

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES, Number 3, October 15, 1969

Present: Barnes, DeBerry, Dobbs, Hansen, Novack, Seigle.

Visitors: Kerry, Waters

Chairman: Dobbs

AGENDA:           1. Cleveland Critical Support Request  
                  2. Philadelphia Critical Support Request  
                  3. Canadian Youth Convention  
                  4. Mandel Visa Refusal

1. CLEVELAND CRITICAL SUPPORT REQUEST

Barnes reported.

Motion: To concur with the request of the Cleveland branch to extend critical support to the Gould campaign (see attachment No. 1).

Carried.

2. PHILADELPHIA CRITICAL SUPPORT REQUEST

Barnes reported.

Motion: To concur with the request of the Philadelphia branch to extend critical support to the two local Black Panther Party candidates (see attachment No. 2).

Carried.

3. CANADIAN YOUTH CONVENTION

Seigle reported.

4. MANDEL VISA REFUSAL

Novack reported.

State Department refused a 4-day visa to Mandel to debate with Professor J.K. Galbraith at a 2-day conference at Stanford November 18-19. Despite high level protest from Stanford the exclusion was upheld.

Mandel has been invited to speak at 6 eastern universities and and at a meeting on Nov. 29 in New York City under the joint auspices of the Socialist Scholars Conference and the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation. If the State Department refuses him permission a second time to visit this country, a number of professors from different universities report that extensive plans are being made for a vigorous protest campaign.

Meeting adjourned.

Attachment No. 1 to PC Minutes, No. 3, Oct. 16, 1969

COPY

COPY

COPY

Cleveland, Ohio  
Oct. 7, 1969

Dear Jack,

Please convey the following information to the P.C.

The Cleveland branch of the SWP unanimously asks permission from the Political Committee to give critical support to Mrs. Gloria Gould in the November elections. Mrs. Gould is a black candidate running as an independent in the race for East Cleveland Board of Education. Normally we would not investigate the qualifications of candidates running for such an office, but, as you know, we have a candidate of our own running for this position. Actually, there are two spots open on the board and seven candidates running. What we would be doing is supporting a slate of Harris and Gould.

She is independent of the Democratic and Republican parties and her independence goes far beyond the fact that the race is officially "non-partisan."

There have been a series of community "Meet the Candidates" meetings in East Cleveland and James Harris and Mrs. Gould have acted consistently as a unit in combatting the reformist and racist positions of the other candidates in the race. Formal critical support only would formalize the de facto alliance that already exists and brings our real position into closer correlation with the reality of the situation, a reality which is recognized not only by the branch but also by all those who have attended any of these community meetings.

We should have acted sooner. We hope that you can act on our tardy request so that we can make some public announcement of our support before the campaign is over.

Comradely,

Dave Wulp  
Organizer

Information from 10/14 phone call from Dave Wulp to NO.

There has been no printed literature put out in the Gould Campaign. Only the two incumbents -- one white and one black -- have put out any literature -- each has put out a bumper sticker.

This race is not being reported by the 2 major Cleveland dailies. Only the East Cleveland Leader is reporting it.

Mrs. Gould's original statements revolved around the need for a woman to be elected to the Board of Education. We intervened in the race through James Harris' campaign with the central demand of black control of the black schools. The incumbents -- including the black member -- attacked this idea. The other candidates attacked it or ignored it. Mrs. Gould picked up this demand and made it a central point of her campaign. She has consistently pushed it in her meetings -- mostly before the East Cleveland block clubs.

Dave has mailed us the tape of the Sept. 27 forum where she appeared with our candidate and where she supported this line.

The Cleveland branch wants to urge East Cleveland voters to vote Harris and Gould. In our statement of support we would stress Mrs. Gould's independence of the bourgeois parties and her support of black control of the black schools. We would also use Mrs. Gould as an example of the kind of black militants who must come together and form an independent black political party to fight for black control of the black community.

