

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING No. 23, June 6, 1975

Present: Barnes, Breitman, Camejo, Clark, Hansen, Jenness,
Lovell, Seigle, Sheppard, Thomas, Waters

Chair: Seigle

- AGENDA:
1. New York Jobs Actions
 2. CLUW National Coordinating Committee
 3. Texas UFW Campaign
 4. Election Campaign
 5. Convention Schedule
 6. PC Representative to YSA Plenum
 7. Alvin Correspondence

1. NEW YORK JOBS ACTIONS

(Boehm, Heisler, Rose invited for this point.)

Boehm reported:

The Militant has carried reports on various protest demonstrations that have occurred and those planned against the proposed New York City budget cuts. The New York Local Executive Committee decided to launch a propaganda campaign to get our ideas to as many people as possible. In addition we decided to initiate efforts to attempt to pull together a meeting that could issue an authoritative call for a massive, united response to Mayor Beame's proposed budget, demanding No Layoffs! No Cutbacks! We have received a mixed response from the few union and community leaders with whom we have raised the idea so far. But the beginning of the mass layoffs this week could produce quick changes in attitudes on the need for this type of united action. We will be continuing our campaign to raise this idea through the unions and directly with union and community leaders.

Discussion

2. CLUW NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

(L. Jenness invited for this point.)

L. Jenness reported. (Report to follow under separate cover.)

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

3. TEXAS UFW CAMPAIGN

(Blackstock, Bernal, Perez, Rodriguez invited for this point.)

Blackstock reported:

The farmworker organizing drive in Rio Grande Valley of Texas is the first such effort since mid-sixties, when a UFW organizing attempt was brutally suppressed by open strike-breaking of the Texas Rangers in the service of growers. A recent court ruling condemning the Rangers for those actions was instrumental in the decision to resume organizing. Current struggle is beginning of what is expected to be a continuing drive to organize impoverished Mexican and Chicano workers in one of the richest agricultural areas in the country.

Official UFW attitude is ambiguous -- their national focus appears to be restricted to California developments. Central organizer in Texas, who is not on official UFW staff, is a veteran of the farmworker movement with a history as a leader in the area. We have collaborated with him in the past, as well as with some of the young Chicanos actively building the strike.

"Green card" workers from Mexico are the most dynamic force in the strike; the border serves as a "factory gate," which facilitates their organization. This can help to counter UFW stand on undocumented workers, for, although these workers have green cards, this experience shows it is possible for the UFW to organize Mexican workers. Liga Socialista in Mexico may relate to developments from its side of border.

Houston comrades are continuing to go down to valley to survey developments firsthand. They are attempting to build support and have suggested setting date for organizing car caravans to valley from throughout the state and building local support meetings for strikers. CASA in San Antonio and RUP are backing the strike. We initiated support resolution adopted by the CLUW gathering in Houston.

Our major method of support will be to continue to get out the facts in the pages of the Militant. Paper has been very well received in Texas. Perez will go down to cover for Militant. Camejo will have opportunity to visit valley after trial in Houston next week.

Just as the failure of earlier UFW drive marked a setback for entire Chicano movement in Texas, this new effort can be an important inspiration both in Texas and throughout the country.

Discussion

4. ELECTION CAMPAIGN

(Heisler, L. Jenness, Morell, Reid invited for this point.)

D. Jenness reported on summer campaign plans and projections for fall activity.

Discussion

Motion: To approve the report.

Carried.

5. CONVENTION SCHEDULE

D. Jenness reported.

Discussion

Motion: To schedule classes for one-and-a-half days to follow convention and to approve the proposed schedule (see attached).

Carried.

6. PC REPRESENTATIVE TO YSA PLENUM

Waters reported.

Discussion

Motion: That Thomas be Political Committee representative to the YSA plenum.

Carried.

7. ALVIN CORRESPONDENCE

Sheppard reported. (See attached.)

Discussion

Meeting adjourned.

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
June 9, 1975

TO NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND BRANCH ORGANIZERS

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed is a copy of the proposed schedule for the forthcoming SWP national convention. As you can see we are proposing that four sessions of classes be held on Friday and Saturday following the convention. These classes are designed for international guests as well as American comrades. This represents a change from the information that was sent to you several weeks ago about registration and housing. That information indicated that the final meal would be Friday noon and did not include information about the classes.

Arrangements have been made with Oberlin College for meals to be served through Saturday noon and for housing to be available Friday night for those who wish to attend the classes.

