

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF THE YOUNG SOCIALIST ALLIANCE

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

FEBRUARY 9-11, 1968

First Session, Friday, February 9, 1968 Convened at 1:00 p.m.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE CONVENTION

Presentation of National Committee motions on the organization of the convention by Charles B.

1. Motion: that the Presiding Committee consist of Lew J., Mary-Alice W., Doug J., Charles B., Carol L., Derrick M., Linda S., Judy W., Jim K., Nelson B.

Motion Passed

2. Motion: that procedural questions be decided by majority vote with one speaker for and one against, each with one minute.

Motion Passed

3. Motion: to approve the agenda as written.

Motion Passed

4. Motion: to approve schedule as written.

Motion Passed

5. Motion: to adopt the following rules for the convention.

- a. that all sessions be open, with the exception of the session electing the new NC, which shall be closed.
- b. that the NC shall be elected by secret ballot.
- c. that delegates and alternates seated in place of absent delegates have voice and vote. That fraternal delegates have voice and consultative vote.
- d. that discussion presentations be limited to ten minutes.
- e. that in any discussion period, no one may speak a second time before each person desiring the floor has had a chance to speak.
- f. that only those delegates seated at the roll call of a particular session may vote.

Discussion: Robin D.

Motion Passed

6. Motion: that the fraternal delegates be the outgoing National Committee, Farrell D., George N., Fred H., and Paul B., of the SWP, and one fraternal delegate from Antioch and Champaign which have become locals since the convention call went out plus one from Albany, Norman, Houston, Austin, Baltimore, and one from all areas where there is only one at-large member, plus one representative from the North.

Motion Passed

7. Motion: that the convention be open to YSA members and sympathizers vouched for by the locals.

Motion Passed

8. Motion: that there be three panels: Young Socialist to be chaired by Carol L., Education to be chaired by Paul L., and Recruitment to be chaired by Danny R.

Motion Passed

9. Motion: that there be a Nominating Commission made up of one delegate from each local.

Motion Passed

10. Motion: that the Nominating commission be chaired by Derrell M. and Larry S., with voice and no vote.

Motion Passed

11. Motion: that Kim A. and Fred F. be convention secretaries.

Motion Passed

12. Motion: that Naomi A. chair a Credentials Committee of three people, the other two to be elected by the convention.

Motion Passed

Nominations: Peter H., Jim M.

Motion: to elect Peter H. and Jim M. to the Credentials Committee.

Motion Passed

13. Motion: that Robin M. chair a Constitutional Commission of three people, the other two to be elected by the convention.

Motion Passed

Nominations: Susan L., Robin D., Peter S.

Declinations: Robin D.

Motion: that there be three elected members of the Constitutional Commission and they they be Susan L., Robin D., and Peter S.

Motion Passed

Recommendation from the Presiding Committee that David T. be chairman of the first session.

Motion: to approve.

Motion Passed

II. FRATERNAL GREETINGS FROM THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

Presented by Farrell D.

III. POLITICAL REPORT

Reporter - Mary-Alice W.

Motion from Presiding Committee for a ten minute break.

Motion Passed

Discussion on Political Report: Derrel M.

Motion: to extend Derrel's time five minutes.

Motion Passed

Summary on Political Report - Mary-Alice W.

Motion. from Presiding Committee to approve the general line of the Political Resolution and Report.

Vote on Presiding Committee motion:

Delegates: 49 for, none opposed, no absentions.

Consultative: 47 for, none opposed, no absentions.

Motion Passed

IV. NORTHERN REPORT

Reporter - Gary P.

Questions and answers

First session adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Second Session, Saturday, February 10, 1968, Convened at 10:45 a.m.

Recommendation from the Presiding Committee that Naomi A. be chairman of the second session.

Motion: to approve.

Motion Passed

I. ANTIWAR REPORT

Reporter - Lew J.

Motion from the Presiding Committee that there be a five minute break before the discussion on the Antiwar Report begins.

Motion Passed

Discussion on the Antiwar Report: Robin M., David T., Will R., Paul M., Dave F., Joel A., Dave W., Peter S., Syd S.

Motion from the Presiding Committee that the rules be suspended so that Howard P. may speak.

Motion Passed

Discussion on the Antiwar Report continued: Peer V.

Motion from the Presiding Committee that there be two more speakers before we break for lunch.

Motion Passed

Discussion on the Antiwar Report continued: Phil P., John G.

Recessed for lunch at 1:15 p.m. - reconvened at 2:15 p.m.

Motion from Presiding Committee that there be a limit of five minutes for every speaker.

