

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES, No. 40, March 9, 1967

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

Chairman: Halstead.

AGENDA:

1. International.
2. Plenum.
3. Convention.
4. Membership.
5. Youth Convention.

1. INTERNATIONAL

Hansen reported on letter from Germain.

Discussion: Dobbs, Kerry, Hansen, Barnes.

2. PLENUM

Dobbs reported:

Reading of March 6 letter from Milwaukee. (See attached.)

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

Motion: To schedule a National Committee Plenum June 2,3, and 4 in New York.

Carried.

Motion: To recommend that plenum attendance be confined to N.C. members, alternates, advisory members, Control Commission members, heads of national departments, co-thinkers, and members of of the youth NEC.

Carried.

3. CONVENTION

Shaw reported Administrative Committee recommendation to schedule a four-day party convention to take place October 26, 27,28,29. It was further recommended that a poll of the National Committee be conducted with regard to these dates.

Motion: To concur with Administrative Committee recommendation.

Carried.

4. MEMBERSHIP

Shaw reported recommendation of Twin Cities branch to readmit Larry C. into the party.

Motion: To concur with the recommendation of the Twin Cities branch.

Carried.

5. YOUTH CONVENTION

Shaw reported invitation to assign an official observer from the SWP to attend the youth convention March 24-26.

Motion: That Shaw be the SWP representative.

Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

(C O P Y)

March 6, 1967

Farrell Dobbs, National Secretary  
Socialist Workers Party  
New York, New York

TO THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Dear Comrades:

At its general membership meeting for March 6 the Milwaukee Branch of the Socialist Workers Party adopted the following motion:

"We urge the Political Committee to re-schedule the May Plenum as an Active Workers' Conference, and to include on its agenda (1) the Cultural Revolution in China, (2) the Crisis of American Imperialism, and (3) the Party Organization Question."

A Fourth, the Russian Question, is inextricably bound up with the 3 points enumerated to satisfy the requirements for a "living" agenda. And the burning questions never wait upon the calendar. May 1 would be ideal, in that it is increasingly essential that the Party ranks and the Chinese Minority shall be heard on these questions.

The Milwaukee comrades view the dramatic advance of the Chinese Revolution under the leadership of the Maoist Marxists, guiding the socialist cultural revolution in China and engaging both struggle against the capitalist restorationist forces in China and intensified war against the Soviet Bukharinist allies of American imperialism, as an intrinsically Trotskyist development of the world revolution. These events consolidate the role of the Chinese Revolution and its leadership party as the indispensable axis of the international class-struggle. The unfolding process now occupies center stage in the drama of world politics, with the parties of the proletariat and bourgeoisie alike fighting for choice orchestra seats. Facing this drama, vast social formations and economic systems tremble.

These developments pose new tasks, new responsibilities, and an urgent need for Party examination of the PC statement of position on January 23, entitled "The Upheaval in China." The whole future of the Party is bound-up in the method for that document.

Very fraternally yours,

S/ J.E.Boulton  
Milwaukee

JEB:cc. Swabeck

(C O P Y)

March 9, 1967

James Boulton, Organizer  
Socialist Workers Party  
150 E. Juneau Avenue  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Dear Comrade Boulton:

The Political Committee today considered your letter of March 6 containing proposals by the Milwaukee branch with regard to the forthcoming National Committee plenum.

The main purpose of the plenum is to prepare for an internal party discussion in advance of the fall convention. The Political Committee concluded that the proposal to substitute an active workers' conference for the plenum is wholly impractical.

In addition, the points you propose for the agenda of an active workers' conference are points which concern the political line of the party as determined by the last convention. Reconsideration of the party's political line is not properly a matter for an active workers' conference such as you suggest. Such points should more properly be raised in the party as a whole during the period of pre-convention discussion.

For your information, the Political Committee has scheduled the plenum for June 2, 3, and 4. It will be confined to deliberations by the National Committee in keeping with its duties and function in preparing for pre-convention discussion in the party.

Comradely yours,

S/Edward Shaw  
Organization Secretary

cc: National Committee members