

MINUTES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

August 4, 1979

Convened at 10:10 a.m. by D. Jenness.

Motion: That Manuel chair the plenum.

Carried.

Attendance:

Regular: Bailey, Barnes, Britton, Brundy, Chertov, Clark, DeBerry, C. Garza, Halstead, Hawkins, Horowitz, Jaquith, D. Jenness, Jones, Kramer, LaMont, Lovell, Lyons, Manuel, Miah, Morell, Ring, Rodríguez, Seigle, Sheppard, Warren, Waters, Weinstein, P. Wright

Alternates: Benson, Foley, Evans, Matson, Zimmermann, Feldman, Gallo, Shilman, Roberts, Finkel, Vásquez, Dawson, Rose, Markey, Smith, Meyers, Ariza, Prince, Austin, Feeley, Leonard, Lubrano, Sedwick, Sojourner, Johnston

Control Commission: V. Garza, Glover, Scheer

Motion: To adopt the following agenda:

1. Healyite Slander Campaign and Weissman Protest
2. Organization of Convention
3. Post-convention Expanded Political Committee Meeting

1. HEALYITE SLANDER CAMPAIGN AND WEISSMAN PROTEST

Seigle reported on new developments in the Healyite slander campaign (see attached articles), and protest from Comrade Weissman regarding an article submitted to the party Discussion Bulletin.

Motion: To refer the Weissman protest to the incoming Political Committee.

Carried.

2. ORGANIZATION OF CONVENTION

D. Jenness reported for the Political Committee.

Discussion

(over)

Motion: To adopt the proposed rules and convention schedule. (See minutes of the Thirtieth National Convention of the SWP, IIB, No. 1, 1979.)

Carried.

3. POST-CONVENTION EXPANDED POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Barnes reported that an expanded Political Committee meeting will be held August 13 and 14, to which National Committee members, party branch organizers, national department heads, the Young Socialist Alliance National Executive Committee, and international guests are invited. The agenda will include: Nicaragua, a report from José G. Pérez on his recent trip to Cuba, Iran, and the world movement.

Meeting adjourned.

MURDER...

(Continued from page 1)

on a police lineup less than 24 hours after the shooting, he was released by the police almost at once and never charged with the attempted murder of Comrade Vietot. Although Jacques Vietot also identified Sequing as his assailant and as the accomplice of Torres in the murder of Hencham, the police have ignored his testimony.

The police do not deny that Sequing was with Torres the night of Hencham's murder, but claim that there is no evidence that proves more than one man shot both Vietot and Hencham.

The bullets extracted from Vietot's body were of a smaller caliber than those which killed Comrade Hencham, but hospital officials reported that the bullets were somehow lost following the operation.

As far as Angel Torres, the police claim that he has vanished and cannot be found.

Thousands of rank-and-file Trade unionists and officials in the trade union movement representing millions of workers have supported the Workers League's demand for a full investigation into the assassination of Hencham and the shooting of Jacques Vietot.

Conspiracy

The Workers League is convinced that the October 16, 1977 shootings were the product of a political conspiracy aimed at destroying our Party and wiping out revolutionary leadership in the working class.

We are also certain that the specific aim of the killing of Tom Hencham and the shooting of Jacques Vietot was to stop our exposure of FBI agents in the leadership of the revisionist Socialist Workers Party.

The Workers League is now investigating the strong possibility that the brutal killing of Augustus Vietot is

connected to the previous attacks on our Party.

The very fact that the victim was the brother of a leading member of the Workers League who survived an attempted assassination is reason enough for grave concern.

Although not a member of the Workers League, he was a generous supporter of our Party. Particularly after the murder of Tom Hencham, he made regular contributions to the Monthly Fund which finances the publication of the Bulletin.

As in the days following the assassination of Tom Hencham, the New York City newspapers have not published a single report on the murder of Augustus Vietot.

Exposure

The Workers League considers it very likely that the murder of Augustus Vietot is an attempt to divert our Party from its exposure of the police agents in the SWP

and to stop us from continuing our campaign for a full investigation into the assassination of Tom Hencham.

