

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING No. 16, April 13, 1978

Present: Breitman, Britton, Clark, Dixon, Garza, Hawkins, Jaquith, D. Jenness, L. Jenness, LaMont, Lovell, Morell, Petrin, Reid, Rodríguez, Seigle, Stapleton, Stone, White

Chair: D. Jenness

AGENDA: 1. Unemployment
2. SLP
3. Reorganization of Administrative Secretariat
4. Attendance at Political Committee Meetings

1. UNEMPLOYMENT

(Harris, Hart, Musa, and Sedwick invited for this point.)

A. Hart reported on Youth March for Jobs held April 8 in D.C.

Discussion

B. Britton reported on First National All Unions Conference to Shorten the Work Week held April 11 in Dearborn, Michigan.

Discussion

C. Dixon initiated discussion on how we can step up and improve propaganda on unemployment, especially among youth in general and Black youth in particular.

Discussion

2. SLP

Stapleton reported that while we have received no formal response to any of our communications to the national office of the SLP, some recent developments indicate that the SLP national leadership may be trying to close off discussion with the SWP. The most important indication is that SLP National Executive Committee member Robert Massi (who attended our plenum) brought charges against the organizer of the New York SLP, Arnold Babel, and another SLP member, Jim Brinning. Brinning is falsely accused of being an agent "of the policies of the SWP." The charges against Babel are based on the fact that he encouraged a New York meeting of SWP and SLP members to discuss the political views of the two organizations.

Under the SLP constitution, the charges against Babel can only be taken up by their upcoming national convention, since he has already been elected a delegate. The convention will be held in Philadelphia on May 26, 27 and 28. There is apparently other discussion of the SLP's relationship to the SWP planned for the convention.

There is no reason for us, at this time, to make any basic change in our approach to the SLP. Many areas

are continuing to hold useful political discussions with SLP members, and relations on a local level generally remain good. We want to continue to talk with and work with as many SLP members as possible between now and the time of their convention. We should try to convince as many as possible that there should be ongoing discussion and collaboration between our parties. After their convention we'll have a chance to give further consideration to the best means of advancing the discussion.

Discussion

Motion: To approve.

Carried.

3. REORGANIZATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARIAT

Seigle reported on proposals:

That the Secretariat be composed of Blackstock, Britton, Dixon, D. Jenness, Jones, LaMont, Morell, Petrin, Reid, Seigle, Stone, and Waters.

A sub-committee of the Secretariat will be established to handle routine administrative matters. The sub-committee will be composed of Britton, Morell, Seigle, and Stone.

That routine motions on membership (at-large and re-admitting former members of the party) be referred for action to the Secretariat.

Discussion

Motion: That the Secretariat be composed of Blackstock, Britton, Dixon, D. Jenness, Jones, LaMont, Morell, Petrin, Reid, Seigle, Stone, and Waters.

Carried.

Motion: That routine motions on membership be delegated to the Secretariat to act on.

Carried.

4. ATTENDANCE AT POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Seigle reported on proposal from Secretariat that Feldman and Prince, both alternate members of the National Committee who are heading up national departments, be invited as regular guests at Political Committee meetings. Prince is the National Financial Director, and Feldman is National Education Director as well as editor of the International Socialist Review.

Discussion

/ Motion: That Feldman and Prince be invited as regular guests at Political Committee meetings.

Carried.

Meeting adjourned.