COPY

\* \* \*  
COPY

COPY

New York, N.Y.  
Oct. 16, 1969

CLEVELAND ORGANIZER

Dear Dave,

Today the PC passed the following motion: "To concur with the request of the Cleveland branch to extend critical support to the Gould campaign."

It would be good to send to The Militant some quotes from Mrs. Gould that are typical of her campaign when you write the article announcing our critical support of her. You didn't mention whether or not she was speaking at the windup rally for Stapleton-Harris, but if she does, it would be good to use some quotes from there also.

What does Mrs. Gould say in her campaign about Stokes? We didn't feel this was decisive to the specific question of critical support in light of the information you furnish but several comrades wanted to know.

Comradely,  
s/Jack

Attachment No. 2 to PC Minutes, Number 3, October 16, 1969

COPY

COPY

COPY

Philadelphia, Pa.  
Oct. 10, 1969

Dear Jack,

The Philadelphia Black Panther Party is running for two councilmanic positions in the 1969 local elections. These two districts run through the ghetto. The BPP has obtained ballot status. The candidates are Craig Williams and Milton McGriff.

The Philadelphia branch voted to recommend to the PC that the Philadelphia branch extend critical support to this campaign as the only representative of independent black political action in those districts in this campaign.

The program of the BPP in Philadelphia is identical in every important detail with the national Black Panther Party's program. The program reflects the political shift towards reformism with an ultraleft cover. The campaign is basing itself on the various social work projects being carried out like the Panthers' breakfast program, etc.

The discussion in the branch made it clear that the main purpose of the critical support tactic is not to intervene in the Panthers. We do see critical support as a way of making clear our Party's position on Black Control and independent political action for the black community, as against capitalist politics, to the young black militants who we are drawing around us in our antiwar work and through the campaign. In Philadelphia we will be appealing to an overlapping milieu of students and black militants.

We do not see the Panthers moving in a "positive" political direction on the whole. Their campaign material makes this clear. There is some confusion in their ranks about their subordination of the 10 point program, etc. No question that they are part of the Oakland political line. We can support them as the expression of an independent black party in Philadelphia in this election.

We are both working with nationalist minded, antiwar black youth. They are supporting Nov. 14 & 15.

This is no argument for or against the above recommendation but just an indication of how we could apply the tactic.

We do plan to go out to the streets in the two districts before Nov. 4th with our campaign for D.A. and for Nov. 15. Arnold Tery, of our third world fraction in Philadelphia will be a spokesman for the campaign and expects that we will have an audience.

Comradely,  
Pearl Chertov  
Organizer

Excerpts from Philadelphia EC Minutes 9/30/69

Black Panther Party campaign: John S.

John S. and Pearl had discussion at BPP office in presence of BPP NO representative. Their perspective seems to be to run a campaign independent of capitalist parties and candidates to make their party better known in the area, on program of free medical care, free breakfasts for school children, and community control of police. They have had substantial coverage in black press, sell their paper in black community, gathered several thousand signatures on police control petition, and have issued numerous leaflets; ultraleft-opportunist group following straight national line.

Critical support to their campaign will improve our opportunities to get out our position of support to independent black political action and our program of revolutionary transitional demands for the black community.

Discussion:

This in no way implies intervention in BPP or immediate periphery. We will mainly be in touch with independent black high school students who are only generally aware of the campaign.

We should also try to get our position into the Philadelphia Free Press and other organs of the Philadelphia "white revolutionary" milieu, which generally supports the campaign.

There is a danger that the BPP campaign, on its present lines, could become an insignificant activity by a sect, isolated from the black community, which we should ignore rather than support.

Our position should be basically that we feel black community needs independent political expression of the black struggle, which BPP campaign provides in a very deformed and distorted form.

Motion: Recommend we extend critical support to BPP campaign, pending PC approval. Passed.

Motion: Have symposium on independent political action at forum Oct. 17 with representatives of CEPA (consumers educational and protective ass'n), BPP, and SWP. Passed.

