

POLITICAL BUREAU MEETING No. 6, October 26, 1978

Present: Barnes, Britton, Clark, Dixon, Hawkins, Jenness,  
Lyons, Sedwick, Seigle, Stone, Waters

Chair: Sedwick

AGENDA: 1. Drake Koka Tour  
2. Antiapartheid Work  
3. Miners Work  
4. Proposal for Critical Support to Socialist  
Labor Party Candidate from Capital District  
(Albany) Branch

1. DRAKE KOKA TOUR

(Petrin invited for this point.)

Dixon reported progress of the tour to date.

Discussion

2. ANTIAPARTHEID WORK

(Petrin invited for this point.)

Hawkins reported on current antiapartheid and divestment activities, including NECLSA conference at New York University November 17-19, on scheduled week of protests March 18-24, and on projected Militant coverage. Also reported on possibility of a spring tour of another South African trade unionist speaking on the anti-apartheid struggle.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

3. MINERS WORK

(Blackstock, Cole, Rose, and Stapleton invited for this point.)

Stapleton reported.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

(over)

4. PROPOSAL FOR CRITICAL SUPPORT TO SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY  
CANDIDATE FROM CAPITAL DISTRICT (ALBANY) BRANCH  
(Schwarz invited for this point.)

Seigle reported on proposal of Capital District branch to call for a vote for the SLP campaign of Frank Fletcher for Congress in the 25th District. (See attached materials.)

Discussion

Motion: That Seigle talk to the Capital District comrades and recommend that, because shortness of time and lack of SLP campaign activities between now and the elections would make an effective critical support campaign impossible, the comrades reconsider their proposal. We should encourage the comrades to continue their efforts to seek ways of pursuing discussions and contact with the SLP.

Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

OCT 24 1978

Socialist Workers Party  
103 Central Avenue  
Albany, New York 12206

October 22, 1978

SWP National Office  
New York, New York

Dear Comrades:

The Capital District branch would like to recommend to the Political Committee endorsement of the SLP campaign of Frank Fletcher for Congress in the 25th District. The 25th District encompasses the Poughkeepsie, Beacon area of New York.

Our thinking is really two fold: 1) the campaign represents a clear break with the Democratic and Republican parties and represents a working-class alternative. As you can see from the enclosed campaign flyer, they present their program in a somewhat popularized way that makes it attractive to working people. 2) For our continued relations and collaboration with the SLP, we think endorsement of their campaign would be an important step towards furthering our ties with their members. We are in touch with several of their members including Frank Fletcher who subscribe to The Militant and are friendly to us. In fact, Frank Fletcher believes that the SLP should become a faction inside the SWP but at this point understands that that is not possible and remains a loyal SLP member.

Despite the closeness to the elections, we think that we could make some gains by publicly endorsing their campaign. We would want to write them a formal letter of endorsement, write an article for the Militant, and possibly have the two comrades in our branch who live in Poughkeepsie help out in a modest way on their campaign.

We look forward to a decision by the Political Committee on this matter as soon as possible since the elections are only two weeks away.

Comradely,



Nancy Rosenstock  
Organizer - Capital District  
Branch



VOTE for FRANK FLETCHER  
For Congress, 25th District  
SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY  
On Row "F"



## FRANK OFFERS A REAL ALTERNATIVE TO ESTABLISHMENT POLITICS

*A Hudson Valley railroad worker for many years, he is a combat verteran of World War II.  
After working to help unite the railroad crafts, he directed a civil rights project in the South.  
He works for equal rights for women and minorities.*

*A ballad singer, he is active in the ecology, anti-war and no-nukes movements.*

*FRANK FLETCHER calls for a new class-wide unionism to extend democracy to the job where it really matters. He stands for Worker Control of Industry.*

*As a SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY candidate he says some things you've never heard a congressional candidate say.*

