

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES, No. 42, March 30, 1967

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

Visitors: A. Chester, Aubrey.

Chairman: Hansen.

AGENDA:

1. Youth Convention.
2. Preliminary Control Commission Report.
3. Chicago Election Campaign.
4. Breitman Letter.
5. Antiwar Report.
6. International.

1. YOUTH CONVENTION

Jones reported.

Discussion: Halstead, Novack.

2. PRELIMINARY REPORT OF CONTROL COMMISSION

Kerry reported.

Things have moved quite rapidly since the Political Committee requested that the Control Commission begin an investigation of the situation in the Milwaukee branch.

At the youth convention in Detroit the Milwaukee "group" appeared outside the convention hall with a mimeographed "bulletin" made up to appear like a discussion bulletin. [See attachment 1(a)] It was distributed to all those entering the hall including members of the youth, fraternal delegates, visitors and opponents of the party. The latter, in the form of a contingent of the Workers World and Youth Against War and Fascism from New York and other sections of the country were there to distribute the latest issue of their paper. This occurred on the opening day of the gathering, Friday, March 24.

On Saturday, March 25, we were informed that the Milwaukee "group" had invited a number of fraternal delegates to a Sunday morning meeting to discuss the Maoist "cultural revolution." This meeting, which was attended by several comrades as observers, met in the motel room of the Marceyite contingent and was projected as a joint meeting.

At the convention, the leader of the Milwaukee group, Eyman, demanded the floor to read a statement of resignation. Under a special point on the agenda the presiding committee had taken note of the action of the Milwaukee "group" and had proposed their expulsion as agents of an opponent organization.

After Eyman read his statement the convention voted unanimously for the motion to expel.

After we returned to New York we found a mimeographed statement from the party branch in Milwaukee [See attachment 1(b)] resigning from the party and announcing that hereafter the Maoist Milwaukee group would operate under the name of the Progressive Workers of America. Sic transit gloria mundi.

Discussion: Dobbs.

Motion: To approve the preliminary report of the Control Commission.

Carried.

Motion: To take note of the dissolution of the Milwaukee branch and take steps to reconstitute the party branch in Milwaukee as soon as practically feasible.

Carried.

3. CHICAGO ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Shaw reported on recommendation of Chicago branch that we give critical support to Dick Gregory's campaign for mayor.

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

Motion: To inform the Chicago comrades that the nature of the campaign and the situation as presented in their report does not constitute a basis for critical support.

Carried.

4. BREITMAN LETTER

Shaw reported.

Letter from Breitman received with suggestion for a resolution on the Negro struggle. (See attachment No. 2.) Propose to circulate letter to National Committee members for comment and suggestions and initiate a discussion in the Political Committee after comrades have had an opportunity to read it.

Discussion: Novack.

General agreement.

5. ANTIWAR REPORT

Barnes reported on progress of April 15 antiwar mobilization.

The Student Mobilization Committee is currently waging a fight to have a representative speak at the rally April 15. Four people were suggested: Linda Dannenberg, Patty Miller (Christian Pacifist), Kipp Dawson, and Bettina Aptheker. Some leaders of the Spring Mobilization Committee opposed this and have resorted to much behind-the-scenes maneuvering. A temporary break developed between the CP and their youth with the CP generally opposing a student speaker and CP youth in favor. The student committee has agreed it will fight for a speaker (one of the four suggested) and this speaker will present the position of the student committee.

The number of young people involved in the day-to-day work continues to grow. No previous demonstration produced such large numbers of volunteers. Of special significance is the number of high school students participating -- they have their own committee (a subcommittee of the Spring Mobilization Committee), leaflet high schools, and are organizing a high school march on April 8 to build for April 15.

Discussion: Kerry, Halstead, Barnes.

5. INTERNATIONAL

Hansen reported on letter from Germain reporting situation in India, Ceylon and Lebanon.

Discussion: Jones.

Meeting adjourned.