We feel that the proposed classes will be of great interest to comrades and many people will want to stay over to participate in them. It is important that the information about them is reported to the branches and posted so comrades who wish to attend the classes can make the necessary adjustments in their schedules. The extra day will add another \$11 to the cost of the week raising it to \$77.

A separate letter on how this change affects registration, housing, etc., is being sent to organizers and convention coordinators.

Unfortunately the chartered plane from California has to leave Friday which means that many comrades from there will be unable to attend the classes.

The proposed convention schedule, fraction meetings and workshops will be submitted to the national committee for approval and are enclosed for the information of national committee members and organizers. The national office would appreciate additional suggestions for fraction meetings and workshops.

Comradely,

Doug Jenness

Doug Jenness
National Office

For the information of National Committee members and
Organizers

Proposed Schedule for Twenty-Seventh National SWP Convention
(to be submitted to National Committee)

Saturday, August 16

6:00 - 7:30 Dinner
7:30 - National Committee Plenum

Sunday, August 17

7:00 - 8:30 Breakfast
9:00 - 9:45 Organization of Convention (3/4 hour)
9:45 -11:00 World Political Situation (1-1/4 hours)
11:00-12:30 Discussion (2 hours total)
12:30- 1:45 Lunch
2:00 - 2:30 Discussion
2:30 - 3:00 Summary (1/2 hour)
3:00 - 4:00 Political Resolution Report (1 hour)
4:00 - 6:15 Discussion (4 hours total)
6:15 - 7:45 Dinner
8:30 -10:00 Expansion Fund Presentation

Monday, August 18

7:00 - 8:30 Breakfast
9:00 -10:45 Discussion
10:45-11:15 Summary (1/2 hour)
11:15-12:15 Black Resolution Report (1 hour)
12:15- 1:30 Lunch
1:45 - 3:45 Discussion (3 hours)
4:00 - 6:00 Fraction Meetings
6:00 - 7:30 Dinner
8:30 -10:00 Talk by George Novack on "In Defense of Engels"

Tuesday, August 19

7:00 - 8:30 Breakfast
9:00 -11:00 Discussion
10:00-10:15 Summary (1/4 hour)
10:15-11:15 Youth Report (1 hour)
11:15-12:30 Discussion (2 hours)
12:30- 1:45 Lunch
2:00 - 2:45 Discussion

Tuesday, continued

2:45 - 3:00 Summary (1/4 hour)
3:15 - 5:15 Fraction meetings
6:00 - 7:30 Dinner
8:30 -10:30 Fraction meetings

Wednesday, August 20

7:00 - 8:30 Breakfast
9:00 -10:15 Tasks and Perspectives Report (1-1/4 hours)
10:15-12:30 Discussion (4 hours total)
12:30- 1:45 Lunch
2:00 - 3:45 Discussion
3:45 - 4:15 Summary
4:30 - 6:15 Fraction meetings
6:15 - 7:45 Dinner
8:30 -10:00 Talk by Joe Hansen on "James P. Cannon:
the Internationalist"

Thursday, August 21

7:00 - 8:30 Breakfast
9:00 -10:15 World Movement Report (1-1/4 hours)
10:15-12:30 Discussion (4 hours total)
12:30- 1:45 Lunch
2:00 - 3:45 Discussion
3:45 - 4:15 Summary
4:30 - 8:00 Closed session (election of National Committee, etc.)
6:00 - 7:30 Dinner
8:30 -10:30 Rally
10:30- Party

Friday, August 22

8:00 - 9:45 Breakfast
10:00-12:00 Classes (series A)
12:00- 1:30 Lunch
2:00 - 4:00 Classes (series B)
4:00 - 6:00 Free
6:00 - 7:30 Dinner
8:00 -10:00 Classes (series A)

Saturday, August 23

8:00 - 9:30 Breakfast
10:00-12:00 Classes (series B)
12:00- 1:30 Lunch

Proposed Fraction Meetings and Workshops at SWP Convention

1. How to win more members
2. Militant correspondents and photographers
3. Campaign
4. Disclosure suits and campaign finance laws
5. SWP suit (Political Rights Defense Fund)
6. Puerto Rican struggle
7. Chicano struggle
8. Blanco tour
9. Iranian defense
10. Soviet and East European defense
11. Defense against right-wing attacks
12. Desegregation fight
13. Finances
14. Bookstore directors
15. UFW support work
16. Public employees
17. Teachers
18. Steel workers
19. Printing trades
20. Construction workers
21. Coalition of Black Trade Unionists
22. Coalition of Labor Union Women
23. Auto workers
24. Mineworkers
25. Abortion and ERA
26. Forums
27. Education
28. Circulation of the press
29. Antideportation work
30. Regional work and teams
31. Asian Americans

For the information of all comrades

Classes following SWP Convention
(all but one are two-part series)

Series A (These will be held at 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Friday.)