---

Excerpts from Philadelphia branch minutes Oct. 1, 1969

Recommendation on Black Panther Party campaign: John S.

Black Panther candidates are on ballot in own name in 2 ghetto districts, running against Democrats and Republicans in Nov. 4, 1969 elections. Motion to recommend to Political Committee that we extend critical support to 1969 Black Panther Party Philadelphia city council campaign. Discussion.

Vote on recommendation: 14 for, 1 opposed, 1 abstaining.

COPY

COPY

COPY

JOINT STATEMENT

America stands at a fork in the road. It can move toward revolutionary political and economic change, or it can move toward open fascism. Last year the SCLC sponsored the Poor People's Campaign. Upon arriving in Washington, D.C., they asked, begged this corrupt, socially bankrupt capitalist government for food for the poor. The United States government, which is capable of feeding everyone in this country, flatly refused these exploited and oppressed people. This year, the BLACK PANTHER PARTY is feeding 15,000 people, children a free breakfast five days a week.

Fascism is already here in this city in the presence of Frank Rizzo, who made Hitler-like statements at the recent Veterans' Convention. And it's here in the person of Jim Tate, who said that anything Rizzo wants, Rizzo gets.

Nazi tactics are already being used against the BLACK PANTHER PARTY: trumped-up charges, excessive bail that amounts to ransom, arrests without warrants, and murder.

Therefore, it is time to intensify the struggle. We will move to implement the FREE BREAKFAST PROGRAM and decentralization of the Police Department, and institute FREE HEALTH CLINICS in all communities in the city where the federal, state and city governments have failed in their approach to the problems of the poor and needy, the oppressed and suppressed masses of Black, Brown, Yellow, Red, and White people. The governments of this state and country have proven through practice that they no longer serve the interest of the people, but that of a few bureaucratic capitalist--profiteering exploiters of the people called pigs.

This government which says that it is a government of the people, has proven by its practice that it is no longer a government of the people, for the people and by the people; but a government of the pigs, for the pigs, and by the pigs. The people will perform a ceremony, stage a show, make a change that will release them from the shackles of this imperialist, racist exploiting and hypocritical system, government, because all power belongs to the people.

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

Craig Williams -- Candidate for  
Councilman -- 1st District  
and

Milton McGriff -- Candidate for  
Councilman -- 7th District

Copy of text of Black Panther Party campaign literature

**BLACK PANTHER PARTY**

The Black Panther Party here in the city of Philadelphia is running two of its members, to gain seats in the City Council. They are

1st District  
Craig Williams

7th District  
Milton McGriff

Their program is, FREE BREAKFAST PROGRAM  
COMMUNITY CONTROL OF POLICE  
FREE MEDICAL PROGRAM

We believe that in order to secure the basic rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, the power presently in the hands of mad-dog pigs must be taken out of their hands and placed in the hands of the people!!!!!!!

There must be machinery, somewhere, which is able to take the racist pigs out of the seats of city council, and seat into them, people that are RESPONSIVE to the WILL OF THE PEOPLE!!!!!!!

That machinery is the will of the people, the candidates from the Black Panther Party!

-----  
BOBBY SEALE - Chairman of the Central Committee of the Black Panther Party.

Kidnapped by those same fascist elements that kidnapped our captain. Captain Reggie Schell, Philadelphia branch Black Panther Party, ripped off by the pig, for possession of stolen government property, (an M-14) which was seized in a house in which the Captain didn't live. Possession? The pigs of the Power structure are oinking to the People? Reggie Schell is the Captain. Rolando Montae Hearn another captive of the Pigs, fed kids, he is the Free Breakfast Co-ordinator.

Free all Political Prisoners!

An attack on the people's warriors is an attack on the people!

Historically, all reactionary forces on the verge of extinction invariably conduct a last desperate attempt to eliminate the revolutionary forces, and some revolutionaries are apt to be deluded for a time by this phenomenon of outward strength and inner weakness, failing to grasp the essential fact that the enemy is nearing extinction while they themselves are approaching victory.