

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES, No. 14, April 25, 1968

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

Chairman: Kerry

AGENDA:

1. Antiwar
2. Report on black struggle
3. Trade union memorandum
4. Presidential campaign

1. ANTIWAR

Jones reported.

The Student Strike: From all we can see the student strike will be the most far reaching student action in the history of the antiwar movement. The Student Mobilization Committee will have a press conference Saturday morning to announce what happened in the strike and to build the afternoon action.

The April 27 Demonstrations: These actions also promise to be big. San Francisco is organizing for the first time a GI's contingent for the march. Admiral True will speak there among others. In Chicago, Daley has refused to issue permits, so it is difficult to tell what the size of the action will be. In New York the action probably will be sizable. The Parade Committee office is busier than it has ever been. Three of the six official slogans in New York are withdrawal slogans. The speakers' list includes Coretta King.

2. REPORT ON BLACK STRUGGLE

DeBerry reported on the points to be covered in the plenum report on the black struggle.

Motion: To approve the general line of the report.

Carried.

3. TRADE UNION MEMORANDUM

Dobbs reported (Memorandum attached).

Motion: To approve the general line of the memorandum.

Carried.

4. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

Barnes reported.

Outline financial report for the plenum given. Now that we are entering a breathing spell on literature publication, it is good to draw a balance sheet on finances. At this stage we are in pretty good shape but a couple of facts are hidden by the

general figures. That is, we have gotten a number of big contributions amounting to \$10,000 which probably are not repeatable for the fall part of the campaign.

The main loss in literature has come from a \$1,500 subsidy to the brochures and the cost of postage -- \$1,600. The campaign proposes no shift in brochure prices in order to continue to maximize their use but a shift in policy on postage at the plenum to have locals pay the postage. The policy that locals turn honorariums for national candidates over to the national campaign office has been established.

Funds for Paul's trip to England and Fred's trip to Saigon-Japan are being raised as a separate special project.

Of the \$5,000 outstanding owed for literature to the campaign committee, almost all owed by locals.

Perspectives: We have almost hit the 2,000 mark in endorsers to the campaign; 1,500 of these are YSHBers. The YSA is between 450 and 500 in membership. We estimate that there are now 40 active YSHB groups throughout the country in areas where there are no YSAers. For example, in the New York area, there are 78 schools that have YSHBers on them, only 6 have YSAers on them.

We propose central campaign activities for the next couple of months: (1) distribution of Fred's letter to troops, (2) intervention in the McCarthy and Kennedy campaigns.

The scope of possibilities of our intervention, especially in the McCarthy campaign was underestimated by us. A very high percentage of young people in the antiwar movement support Mc Carthy -- at the same time attacks on McCarthy from the left get gigantic applause at his own rallies. The response to our McCarthy Truth Kit has been better than any campaign item we've yet done. We have rewritten and updated the McCarthy Truth Kit and are putting together one on Kennedy.

Another new project will be the regular publication of a mimeographed Afro-Americans for Halstead and Boutelle Newsletter. We have between 300-400 Afro-American endorsers now.

Meeting adjourned.