It has already come to our attention that the leadership of the Socialist Workers Party is working behind the scenes to urge trade union officials to disavow their support of our demand for an investigation. Those individuals in the SWP leadership who are behind this campaign must be considered suspect as FBI agents.

The Workers League is determined to press ahead with both the campaign for a full investigation into Hencham's murder and the struggle to expose the police agents in the SWP. Nothing can deter us from carrying out this struggle.

We are also determined to uncover the full truth about the cowardly murder of Augustus Vietot, a man who had many friends and not one known enemy. Finally, the Workers League conveys its deepest condolences to the bereaved family of Augustus Vietot.

Workers League

Supporter Murdered

BRONX, N. Y. — Augustus Vietot, 37, the brother of a leading member of the Workers League, was brutally murdered last Wednesday afternoon, July 16, by two gunmen.

The victim was gunned down inside the auto repair shop which he owned and managed in the Bronx shortly before closing time. The killers fired between 12 and 15 large caliber bullets into Vietot at nearly point blank range.

As he collapsed to the floor, one of the assailants picked up a heavy engine block cylinder and dropped it on Vietot's body.

The killers then fled from the repair shop, which is located at the intersection of Jerome and East Tremont.

Immediately after Vietot had been shot, his sister ran outside the shop looking for help. She ran up to a police car that was a few feet from the shop and pleaded for assistance. The cops inside said they were busy and drove off. It was not until about ten minutes later that another police car arrived. Vietot was

then taken to a nearby hospital but died shortly afterwards.

Less than one week before he was killed, Augustus Vietot was interviewed on a local television news program dealing with minority businessmen. He was shown working in the auto shop where he was murdered five days later.

The victim was the brother of Jacques Vietot, a member of the Workers League Central Committee who was himself critically wounded in the October 16, 1977 attack against the Young Socialists by a team of gunmen in Brooklyn.

It was during that attack that Tom Hencham, 25, a Political Committee member of the Workers League, was assassinated. It was a political murder carried out by a contract killer, Angel Torres.

Jacques Vietot was shot three times by a second gunman, Edwin Sequing.

Although Sequing was identified by two witnesses as one of the gunmen while standing (Continued on back page)

(over)

FBI to Keep Lid

WASHINGTON, D.C. — FBI Director William Webster reiterated his support for new measures to protect secret FBI informants, including restrictions on the Freedom of Information Act.

On Informers



FBI Director William Webster

Speaking on the television interview program *Face the Nation*, Webster said, "I've made a number of suggestions for fine-tuning the Freedom of Information Act."

This 'fine-tuning' actually amounts to gutting the Freedom of Information Act entirely, since the proposed FBI charter would bar release of any information on informants for seven years.

Stripped

At the same time, the FBI is demanding that judges be stripped of the power to order disclosure of informant's files and identities in the course of criminal or civil cases.

Webster said, "There has

to be a balance between disclosures which imperil the lives of confidential informants and restrict the amount of information that we receive, and the public's need to know the content of criminal investigative files."

The false issue of the alleged threat to informants' lives is raised in order to obscure the real threat of murderous violence by these agents and spies. The FBI is being sued by the family of Viola Luzzo, the civil rights worker who was murdered in 1965 by the FBI informer in the KKK, Gary Rowe.

SWP Agents

The FBI's moves to cover up for informants and wipe out the Freedom of Information Act have only one

purpose — to defend the nest of FBI agents in the leadership and the rank-and-file of the Socialist Workers Party, who politically direct the revisionist movement.

These agents, who were led by the late Joseph Hansen, have been exposed by the investigation of the International Committee of the Fourth International into Security and the Fourth International.

At the same time, the importance of these agents was proven by the decision of then-Attorney General Griffin Bell to defy a court order to release the names of 18 agents, and the statement by US Attorney Robert Fiske, Jr. that exposure of the identities of these agents would do "incalculable harm to the national security."