

MINUTES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

April 28, 29, 30, May 1, 2, 1979

Saturday, April 28

Convened by Lyons--9:35 a.m.

Motion: That Ntweng chair this session.

Carried.

Welcoming of international guests.

Attendance:

Regular: Bailey, Barnes, Blackstock, Breitman (Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Wednesday), Britton, Brundy, Camejo, Chertov, Clark, DeBerry, Dixon, C. Garza, Halstead, Hawkins, Horowitz, Jaquith, D. Jenness, Jones, Kramer, LaMont, Levine (Saturday and Sunday), Lovell, Lund, Lyons, Manuel, Miah, Morell, Pulley (Saturday, Sunday, Monday), Reid, Ring, Rodríguez, Seigle, Shaw, Sheppard, Stapleton, Stone, Warren, Waters, Weinstein, Wohlforth (Sunday and Monday), P. Wright (Saturday, Sunday, Monday)

Alternates: Ntweng (Saturday, Sunday, Monday), Foley, Evans, Matson (Saturday and Sunday), Henderson, Pendas (Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday), Zimmermann, Harris (Saturday, Sunday, Monday), Feldman, Gallo, Shilman, Roberts, Finkel, McBride (Sunday and Monday), Mackler, Vásquez, Dawson, Rose, Markey, Smith, Meyers, Ariza, Musa, Prince, R. Wright, Austin (Saturday, Sunday, Monday), Feeley, Leonard, Lubrano, Sedwick (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday), Sojourner, Johnston (Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday), Williams (Sunday, Monday)

Control Commission: Glover, Scheer, Stewart (Saturday and Sunday)

1. ORGANIZATION OF THE PLENUM

Lyons 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.

(over)

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: Barnes, Horowitz, D. Jenness, Lyons, Miah, Sedwick, Seigle, Sheppard, Waters, Zimmermann.
4. To designate Bombaro, Murphy, Robohm, and Roche as secretaries.
5. To invite as observers: Control Commission members, heads of national departments, members of the YSA National Executive Committee, district organizers, local organizers, branch organizers, and special guests.
6. To give voice to all organizers during discussion of the Youth Report and to refer to Presiding Committee proposal for other points to which organizers will have voice.

Carried.

Motion: To approve the following agenda.

1. Organization of the Plenum
2. World Political Report
3. 1980 Presidential Ticket and Labor Party Campaign
4. Political Resolution
5. Youth Report
6. Organization and Labor Report
7. Gay Liberation
8. American Agriculture and the Working Farmer
9. Leadership and Election of Political Committee
10. World Movement Report
11. Convention Call

## 2. WORLD POLITICAL REPORT

Horowitz reported.

Roman reported.

Recess--12:25 p.m.

Reconvene--1:50 p.m.

Discussion on the World Political Report: Camejo, Feldman, Evans, Sheppard, Roberts, Lund, Shaw, Halstead

Motion from Presiding Committee: To give voice under this point to Comrades Connolly and Lavender of the RWL/LOR of Canada.

Carried.

Discussion: Waters, Connolly, Lavender, Warren, C. Garza,  
Weinstein, Mackler, Stone, Barnes, Levine, Markey,  
D. Jenness, Kramer, Johnston

Summary: Roman

Summary: Horowitz

Motion: To approve the general line of the report by Horowitz.

Vote:

Regular: 38 for  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Consultative: 32 for  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Carried.

Recess--6:10 p.m.

Sunday, April 29

Reconvene--9:33 a.m.

Motion from Presiding Committee: That Shilman chair this session.

Carried.

### 3. 1980 PRESIDENTIAL TICKET AND LABOR PARTY CAMPAIGN

Seigle reported.

Discussion: Breitman, Halstead, Roberts, Feeley, Pulley, DeBerry,  
Lyons, Chertov, Clark

Motion from Presiding Committee: To close speakers list and  
reduce speaking time to six minutes.

Carried.

Discussion continued: Matson, Reid, Morell, Stone, Weinstein,  
Levine, Markey, Camejo, Dawson, Stewart

Recess--1:20 p.m.

Reconvene--2:47 p.m.

Summary: Seigle

Motion from Presiding Committee: To continue the discussion under the Political Resolution Report and to vote on reports together.

Carried.

4. POLITICAL RESOLUTION REPORT

Barnes reported.

Motion from Presiding Committee to adjust schedule, reduce speaking time to six minutes, and adjourn at 10:00 p.m.

Carried.

Discussion: Dixon, Mackler, Kramer, Halstead, Miah, Shaw, Feeley, Ntweng, Hawkins, Rose, Lyons

Recess--6:37 p.m.

Reconvene--7:32 p.m.

Discussion continued: Pendás, Leonard, Weinstein, Pulley, Stapleton, Zimmermann, Musa, McBride, Ring, Chertov, C. Garza, Meyers, Brundy, Jaquith, Henderson, Warren, Jones

Summary: Barnes

Motion: To approve Political Committee proposal that Andrew Pulley and Matilde Zimmermann be the presidential and vice-presidential candidates in the 1980 election campaign.

