

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES NO. 25, September 15, 1966

Present: Barnes, DeBerry, Dobbs, Hansen, Kerry, Novack, Shaw, Sheppard, Jones.

Chairman: Kerry.

Agenda:

1. Antiwar Report.
2. West Coast Vacation School.
3. Socialist Scholars Conference.
4. Latin American Defense Committee.
5. Youth Plenum.
6. Party Plenum.
7. Resident NC Meeting.
8. International.
9. Fund Drive.
10. Organizational Secretary's Report.

1. ANTIWAR REPORT

Barnes reported on the Cleveland meeting held Sept. 9-11. The composition of the meeting included our comrades, CPers, and representatives of several pacifist groups. The conference called a national mobilization for Nov. 5-8, with demonstrations to be held in local areas. A non-exclusive administrative committee and national coordinators for this one action were set up. The possibility of a massive spring demonstration was projected. We supported these proposals, and plan to participate actively.

Discussion: Hansen, Jones, Barnes, Novack.

2. WEST COAST VACATION SCHOOL

Dobbs reported that the West Coast Vacation School was well-attended and efficiently organized. Those in attendance were predominantly young people, most of them activists in the antiwar movement. An intensive series of educational discussions during the ten-day encampment was marked by evidence that the lecturers had done their homework well and by lively discussion periods in which the young audience asked questions and contributed its thoughts. All in all, it was a splendid affair which should give further impetus to our political work on the West Coast.

3. SOCIALIST SCHOLARS CONFERENCE

Novack reported that the conference held Sept. 10-11 in New York City was twice as large as last year, with 2,000 participants registered. The fight waged to have a representative of the SWP speak resulted in apologies by the organizers of the conference, and a promise to have a representative next year.

Deutscher was the dominant person at the conference, and the implicit theme was the collapse of Stalinism and the influence of Trotskyism.

Discussion: Dobbs, Shaw.

#### 4. LATIN AMERICAN DEFENSE COMMITTEE

Novack reported that a petition to free Hugo Blanco circulated at the Socialist Scholars Conference was signed by over 400 participants. The petition will be presented to the Peruvian Consulate-General here in New York.

The members of the Gilly defense committee have proposed that a broader defense committee for the victims of Latin American repression be established. This committee would take up the cases of Blanco, Gilly, and others.

Discussion: Dobbs, Shaw, Novack, Kerry, Hansen.

#### 5. YOUTH PLENUM

Shaw reported that the youth have invited a representative from the SWP to attend the youth plenum.

Motion: That Novack be the SWP representative to the youth plenum.

Carried.

#### 6. PARTY PLENUM

(a) Shaw reported that the plenum is presently scheduled to meet one week before the antiwar mobilization called for Nov. 5-8. Since NCers in many areas will be involved in building this mobilization, the present schedule will interfere with the work of building demonstrations. There have already been requests from the field to change the dates.

Motion: To postpone the plenum to Nov. 18, 19, 20, 1966.

Discussion: Kerry, Dobbs, Shaw, Novack.

Carried.

(b) Motion by Shaw: That organizers who are not NC members be invited to attend the plenum as observers.

Carried.

#### 7. RESIDENT NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Motion by Shaw: To hold a resident NC meeting Wednesday, September 21, 1966 for a report on the antiwar movement.

Discussion: Sheppard.

Carried.

8. INTERNATIONAL

Hansen reported that the minutes of the July plenum of the International Executive Committee have been received.

General discussion on international resolution: Sheppard, Novack, Kerry, Hansen, Barnes, Dobbs.

9. FUND DRIVE

Motion by Shaw: To conduct a fund drive to raise \$18,000 from Oct. 1-Dec. 31.

Carried.

10. ORGANIZATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Shaw reported that a sub drive for the paper with a national goal of about 2,000 subscriptions at a reduced rate is planned for October and November.

Meeting adjourned.