**HE SAYS POLITICIANS CAN'T SOLVE THE MESS WE'RE IN.**

*He says they can't because what is needed is to change the whole basis of our society, from the ground up, and that's a job politicians aren't interested in doing and aren't qualified to do.*

*It's a job for the workers of this nation.*

**OURSELVES.**

*Hard to swallow? Not when you think about it. It's the idea Frank Fletcher represents as candidate of the Socialist Labor Party.*

*Frank is available to speak to interested groups and organizations. Call: 914-679-9035.  
Write or send contributions to: P.O. Box 6, Lake Hill, New York 12448.*

**On Row "F", Vote for Frank Fletcher for Congress**



**THE ISSUE IS SURVIVAL.** *Want to hear more? See the other side.*

# WHAT IS SOCIALISM?

## **WHO OWNS WHAT**

Socialism is the collective ownership by all the people of the factories, mills, mines, railroads, land and all other instruments of production.

## **WHO BENEFITS**

Socialism means production to satisfy human needs, not as under capitalism, for sale and profit.

## **WHO RUNS THINGS**

Socialism means direct control and management of the industries and social services by the workers through a democratic government based on their nationwide economic organization.

Under socialism, all authority will originate from the workers, integrally united in socialist industrial unions. In each workplace, the rank and file will elect whatever committees or representatives are needed to facilitate production. Within each shop or office division of a plant, the rank and file will participate directly in formulating and implementing all plans necessary for efficient operations.

## **LOCAL AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT**

Besides electing all necessary shop officers, the workers will also elect representatives to a local and national council of their industry or service—and to a central congress representing all the industries and services. This all-industrial congress will plan and coordinate production in all areas of the economy.

## **DEMOCRATIC CONTROL**

All persons elected to any post in the socialist government, from the lowest to the highest level, will be directly accountable to the rank and file. They will be subject to removal at any time that a majority of those who elected them decide it is necessary.

Such a system would make possible the fullest democracy and freedom. It would be a society based on the most primary freedom—economic freedom.

## **INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS**

For individuals, socialism means an end to economic insecurity and exploitation. It means workers cease to be commodities bought and sold on the labor market, and forced to work as appendages to tools owned by someone else. It means a chance to develop all individual capacities and potentials within a free community of free individuals. It means a classless society that guarantees full democratic rights for all workers.

## **WHAT SOCIALISM IS NOT**

*Socialism does not mean government or state ownership.*

*It does not mean a state bureaucracy as in the U.S.S.R., with the working class oppressed by a new bureaucratic class.*

*It does not mean a closed Party-run system without democratic rights.*

*It does not mean "nationalization," or "labor-management boards," or state capitalism of any kind.*

*It means a complete end to all capitalist social relations.*

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## **HOW WE CAN GET SOCIALISM**

To win the struggle for socialist freedom requires enormous efforts of organizational and educational work. It requires building a political party of socialism to contest the power of the capitalist class on the political field, and to educate the majority of workers about the need for socialism. It requires building socialist industrial union organizations to unite all workers in a class-conscious industrial force, and to prepare them to take, hold, and operate the tools of production.

You are needed in the ranks of socialists fighting for a better world, to end poverty, racism, environmental disaster and to avert a catastrophic nuclear war. Find out more about the program and work of the Socialist Labor Party and join us to help make the promise of socialism a reality.

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## **WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

### **1. LEARN MORE**

The SLP publishes a wide range of literature on various aspects of the socialist movement. Its official journal, *The Weekly People*, offers a clear analysis of the news each week from the workers' point of view. Send for free copies.

### **2. GET INVOLVED**

Contact the SLP subdivision in your area and find out about local activities like lectures, leafleting and classes in Marxism.

### **3. JOIN US**

The SLP is open to all who agree with its program of political and economic organization to replace capitalism with a new socialist society. Learn more about the SLP's ideas and program. If you agree, you belong in the SLP.

**For More Information, Contact Frank Fletcher  
P O Box 6, Lake Hill, NY 12448 914-679-9035**