

## CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Saturday, August 4, 1945

The conference was called to order at 11 A. M. by Max Shachtman.

Roll call was taken, and the following delegates (or where necessary their alternates) were seated at the conference.

The N.C. reported that N.C. members and all full-time functionaries were to be seated at the conference as fraternal Delegates. Since Los Angeles had elected an NC member as a regular Delegate, and Detroit had elected its full time organizer as a regular Delegate, their alternates were seated as delegates.

The representative from Baltimore was seated as a fraternal delegate.

Since one of Philadelphia's delegates was not present at the conference and they had no alternates present, a visitor from Philadelphia was seated as a regular delegate, after consent from the Philadelphia delegation had been acquired.

The agenda was then read as accepted by the Conference.

The rules of the conference was also accepted.

### PRESIDING COMMITTEE:

The conference rules called for a presiding committee of five, to be made up of two members of the NC and 3 members from the floor of the conference. The presiding committee elected was: Nevins, Coolidge, O'Connor, Harvey and Crane.

REPORT ON TASKS AND PERSPECTIVES OF THE ORGANIZATION--Max Shachtman-11:30- to 12:50.

Luncheon recess.

The conference reconvened at 1:55.

The proposal was made and adopted that the roll-call be taken by branches and that in those instances where an alternate had been seated for the morning session, the regular delegate be seated if present.

The Philadelphia branch presented a resolution to the conference regarding the Johnson documents which stated that the branch had expressed the unanimous opinion that the two documents of Comrade J. should be considered Conference material.

The resolution was referred to the Political Committee by the Presiding Committee, and their reply was given to the conference by Coolidge. The conference was advised that the PC decision to rule the Johnson documents out was based on its decision of the type of conference to be held. Since the Johnson documents deal with two main points--1. The type of paper Labor Action is and 2. the type of party that the Workers Party should be, the committee had ruled that only a convention could decide on such questions.

The question was raised as to whether the Philadelphia resolution and the Johnson documents were a point on the agenda of the conference and therefore open to discussion at this point. The delegate from Philadelphia advised that the Branch mean the resolution to be part of the conference business, and hoped for a reversal of the Committee decision by the Conference.

Anne Russel pointed out that the conference had no authority to reverse the decision of the P.C., but at best could recommend such a reversal to that committee.

Haul Temple pointed out that the delegates could, in their discussion of the Shachtman report, discuss the Johnson documents if they so desired, even though the conference would not be voting on those documents.

No motion made on the question, but it was understood that the delegates could, if they so desired, discuss the Johnson documents when they took the floor.

The Conference then proceeded to a discussion of the Shachtmen report, and the following delegates took the floor:

Harry Allen, New York; Ernie Lund, New York; Paul Temple, Los Angeles; Susan Green, New York; White, San Pedro; Hall, Detroit; Norman, Queens, N.Y.; Peters, N.Y.; Brown, N.Y.; Gould, Madison; Jensen, N.Y.; Dillon, N.Y.; Harvey, Detroit; Jerry, Phila.; Bea, N.Y.; Sterling, San Francisco; Johnson, N.Y.

Comrade Shachtman then took the floor for a 35 minute summary of the report.

#### REPORT ON ORGANIZATIONAL TASKS OF THE PARTY. Al Gates

Point of special privilege for time to speak before discussion of organization tasks requested by Comrade shachtman. Request granted.

Comrade Shachtman explained to the conference that the remarks in his summary regarding the Philadelphia organization were not meant to refer to the Branch as a whole nor to the Philadelphia delegation at the conference. That he meant only that there is a group of members in Philadelphia who do represent that of which he spoke. That no criticism was meant to refer to the Branch as a whole, and that if that impression was conveyed to the conference, he would like to apologize to the conference and to the Philadelphia Branch.

The conference then proceeded to a discussion of the report on organizational tasks.

New York, Detroit, Los Angeles, Philadelphia then made local reports, with Crane reporting for N.Y.; Harvey for Detroit; Rickie for Los Angeles and Irving for Philadelphia.

The conference adjourned at 7:10 for dinner.

The conference was reconvened at 8:35 and after roll-call, proceeded to a discussion of the Gates report and the various local reports.

Discussion was limited to 5 minutes per speaker, and the following delegates took the floor: O'Connor, San Francisco; Reed, Queens; Red, Frisco; Billy, Detroit; Hoffman, N.Y.; Leah, N.Y.; Russel, Los Angeles; Lund, N.Y.; Ryan, Seattle; Manny, L.A.; Merty, Buffalo; Frances, Phila.; Esther, N.Y.

Stan, Detroit; Jerry, Phila.; Jack, Pedro; Phil, N.Y.; Gertie, N.Y.; Susan Green, N.Y.; Campbell, Cleveland; Nevins, N.Y.

Summary for 30 minutes by Gates on his report on the Organizational tasks of the Organization.

FINANCIAL REPORT - Mary Bell

Discussion, 5 minutes per person with the following delegates speaking: Jack, L.A.; Esther, N.Y.; Gertie, N.Y.; Muriel, L.A.; Morty, Buffalo; Susan Green, N.Y.; Bart, L.A.; Many, L.A.; O'Connor, Frisco.

Motion: By Bart of L.A.:

That the conference recommend to the Political Committee that the Tax Schedule include the provision that a deduction be allowed for the expenditures of those married couples who must meet extra financial obligations in order for them to be free for their Party activity.

