

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, No. 7, December 14, 1973

Present: Barnes, Breitman, Britton, A. Hansen, J. Hansen,
Horowitz, Jenness, Jones, Lovell, Morrison, Shaw,
Stone, Thomas, Waters

Consultative: Dobbs, Kerry

Visitors: Lund, Scott

Chair: Shaw

AGENDA: 1. World Movement
2. Convention Reporters
3. Convention Rules and Schedule
4. Clark Appeal
5. Energy Crisis

1. WORLD MOVEMENT

Waters reported.

Discussion

2. CONVENTION REPORTERS

Barnes reported.

Discussion

Motion: To assign the following convention reporters for
the Political Committee:

1. Argentina and Bolivia -- Camejo
2. European Perspectives -- Waters
3. World Political Situation -- Barnes

Carried.

3. CONVENTION RULES AND SCHEDULE

Jones reported.

Discussion

Motion: To recommend to the National Committee plenum the
proposed motions for the convention (see attached).

Carried.

Motion: To recommend to the National Committee plenum the
proposed schedule for the convention (see attached).

Carried.

4. CLARK APPEAL

Jones reported.

Discussion

Motion: To reject the appeal of Gerald Clark and uphold
the action of the Oakland-Berkeley branch in ex-
pelling him from the party for attending a Sparta-
cist summer school.

Carried.

5. ENERGY CRISIS

Britton opened discussion on propaganda tasks in relation
to the energy crisis.

Discussion

Meeting adjourned.

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF CONVENTION

1. Motion: That the following rules govern convention procedure:
 - A. In cases of procedural disputes, discussion shall be limited to two speakers, one for and one against, and that each speaker be limited to two minutes.
 - B. Discussion from the floor shall be limited to 10 minutes per speaker.
 - C. A speaker may have the floor only once in a given discussion until all those who wish the floor have had the opportunity to speak.
 - D. All voting will be done by voice vote unless a division of the house is called for; then the vote will be taken by a show of delegates' cards.
 - E. Only delegates shall have voice and vote. Fraternal delegates shall have voice and consultative vote.
 - F. Alternate delegates shall have voice and vote only when acting to replace a regularly elected delegate.
 - G. In all other cases, Roberts Rules of Order shall apply.
2. Motion: That the Presiding Committee be composed of the Political Bureau: Barnes, Britton, A. Hansen, Jenness, Jones, Lovell, Morrison, Pulley, and Stone, plus Camejo, Horowitz, Sheppard, and Waters.
3. Motion: To adopt the following agenda:
 1. Bolivia and Argentina
 2. European Perspectives
 3. World Political Situation
4. Motion: That the following time allotments be given to Political Committee reporters:
 - A. Argentina and Bolivia: 1 hour plus 20-minute summary
 - B. European Perspectives: 1 hour plus 20-minute summary
 - C. World Political Situation: 1¼ hour plus ½-hour summary
5. Motion: That the following time allotments be given to minority reporters:
 - A. Argentina and Bolivia: 1 hour plus 20-minute summary
 - B. European Perspectives: 1 hour plus 20-minute summary
 - C. World Political Situation: 1¼ hour plus ½-hour summary
6. Motion: That the minority may choose non-delegates as reporters.
7. Motion: To approve the convention schedule.
8. Motion: That Feigenberg and Rupp serve as convention secretaries.
9. Motion: To elect a Credentials Committee consisting of five delegates.
10. Motion: To seat as fraternal delegates the following: (1) National Committee members, (2) members of the National Control Commission, (3) heads of national departments, (4) members of the youth National Executive Committee, and (5) special guests.
11. Motion: That the convention be open to party members, youth members and sympathizers vouched for by the branches.
12. Motion: That the official convention photographer be M. Baumann.

PROPOSED CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 26, 1973

6:30 - 7:00 PM Organization of Convention
7:00 - 8:00 Argentina and Bolivia, Political Committee
Report (1 hour)
8:00 - 9:00 Argentina and Bolivia, Minority Report
(1 hour)
9:00 - 10:30 Discussion (3 hours total)

Thursday, December 27, 1973

9:00 - 10:30 Discussion
10:30 - 10:50 Argentina and Bolivia, Minority Summary
(20 minutes)
10:50 - 11:10 Argentina and Bolivia, Political Committee
Summary (20 minutes)
11:10 - 12:10 European Perspectives, Political Committee
Report (1 hour)
12:10 - 1:10 European Perspectives, Minority Report
(1 hour)
1:10 - 2:30 Lunch
2:30 - 5:30 Discussion (3 hours)
5:30 - 5:50 European Perspectives, Minority Summary
(20 minutes)
5:50 - 6:10 European Perspectives, Political Committee
Summary (20 minutes)
6:10 - 8:00 Dinner
8:00 - 9:15 World Political Situation, Political Com-
mittee Report (1¼ hour)
9:15 - 10:30 World Political Situation, Minority Report
(1¼ hour)

Friday, December 28, 1973

9:00 - 12:00 Discussion (3 hours)
12:00 - 12:30 World Political Situation, Minority
Summary (½ hour)
12:30 - 1:00 World Political Situation, Political
Committee Summary (½ hour)