Vote:

Regular: 41 for  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Consultative: 36 for  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Carried.

Motion: To approve the general line of the 1980 Presidential Ticket and Labor Party Campaign Report.

Vote:

Regular: 41 for  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Consultative: 36 for  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Carried.

Motion to approve the general line of Political Resolution and Political Resolution Report.

Vote:

Regular: 41 for  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Consultative: 36 for  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Carried.

Recess--10:25 p.m.

Monday, April 30

Reconvene--9:37 a.m.

Motion from Presiding Committee: That Meyers chair this session.

Carried.

5. YOUTH REPORT

Sedwick reported.

Motion from Presiding Committee: To give voice to members of the YSA National Executive Committee under this point.

Carried.

Discussion: Camejo, Henderson, Ressler, Pulley, Wohlforth, Feeley, Rose, Weinstein, R. Berman, Sherman, Waters, Manuel

Recess--1:50 p.m.

Reconvene--2:18 p.m.

Motion from Presiding Committee: To reduce speaking time to six minutes.

Carried.

Further discussion on Youth Report: Williams, S. Berman, McCaffrey, Roberts, Gotesky, Dixon, Britton, Zárate

Motion from Presiding Committee to adjust schedule to continue discussion on Youth Report for one-half hour, and to give voice to all organizers during discussion of Organization and Labor Report.

Carried.

Discussion continued: Gallo, Barnes, Bak

Summary: Sedwick

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular:	37 for
	1 against
	1 abstention
Consultative:	31 for
	0 against
	1 abstention

Carried.

6. ORGANIZATION AND LABOR REPORT

Miah reported.

Motion from Presiding Committee: To give voice to heads of national departments under this point.

Carried.

Discussion: Hillson, C. Garza, Sojourner, Seidman, Stone, Cushman, Prince, Johnston, Gotesky, Warren

Recess--7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 1

Reconvene--9:40 a.m.

Motion from Presiding Committee: That DeBerry chair this session.

Carried.

Further discussion on Organization and Labor Report: Barnes

Motion from Presiding Committee: To give voice to P. Mailhot from the YSA National Executive Committee under this point.

Carried.

Discussion continued: Montauk, Gannon, P. Wright, Kelly, S. Singer, Horner, Mailhot

Motion from Presiding Committee: That the two remaining speakers conclude the discussion, followed by the summary.

Carried.

Discussion: Brundy, Rayson

Summary: Miah

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular: 34 for  
0 against  
0 abstentions

(over)

Consultative: 27 for  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Carried.

7. GAY LIBERATION REPORT

Zimmermann reported.

Recess--12:55 p.m.

Reconvene--2:25 p.m.

Discussion on Gay Liberation Report: Finkel, Markey, Warren, Shaw, DeBerry, Ring, Feeley, LaMont, Waters, Barnes, Sheppard, Camejo, Feldman, Warren

Summary: Zimmermann

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular: 35 for  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Consultative: 27 for  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Carried.

8. AMERICAN AGRICULTURE AND THE WORKING FARMER

D. Jenness reported.

Discussion: C. Garza, Stapleton

Motion from Presiding Committee: To give voice to Hart and Staggs under this point.

Carried.

Discussion continued: Shaw, Henderson, Halstead, Hart, Barnes, Staggs, Sheppard, LaMont, Stapleton, Morell, Shaw

Summary: D. Jenness

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular: 34 for  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Consultative: 27 for  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Carried.

Recess--8:45 p.m.

Wednesday, May 2

Reconvene--9:39 a.m.

Motion from Presiding Committee: That Bailey chair this session.

Carried.

9. LEADERSHIP AND ELECTION OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Waters reported.

Motion from Presiding Committee: To give voice to all organizers under this point.

Carried.

Discussion: Vásquez, Finch, DeBerry, Hillson, Feeley, Gallo,  
Trowe, Sherman, Newton, Johnson, Stone, Chertov, Fowlkes

Recess--1:43 p.m.

Reconvene--2:17 p.m.

Motion: To give voice to Novack under this point.

Carried.

Further discussion on Leadership and Election of Political  
Committee Report: Novack, Zimmermann, Dawson, Roberts,  
Johnston, C. Garza, Lund, Morell

Summary: Waters

Motion: That the Political Committee consist of 16 members including one to be selected by the YSA National Executive Committee.

Vote:

Regular: 36 for  
0 against  
0 abstentions

(over)

Consultative: 27 for  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Carried.

Waters nominates: Barnes, Britton, Clark, Dixon, Hawkins,  
Horowitz, Jaquith, D. Jenness, Kramer, Lyons, Morell, Ring,  
Seigle, Stone, Waters

Further nominations: None

Motion: To close nominations.

Carried.

Motion: To elect nominees.

