party Report
4. Tasks and Perspectives Report
5. Party Finances and Organization Report
6. Women's Liberation Report
7. YSA Collaboration Report
8. Leadership Assignments and Election of Political Committee
9. World Movement Report

Carried.

Motion: To give voice to the United Secretariat delegation, International Executive Committee members, and a representative from the Organizing Committee for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International (OCRFI) during the discussion of the World Political Report.

Carried.

2. WORLD POLITICAL REPORT

Lund reported.

Discussion: Aubin (11-minute extension), Allio (5-minute extension), Stevens (25-minute extension), Horowitz, Foley, Thomas, Sheppard, Feeley, Henderson

Recess--1 p.m.

Reconvene--2:32 p.m.

Motion from Presiding Committee: To hear a special report by Petrin on CAIFI 6 Defense Case in New Jersey.

Carried.

Petrin reported on victory of CAIFI 6.

Further discussion on World Political Report: Connolly, Roberts, Garza

Summary: Lund

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular: 42 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Consultative: 37 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Carried.

3. LEADERSHIP AND CHARACTER OF PARTY REPORT

Barnes reported.

Discussion: DeBerry, Thomas, Foley, Markey, Austin, Levine, Singer, Morrison, Hillson, Flint, Zimmermann, Gallo

Recess--6:30 p.m.

Friday, February 24

Reconvene--9:36 a.m.

Motion from Presiding Committee: That Zimmermann chair this session.

Carried.

Further discussion on Leadership and Character of Party Report: Lyons,
(over)

Singler, Ring, Ntweng, Tarnopol, McBride, Breitman,
Miah, Sojourner, Sheppard, Chertov (1-minute extension),
Gurewitz, Dawson

Motion from Presiding Committee: To change the schedule to provide
forty-five additional minutes discussion on Leadership and Character
of Party Report.

Carried.

Further discussion: Singer, Weinstein, Johnston, Manuel, Reid,
Leonard, Wohlforth, Heisler, M. Warren (2-minute
extension)

Summary: Barnes

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular: 43 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Consultative: 36 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Carried.

Recess--1:15 p.m.

Reconvene--2:32 p.m.

4. TASKS AND PERSPECTIVES REPORT

Seigle reported.

Discussion: Roberts, Harris, Kramer, Musa, Camejo, Feeley, Garza,
Rose, Rodríguez, Henderson, Mackler, Breitman, Stone,
Dixon, Levine, Lubrano, Wohlforth, Williams, Sedwick

Motion from Presiding Committee: To hear a proposed message to
Héctor Marroquín.

Carried.

D. Jenness proposed that the following message be sent to Marroquin. (See appendix.)

Carried.

Summary: Seigle

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular: 43 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Consultative: 36 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Carried.

Saturday, February 25

Reconvene--9:35 a.m.

Motion from Presiding Committee: That Flint chair this session.

Carried.

5. PARTY FINANCES AND ORGANIZATION REPORT

Waters reported.

Discussion: L. Jenness, Pichey, Ring, Henderson, Dixon, M. Warren, Schwarz, Berman, P. Wright, Barnes, Scherr

Motion from Presiding Committee: To adjust the schedule and reduce speaking time to six minutes.

Discussion

Carried.

Discussion continued: Tarnopol, Lyons, Thomas, Moser, Halstead, Wohlforth (2-minute extension), Weinstein

(over)

Motion from Presiding Committee: To add a special point on the miners' strike.

Carried.

SPECIAL INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON MINERS' STRIKE

Jones reported.

Summary on Party Finances and Organization Report: Waters

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular:	42	for
	0	against
	0	abstentions
Consultative:	38	for
	0	against
	0	abstentions

Carried.

Recess--1:45 p.m.

Reconvene--3:05 p.m.

6. WOMEN'S LIBERATION REPORT

Reid reported.

Discussion: Feeley, Sojourner, Stone, Kramer, Johnston, Austin, Gallo, Lubrano, Jaquith, Waters, Sedwick, Williams, Chertov, DeBerry, P. Wright

Summary: Reid

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular:	42	for
	0	against
	0	abstentions

Consultative: 38 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Carried.

Recess--6:35 p.m.

Sunday, February 26

Reconvene--9:37 a.m.

Motion from Presiding Committee: That Dawson chair this session.

Carried.

7. YSA COLLABORATION REPORT

Miah reported.

Discussion: Ntweng, Wohlforth, R. Wright, Flint, Gallo, Ring,
Camejo, Thomas, Leonard, Petrin, Shilman, P. Wright,
Lyons, Sedwick, Farley

Motion from Presiding Committee: To hear a proposed message to
the Wilmington 10.

Carried.

Musa proposed that the following message be sent to the Wilmington
10. (See appendix.)

Carried.

Summary on YSA Collaboration Report: Miah

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular: 42 for
0 against
0 abstentions

(over)

Consultative: 37 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Carried.

Recess--12:29 p.m.

Reconvene--1:29 p.m.