1. The rise and consolidation of the Stalinist caste and the program for its overthrow Gus Horowitz
2. American Maoism today Wendy Lyons
3. American social democracy today Nelson Blackstock
4. The world economic crisis Dick Roberts
5. Key questions posed by the developments in Portugal Gerry Foley
6. Problems in Marxist philosophy today George Novack, Les Evans
7. American fascism: past and present Doug Jenness
8. History of the NAACP Derrick Morrison
9. Workers and farmers government and the Marxist theory of the state Fred Feldman

Series B (These will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday and 10:00 a.m. Saturday.)

1. Dynamics of world revolution John Benson
2. 1963 reunification of the Fourth International Caroline Lund
3. An early chapter from party history (1929-33) George Breitman
4. The national question in the workers states (one class only) George Saunders
5. History, evolution, and theory of the Cuban revolution Ed Shaw
6. The workers and farmers government and the experience of the Algerian revolution Bob Chester
7. American Communist party Harry Ring
8. The role of the Leninist party under changing historical circumstances Tom Kerry

COPY

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Los Angeles, California
May 31, 1975

Political Committee
New York, N.Y.

att: Barry Sheppard

Dear Barry,

I am writing in regard to your letter of May 15, 1975, addressed to all comrades and dealing with articles for the pre-convention internal bulletin.

I think that items number 1 to 3, which state rules on how the articles must be or should be typed may make some difficulties for those comrades, especially worker-comrades, who want to submit a contribution to the bulletin but do not know how to type.

I suggest that you send out another letter stating that the rules in the first one were intended to guide comrades and to facilitate the publication of their articles. And that this first letter was designed to make the publication of articles as easy for the print shop as possible, calling attention to the fact that a heavy load of work always comes prior to conventions. The letter should also state that those comrades who do not know how to type may send in written articles that will be published.

Surely our party cannot refuse to publish an article in the internal bulletin that has been handwritten by a comrade who cannot type. I would like to hear from you on how you decide to dispose of this question.

Comradely,
s/Milton Alvin

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14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
June 6, 1975

Milt Alvin
Los Angeles

Dear Milt,

Thank you for your letter of May 31 concerning articles submitted to the discussion bulletin by comrades who cannot type. We checked to see what we had done in the last few conventions. The enclosed copies of letters sent out prior to our last two conventions had the same stipulation that articles be typed.

As you surmise, the purpose of this requirement is to facilitate the production of the discussion articles. Any handwritten articles, or articles that are not in the format outlined in the May 15 letter (such as single-spaced) would have to be retyped by the National Office or print shop to prepare them for being set. This would place a burden on these comrades, especially in view of the fact that the volume of articles submitted to the discussion bulletin seems to be increasing over time. And the preconvention period is a time when the shop is under a heavy crunch to get out books and bulletins for the convention. The other day, for example, a comrade who can type submitted an article in the form of a poorly xeroxed copy of a single-spaced typed letter, and we requested that he type up this contribution according to the format outlined.

Of course, we agree with you that the last thing we want to do is inhibit a comrade who cannot type from submitting an article if they cannot get help in typing it up. I checked with comrades on the Political Committee, and none can recall any instance where a comrade who couldn't type was unable to get some help in typing up any article they wished to submit, but we agree, better safe than sorry. So I've sent out another letter, explaining that comrades in this situation can submit handwritten articles that will be typed by the National Office so they can be put into the proper format for the print shop. A copy of this letter is enclosed.

Comradely,
s/Barry Sheppard

14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014
June 6, 1975

TO ALL ORGANIZERS

Dear Comrades,

In a letter dated May 15, 1975, the format for the preparation of articles submitted to the pre-convention discussion bulletin was outlined. The purpose of establishing these rules is to facilitate the production of the discussion bulletin.

One of the requirements outlined for articles submitted to the bulletin is that they be typed. However, if a comrade wishes to submit an article, but she or he cannot type or arrange to have another comrade type their article for them, they can submit handwritten copy to the National Office. Since this would place a burden on the National Office or the comrades in the print shop during the crunch of the preconvention period, we ask the branch organizers to try to help any comrade who cannot type to arrange to have any contribution they wish to submit typed up before it is sent in.

Comradely,

Barry Sheppard

Barry Sheppard
National Organization
Secretary