Vote:

Regular: 36 for  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Consultative: 27 for  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Carried.

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Vote:

Regular: 36 for  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Consultative: 27 for  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Carried.

Motion: To hear Convention Call report next followed by  
World Movement Report.

Carried.

## 10. CONVENTION CALL

Barnes reported.

Discussion: Mackler, Barnes

Motion: To approve Convention Call. (See attached.)

Vote:

Regular: 36 for  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Consultative: 27 for  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Carried.

Motion: That Leonard chair this session.

Carried.

#### 11. WORLD MOVEMENT REPORT

Sheppard reported.

Motion from Presiding Committee: To give voice under this point to two leaders of the Canadian RWL-LOR.

Carried.

Discussion: Camejo, Foley, Josephine, Yves, Jaquith

Summary: Sheppard

Singing of the Internationale.

Plenum adjourned--6:35 p.m.

# Call for the Thirtieth National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party

May 2, 1979

## TO DISTRICTS, LOCALS, BRANCHES, AND MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

Pursuant to the provisions of the party constitution, the National Committee hereby calls the Thirtieth National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party to convene in Ohio at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 5 and continue through seven days (August 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11, 1979).

### AGENDA

The National Committee proposes the following agenda for the convention:

- World Congress Resolutions
- World Congress Women's Liberation Resolution
- Cuba
- Political Resolution
- Political Reports
- Organization and Trade-Union Reports
- Youth Report
- World Movement
- Election of National Committee

### PRECONVENTION DISCUSSION

The party pre-convention discussion is formally opened May 2, 1979. The *Discussion Bulletin* is open for all party members and provisional members on the subjects listed in the agenda or others which they may wish to present for the consideration of the party. As authorized by the party constitution, the Political Committee has set a deadline of the last business mail of July 20, 1979, for acceptance of pre-convention discussion articles for the bulletin.

Branch membership meetings shall be arranged for discussion of the various subjects on the agenda. Our traditional provisions and safeguards for the adequate and free presentation of all points of view shall govern all discussion.

### CONVENTION ASSESSMENT

As authorized by the party constitution, a convention assessment of \$18.00 per member is hereby levied, the payment of which is obligatory for every member not totally unemployed. This assessment is also requested from provisional members who are not totally unemployed.

### BASIS OF REPRESENTATION

1. Representation from the branches shall be as follows: One delegate for the first 12 members or less, and one additional delegate for each 12 additional members or major fraction thereof (6 or more constituting a major fraction).

2. Delegates are to be elected by branches in accordance with the actual number of members in good standing who have been admitted to the party prior to July 22, 1979, and who have paid their convention assessment, as certified by the branch executive committee on the day of voting.

3. Branches organized after May 7, 1979, except for those constituted through a division or consolidation of existing branches, are entitled to send fraternal delegates as provided by the party constitution.

4. Members admitted to the party after July 22, 1979, are entitled to voice in the party discussion but no vote on resolutions or in the selection of delegates.

5. Absentee votes on political resolutions and in the election of delegates shall not be permitted except in clearly established cases of occupational necessity, illness, or party assignment. In all such cases the votes must be submitted in writing and recognized by motion at the branch meeting at the time of the branch voting.

6. Members transferring from one branch to another within the same locality subsequent to May 7, 1979, must vote in the branch from which they transferred.

### PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

In case of political differences defined by conflicting resolutions, the election of delegates in the branches is to be on the basis of the vote on resolution or resolutions voted on at the meeting at which the delegates are to be elected. Members voting for a given resolution designate the delegate or delegates to which they are entitled on the basis of proportional representation laid down in this call, the designations to be ratified by the branch. Abstentions in no case count as votes.

1. If there are two counterposed political positions, the delegates are apportioned between the majority and the minority in proportion to the vote each receives. The percentage of the vote received by the majority, multiplied by the number of delegates the branch is entitled to, is rounded off to the nearest whole number to give the number of delegates going to the majority. The remainder are assigned to the minority.

2. If there are three or more positions, those positions which received too few votes to possibly get a delegate are eliminated first, beginning with the smallest. That is, if the percentage of the vote received by a position is multiplied by the number of delegates the branch is entitled to, and the result is "0" when rounded off, this position is not considered and its votes are subtracted from the total vote. After such positions have been eliminated, the delegates are apportioned to the remaining positions, beginning with the one with the highest vote. Using the new vote total, the percentage received by the position with the highest vote is multiplied by the number of delegates the branch is entitled to and the result is rounded off to the nearest whole number, to give the number of delegates going to this position. The same procedure is repeated with the position receiving the second highest vote, and so on, until all the delegates the branch is entitled to have been apportioned.

### CONVENTION ATTENDANCE

The National Committee proposes that all party members in good standing may attend the convention as visitors, and that friends may be admitted to the sessions provided they have been invited by a branch.

Fraternally yours,  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY  
Jack Barnes  
National Secretary