Motion carried.

Conference adjourned at 1 A.M.

Sunday, August 5, 1945

Conference convened at 11:05 A.M.

Roll Call.

Point made that conference had failed to vote on reports of Saturday's session.

Proposal that conference first discuss question of whether or not the conference is ready to vote on the reports.

Discussion.

Motion: That the conference vote on the Shachtman report.

Question as to whether conference will be voting on the two written documents or on Shachtman's oral report. Chairman ruled that vote would be on report as a whole.

Question called on motion that Conference take such a record vote on the shachtman report. Motion defeated by a vote of 16-17.

A recount on the vote was requested and granted and the motion was carried by a vote of 20-15.

Motion: That the Conference go on record as in favor of the Shachtman report on the tasks of the Party. Motion carried: 19 for, 9 against 10 abstaining, 0 not voting. Fraternal Delegates (not including NC members) 4 for, 1 against, 3 abstaining, 0 not voting.

Motion

Motion: That the conference vote on the Gates report. Defeated.

Motion: That the conference vote on the Financial Report of Bell. Defeated.

REPORT OF THE PRESS AS A PARTY BUILDER - Gates. 45 minutes.

Discussion. Motion; that discussion be limited to 5 instead of 7 minutes. Carried.

Speakers list taken and note made of fact that list is composed mainly of N.Y. and L.A. delegates.

Motion: To eliminate some speakers from the L.A. and N.Y. branches, and to add ten minutes to the discussion period. Motion carried.

The conference then proceeded to a discussion of the Press report, and the following delegates took the floor: Bell, N.Y.; Jack, L.A.; Parker, N.Y.; Lauren, N.Y.; Bart, L.A.; Norman, N.Y.; Stan, Detroit; Brown, N.Y.; Hall, Detroit; Red, San Francisco; Eleanor, N.Y.; Lucy, L.A.; Lund, N.Y.; Jerry, Phila.; Paxon, Cleveland; Temple, L.A.; Ferguson, Akron; Harvey, Detroit; Susan Green, N

Announcement by Coolidge that word has been received that some European friends are in need of clothing and that he would like to discuss the matter further with the Branch organizers or other responsible Branch members.

The conference recessed at 2P.M. for luncheon.  
The conference reconvened at 3:40  
Roll-call was taken.

Motion: To separate the vote on Labor Action and the New International. Carried.

Motion: That the conference record its opinion on the report of Gates on the press. 22 for, 7 against. Motion carried.

Motion: To accept the report of Gates on Labor Action. Motion carried. 22 for, 5 against, 9 abstaining, 3 not voting.

Motion: To accept the Gates report on the New International.

Motion: To endorse the remarks of Temple re "popularizing" the magazine. Motion carried. 29 for, 0 against, 8 abstaining, 2 not voting.

Announcement by Craine that N.Y. pass out sample copies of their election material to the Branches. Request by her that the delegates go back to their Branches with the proposal that they order same.

REPORT BY GATES ON PRESS CIRCULATION.

Question and discussion.

TRADE UNION REPORT BY COOLIDGE. 1 hour.

Proposal by the Presiding Committee that 6 speakers from the six most important centers be given 12 minutes each to make reports, that 18 other speakers be given 5 minutes each in discussion.

Motion by Russel; That we have a report from the fraction in Pedro and the Buffalo Steel Local, along with the other reports and that each reporter be given 10 minutes. Motion carried.

Reports by: O'Connor, Frisco, Railroad; Jerry, Phila, Sapp; White-pedro, Local 9; Ferguson-Akron, Rubber; Burs-N.Y. U.E., Hall-Detroit, UAW; Jones, Buffalo, Steel.

Discussion of the Coolidge report, with the following delegates taking the floor; O'Connor, Frisco; Ryan, Frisco; Bart, N.Y.; Craine, N.Y.; Shachtman, N.Y.; Stan, Detroit; Peters, N.Y.; Randy, N.E.; Bobby, N.Y.; Irving, Phila; John, Detroit; Norman, N.Y.; Newman, Chicago; Russel, L.A.; Morty, Buffalo; Leah, N.Y.;

Conference adjourned for dinner at 9:00.

Conference reconvened at 10:10

Summary by Coolidge on the Trade union report.

Roll call taken at this point since it had not been taken when the Conference was reconvened.

Motion: That the conference record its opinion on the Trade Union Resolution. Motion carried -16 for, 10 against.

Motion; That the conference accept the report. Carried; 31 for, 2 against 11 abstaining, 2 not voting.

Shachtman given floor for special report on sports work.

REPORT ON EDUCATION AND PROPAGANDA by Lund.

Discussion 5 minutes per speaker with the following delegates taking the floor: Allen, N.Y.; Morty, Buffalo; Harvey, Detroit; Jensen, N.Y.; Rickie, L.A.; Johnson, N.Y.; Florence, N.Y.; Louise, Detroit; Picquet, Chicago; Sterling, Frisco; Willie, N.Y.; Eleanor, N.Y.; Craine, N.Y.

Summary of report by Lund.

Motion: That the conference express its opinion on the Lund report. Carried.

Motion: That the conference accept the educational report. Carried-27 for, 3 against, 2 abstaining, 0 not voting.

Motion; That this body recommend to the N.C. that they immediately issue the pamphlets outlined and proceed to assign the people to write same. Motion was ruled out of order.

Conference adjourned at 1:30 A.M. after closing remarks by Shachtman.