

Archivist's Note

Often in the Riazanov Library archives I have used a technique I call "intermediate xerography" to both boost contrast and have better control over exposure (due to deficiencies in existing scanning programs, and the time required to enhance scans using image-manipulation after the fact).

This archive of the June 1935 plenum was produced in such a fashion, using a Xerox Workcenter 5638 with background suppression and separate contrast and brightness control to make intermediate copies, which were then scanned on an Epson GT 20000 scanner.

In dealing with mimeographed material from the 20's and 30's, often there are pages where letters and words are so faded it's hard to read them, and near impossible to copy or scan them. In these cases, I will often for a letter here and a faded word there "restore" or "enhance" the xerographic copy by tracing out the letter or word with a an 005 (.2 mm) Micron brand fine point pen. Of course, I never do this unless it is 100.0% certain, based on what I can see in the original, exactly what the letter or word is.

This technique allows me to scan in single bit BW (as opposed to gray scale) a greater variety of hard to scan material, making for much more compact archives (smaller file sizes), which in turn facilitates the distribution of this material via the internet at this time, where bandwidth (especially for some in foreign countries) can be quite limited.

In the case of the last two pages of this document, however, there was a great deal of text that was nearly unreadable when copied or scanned using single bit BW technology, tho decipherable in the original. I did an unusually great amount of re-tracing there. The retraced passages are particularly historically interesting.

In order to dispel any question of the content of the document being altered by this process, I have elected to include at the end of the document 8 bit gray scale scans of the originals those final two pages, so one can confirm that my retracing provides a faithful rendition of the document's contents on those pages. Including just those two pages may double the file size of this multi-page document, but in this case I was so concerned about both the significance of the content and the extent of my restoration / enhancement that I felt it appropriate to include a more conventional scan of the material.



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April 2013 San Pablo, CA

CANNON-SHACHTMAN RESOLUTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL SITUATION ETC.

June 1935 Plenum.

Resolution on Party Discipline.

During the past six months of the existence of the Party the National Committee and the Political Committee have proceeded with extreme moderation in the enforcement of the provisions of the Party Constitution regarding the disciplinary obligations of the Party members. This course was dictated by the necessity of cementing the fusion and of giving every member ample opportunity of assimilation into the Party in a normal process.

Numerous individuals, mistaking the meaning of this policy, have grossly exceeded all disciplinary bounds, inside and outside the Party, to the detriment, and in some cases to the discredit of the Party. This necessitates a decision that the Political Committee and all Party units shall henceforth enforce Party discipline rigidly and summarily and put an end to all laxity in this regard.

All Party members are unconditionally subject to the control and direction of the Party in all their external activities. Party fractions everywhere must carry out the policy and instructions of the Party in every case. Party members may write for non-party publications only by permission and under the supervision and control of the Party.

The Political Committee and all Party units must enforce the directions without any discrimination.

(Motion as a whole defeated, but paragraphs 3 and 4 later carried as independent motion)

Resolution on Work in the Socialist Party.

In view of the failure of any resolution on the question of the Socialist Party to carry at the Plenum of the National Committee, the Political Committee is instructed to work out a purely practical and concrete program of action for the coming period for the work of building up a Left Wing under our influence in the Socialist Party and in the YPSL.

It shall be understood that for the next period there is to be no policy of withdrawal of Left wingers from the Socialist Party or the YPSL save for exceptional and isolated cases.

The direction of our work in the Socialist Party and in the YPSL shall be conducted in the most responsible and confidential manner and shall be directed by a sub-committee of two, composed of comrades Muste and Cannon, which shall be responsible to the Political Com. Negotiations with Socialist Party and YPSL contacts shall be conducted under the direction and with the permission of this special sub-committee.

With the approval of the Political Committee, the special sub-com. shall be empowered to draw in a representative of the S E L for special consideration of the problem of the YPSL.

All local work in this field conducted by the W P and the S E L shall be subject to the control and direction of the sub-committee.

CARRIED.

Resolution on a Public Statement of the Party on its Attitude to the Socialist Party.

That the Political Committee be instructed to draw up a statement and publish it in the name of the Plenum denying the statements and rumors spread by Party enemies to the effect that the Workers Party intends to enter the S P. The statement is to stress the fact that the W P was founded as an independent Party in opposition to the SP and the C P and continues as such. The statement is also to declare that not a single member or leader of the W P has made any proposal that the W P enter the S P and that all statements and rumors to the contrary are false.

(Defeated as a separate motion but Waste substitute which includes this paragraph, Carried.)

Resolution on the Conduct of Comrades Basky, Oehler and Stamm.

The Plenum of the National Committee calls the attention of the Party to the fact that the resolution of the Pittsburgh Plenum against the factional activity of comrades Oehler and Stamm has been completely disregarded by these comrades, as well as by comrade Basky. In the intervening period, they have been guilty of repeated and systematic violations of elementary Party discipline, as well as of the discipline and confidence of the POLITICAL COMMITTEE. This conduct has seriously disrupted the internal life of the Party, hampered its external activities and has played into the hands of the enemies of the Party.

The Plenum is therefore compelled to reaffirm the Pittsburgh decision to administer a severe censure to comrades Oehler, Basky and Stamm for their repeated and open violations of discipline and to warn them that a continuation of this course will oblige the Party to take decisive disciplinary measures against them. (Defeated)

Resolution on the Party Discussion.

In view of the wide differences of opinion in the National Comm. on the most important questions, particularly the ~~wxxx~~ question of International Relations and Party tactics in regard to the S P and the C P the Plenum decides to open a party discussion.

This discussion is to be organized and regulated by the P C which is instructed to publish an internal bulletin and to provide for membership discussion meetings.

The different resolutions are to be published in the Internal Bull. Representatives of all points of view are to be given full opportunity to publish their views in the Internal Bulletin and to present them at discussion meetings.

All comrades are obliged to observe discipline during the discussion and to comply with all regulations and decisions of the P C (Carried)

JUNE 1935 PLENUM STATEMENT ON S.P.

Resolution by Waste

The Plenum instructs the P C to draw up a statement which is to summarize the sections of the Declaration of Principles on:

- a) SP-CP
- b) 2nd-3rd Internationals
- c) The WP as the Revolutionary Marxist Party in the US and basis for revolutionary unity.
- d) Organizational and political independence of Party

The P C is instructed to draw up a statement and publish it in the name of the plenum denying the statements and rumors spread by Party enemies to the effect that the WP intends to enter the SP. The statement is to stress the fact that the WP was founded as an independent Party in opposition to the SF and CP and continues as such. The statement is also to declare that not a single member or leader of the WP has made any proposals that the WP enter SP and that all statements and rumors to the contrary are false. (Carried)