NATIONALISTS

SAN FRANCISCO—On Saturday September 22 a coalition of groups dominated by Philippine nationalists held a march and demonstration in San Francisco on the basis of "opposition to martial law" in the Philippines and for the "restoration of civil liberties." The September 22 Coalition which issued the call for the rally, made it clear by its actions, as well as in its printed pamphlet, that it is interested only in the restoration of "normal" bourgeois order via parliament, which would maintain Philippine subservience to U.S. imperialism. According to the Coalition's pamphlet:

"The only way that such a tragedy [another Vietnam] can be prevented is if Marcos steps down from power at the end of his elected term on December 30, 1973, and restores civil liberties

liberties for the working class in general and communists in particular. When SL/RCY salesmen arrived, a large goon squad emerged and physically harassed our comrades—pushing, shoving and ripping away papers. Not surprisingly, among the goon squad were members of the Maoist Revolutionary Union, who explained that there had been a "decision" that no one should be allowed to sell papers at the demonstration (no doubt in the name of "civil liberties"!).

Thus the logic of Stalinist/Maoist theory—the "anti-imperialist" bloc with the bourgeoisie—emerged in practice as full-blown anti-communism. The organizers even denounced us with a bullhorn as "provocateurs" and "wreckers." The SWP was allowed to sell the *Militant* after explaining in cringing reformist fashion that, of course, it has nothing critical to say about the Coalition or China!

After a brief march, the Coalition played the Filipino national anthem while the goons again engaged in highly provocative threats and harassment—RCY salesmen were pushed, papers torn up, glasses knocked off and one member was struck in the face. An organizer at the mike again denounced us as "divisive" elements, and this was followed by playing once more the Filipino national anthem in an attempt to whip up chauvinist hysteria.

As could be expected, the ex-Trotskyist SWP refused our request for a united defense bloc, as it has totally abandoned the concept of workers democracy. Similarly, the NCLC remained non-committal when approached. The only group present which agreed to and carried out a united defense bloc was the Marxist-Leninist Organization of the USA (MLOUSA), a mostly black group which traces its ideological lineage to Stalin. It is also a group which is seriously interested in open political discussion within the workers movement and has criticisms of Maoism.

The single MLOUSA member originally present accompanied an RCY salesman as we sold our respective press and explained why the RCY was being banned. This took considerable physical courage in the face of intense

he didn't want to get involved with a "Trotskyite" group, but then realized that if we couldn't sell our papers criticizing Mao, they too could be stopped from selling their literature critical of Mao. He correctly considered workers democracy a matter of principle.

The Bay Area Spartacist League subsequently wrote to MLOUSA thanking it for its principled defense of workers democracy during the September 28 march and repeating our proposal of last December for joint MLOUSA/SL discussions. We noted the serious differences separating ourselves as Trotskyists from a group which considers itself to represent the continuity of Stalin's policies in the current period. However, MLOUSA's positions on international work and the question of blacks and other racial-ethnic minorities in the U.S., as well as its serious attitude toward the building of a vanguard party, do provide a basis for discussion between the two organizations. ■

In an otherwise accurate report on the expulsion of the Revolutionary Internationalist Tendency from the Socialist Workers Party printed in the Sept. 28, 1973 issue of your paper, you incorrectly stated that I was "organizer of the Hayward, Cal. branch and a delegate to the 1971 SWP convention...." The truth is that I was the organizer of the Hayward local of the YSA and a delegate to the 1969 YSA convention, where I, along with two other comrades, voted against the "Youth Radicalization" document.

In general, you should be congratulated for your consistent publication of the WV even if you must provide space every week or so for corrections. It is because you do publish so frequently now that you can make corrections in time which will be understood by your readership. Your desire to be accurate is also a reflection of your political seriousness. Keep up the good work.

Comradely yours,
Gerald Clark

WORKERS VANGUARD

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sarily express the editorial
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Correction

In WV No. 30 (12 October), the article "Nationalism and Zionism in Brezhnev's Russia" contained the following statement: "Therefore, we also oppose the reported intention of the Austrian government, under social-democratic Premier Kreisky (and with the support of the Austrian Nazis), to refuse transit to Jewish emigrés leaving the USSR."

However, this "reported intention," based on the closing of the Schönau Castle transit center, was a systematic deception by the pro-Zionist U.S. press. The *New York Times* repeatedly referred to "the Austrian government's publicly announced decision to suspend emigration in groups" (30 September). However, its report of the initial statement by Chancellor Kreisky mentioned only the closing of Schönau Castle as a special facility of the Jewish Agency, and a promise "to stop any facilitation for groups" (*New York Times*, 29 September). Kreisky explicitly permitted the individual transit of Jews through

reported: "the Austrian leader emphasized that he never intended to stop their transit. 'All we've promised is to close down the camp at Schönau,' he said."

While defending the democratic right of emigration and transit, we wholeheartedly support the closing of the Israeli-run transit camp in Austria. The Schönau Castle transit center is an extra-territorial extension of the Israeli state, policed by Israeli soldiers and excluding Austrians (!)—a Zionist garrison in Austria. A major purpose of the transit center is to screen suspected Soviet spies from entering Israel. The Schönau Castle center is equivalent to the British-ruled enclaves in pre-1949 China. The identification of the closing of the transit center with a prohibition of Jewish emigrants traveling through Austria is typical of the Zionist attempts to equate the democratic rights of Jews and the Hebrew nation with the military expansion of the Israeli state.

We support the right of Soviet Jews to emigrate and its legitimate extension, the right of