8. REPORT ON LEADERSHIP ASSIGNMENTS AND ELECTION OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Barnes reported.

Motion: That the Political Committee consist of twenty-five members, including one to be selected by the YSA National Executive Committee; that the regular members of the National Committee resident in New York be nominated: Blackstock, Breitman, Britton, Clark, Dixon, Garza, Hawkins, Horowitz, Jaquith, D. Jenness, L. Jenness, Jones, Kramer, LaMont, Levine, Lovell, Morell, Reid, Rodriguez, Seigle, Stapleton, Stone, Waters, White

Further nominations: None

Motion: To elect a Political Committee of twenty-five as nominated.

Vote:

Regular: 42 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Consultative: 37 for
0 against
0 abstentions

Carried.

9. WORLD MOVEMENT REPORT

Sheppard reported.

Motion from Presiding Committee: To give voice under this point to the United Secretariat delegation, International Executive Committee members, a representative of the OCRFI, and Comrade Bernard.

Carried.

Discussion: Bernard, Breitman, Wohlforth, Zimmermann, Levine, Aubin (3-minute extension), Otto (2-minute extension), Garza, Flint, Allio, Barnes (10-minute extension), Halstead, Lachance, Rodriguez

Summary: Sheppard

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular:	42	for
	0	against
	0	abstentions
Consultative:	37	for
	0	against
	0	abstentions

Carried.

Singing of the Internationale

Plenum adjourned--5:55 p.m.

(over)

APPENDIX 1

Héctor Marroquín

Dear Héctor,

The National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party, meeting in New York February 23 through February 26, sends you our warmest comradely greetings.

At this gathering we have discussed and voted upon some historic steps for our party, in particular the decision to colonize industry. We agreed to move as quickly as possible to get the big majority of the party membership into basic industry.

We also reaffirmed our commitment to mobilize the party membership, and to use all our resources, to fight against the government attempt to deport you.

Your defense, and the defense of the party and YSA, will be at the center of all our work until you are safe.

Socialist Workers Party

APPENDIX 2

Wilmington 10 Defense Committee

Dear Friends,

Your struggle to win freedom from North Carolina jails is known all over the world. The campaign to free the Wilmington 10 has helped expose the fraud of Carter's human rights rhetoric.

Likewise, attempts by the U.S. government to deport Héctor Marroquín, a member of the Socialist Workers Party, whom the Mexican government has framed as a "terrorist," show the Carter administration for what it is.

The National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party, meeting in New York February 23-26, pledges to continue fighting for the immediate release of the Wilmington 10 in the pages of the Militant, through our candidates, in the unions, on campuses, and in the Wilmington 10 Defense Committees.

For us a crime against one is a crime against all.

Socialist Workers Party

PROPOSED PLENUM SCHEDULE--February 23-26, 1978

Thursday, February 23

9:30 - 9:45 Organization of Plenum (1/4 hour)
9:45 - 11:00 World Political Report (1 1/4 hours)
11:00 - 1:00 Discussion (3 hours total)
1:00 - 2:30 Lunch (1 1/2 hours)
2:30 - 3:30 Discussion, continued (1 hour)
3:30 - 3:45 Summary (1/4 hour)
3:45 - 5:15 Leadership and Character of Party Report (1 1/2 hours)
5:15 - 6:30 Discussion (4 hours total)

Friday, February 24

9:30 - 11:45 Discussion, continued (2 1/4 hours)
11:45 - 12:15 Summary (1/2 hour)
12:15 - 1:45 Lunch (1 1/2 hours)
1:45 - 3:00 Tasks and Perspectives Report (1 1/4 hours)
3:00 - 6:00 Discussion (3 hours)
6:00 - 6:30 Summary (1/2 hour)

Saturday, February 25

9:30 - 10:30 Party Finances and Organization Report
(1 hour)
10:30 - 12:30 Discussion (2 hours)
12:30 - 1:00 Summary (1/2 hour)
1:00 - 2:30 Lunch (1 1/2 hours)
2:30 - 3:30 Women's Liberation Report (1 hour)
3:30 - 5:30 Discussion (2 hours)
5:30 - 6:00 Summary (1/2 hour)
6:00 - 7:00 YSA Collaboration Report (1 hour)

Sunday, February 26

9:30 - 11:30 Discussion, YSA Collaboration Report (2 hours)
11:30 - 12:00 Summary (1/2 hour)
12:00 - 1:00 Lunch (served)
1:00 - 1:30 Report on Leadership Assignments and Election of Political
Committee (1/2 hour)
1:30 - 2:30 Discussion (1 hour)

(over)

PROPOSED PLENUM SCHEDULE/2

- 2:30 - 3:45 World Movement Report (1 1/4 hours)
- 3:45 - 5:45 Discussion (2 hours)
- 5:45 - 6:15 Summary (1/2 hour)

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 reporters for the Political Committee: Barnes, Lund, Miah, Reid, Rodríguez, Seigle, Sheppard, Waters.
4. To designate Fowler and Myers as secretaries.
5. To invite as observers: Control Commission members, heads of national departments, members of the YSA National Executive Committee, local organizers, branch organizers in cities where there is no local, organizing committee organizers, and special guests.
6. To give voice to all organizers during discussion of the Leadership and Character of the Party Report, Tasks and Perspectives Report, and Party Finances and Organizational Perspectives Report.
7. To give voice to the national officers of the YSA during the discussion on the YSA Collaboration Report.

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