Motion Passed

Discussion on the Antiwar Report continued: Steve S., Kipp D.

Motion: to extend Kipp's time two minutes.

Motion Passed

Discussion on the Antiwar Report continued: Jamie A.

Motion: to extend Jamie's time one minute.

Motion Passed

Discussion on the Antiwar Report continued: Dave C.

Motion: to extend Dave's time two minutes.

Motion Defeated

Discussion on the Antiwar Report continued: Robin D., Danny R., Carol L., Fred F.

Summary on the Antiwar Report - Lew J.

Motion from the Presiding Committee to approve the general line of the Antiwar Resolution and Report.

Vote on Presiding Committee motion:

Delegates: 49 for, none opposed, no abstentions.
Consultatives: 47 for, none opposed, no abstentions.

Motion Passed

Motion from Presiding Committee to send the following telegram to:

The Conference of Vanguard Youth Organizations:

Dear Comrades:

The Seventh National Convention of the Young Socialist Alliance meeting this weekend (February 9-11) totally supports the aims of your meeting and demonstration against American imperialist aggression and shares your solidarity with the revolutionary fighters in Vietnam.

Your gathering is an inspiring expression of the international solidarity and collaboration that is necessary if imperialism and its wars are to be ended forever.

The young socialists in the United States are strengthened by the knowledge that we are part of a growing revolutionary socialist youth movement on an international scale.

We look forward to our comrades in the Conference of Vanguard Youth Organizations joining with us in helping to organize the International Student Strike against the Vietnam war on April 26 and to hold massive demonstrations in every city on April 27.

Motion Passed

Second session adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Third Session, Saturday, February 10, 1968, Convened at 4:00 p.m.

Recommendation from the Presiding Committee that Ken S. be chairman of the third session.

Motion: to approve.

Motion Passed

I. BLACK STRUGGLE REPORT

Reporter - Derrick M.

Motion from the Presiding Committee that there be a five minute break before the discussion on the Black Struggle Report begins.

Motion Passed

Discussion on the Black Struggle Report: Judy W.

Motion: to extend Judy's time five minutes.

Motion Passed

Discussion on Black Struggle Report continued: Terri H., Linda S., Will R., Ellis B., Dave P., Carl F., Carolyn L., Mike M., Rick W., Tony T., Jim K., John B.

Motion: by Judy W. for the Presiding Committee that we send the following telegram to the "TSU-5," Floyd Nichols, Charles, Freeman, Douglas Waller, Trazwell Franklin and John Parker:

The frameup against you is part of a wave of attacks against black militants from one end of the country to another -- from Leroi Jones in Newark to Huey Newton in Oakland.

Your courage and determined struggle against this attack is an example to young people all over the country.

The Seventh National Convention of the Young Socialist Alliance meeting in Detroit this weekend expresses its fullest solidarity with you against the racist frameup of the Houston Police, and pledges to continue to assist your defense efforts to the fullest extent possible.

Motion Passed

Motion by Judy W. for the Presiding Committee that we send the following telegram to Cleveland Sellers in Orangeburg, South Carolina:

The Seventh National Convention of the Young Socialist Alliance condemns the racist slaughter of three black students and the wounding of many others by South Carolina National Guardsmen.

This brutal repression underlines the necessity of black people to vigorously exercise their constitutional right to bear arms and use any and all means necessary in defense of basic, elementary human rights.

Motion Passed

Motion by Doug J. for the Presiding Committee that we send the following telegram to Hugo Blanco:

Dear Comrade Blanco:

The largest gathering of young socialists in the United States in twenty years meeting this weekend at the Seventh National Convention of the Young Socialist Alliance extends its warmest greetings to you.

Although the rulers of Peru have imprisoned you on the island prison, "El Fronton" they have been unable to keep behind bars your international spirit, your revolutionary optimism, and your courageous example to us here and to thousands of other youth around the world.

We dedicate ourselves to the continued effort to free you and all other political prisoners in Latin America, and renew our energies in the struggle against American imperialism.

Motion Passed.

Tribute to the memory of John Chelstrom and Mike Geldman by Lew J.

Summary on the Black Struggle Report - Derrick M.

Motion from the Presiding Committee to approve the general line of the Black Struggle Resolution and Report.

Vote on the Presiding Committee Motion:

Delegates: 49 for, none opposed, no abstentions.
Consultative: 48 for, none opposed, no abstentions.

Motion Passed

Third session adjourned 6:00 p.m.

Fourth Session, Sunday, February 11, 1968, Convened at 10:00 a.m.

Recommendation from the Presiding Committee that Tony T. be

chairman of the fourth session

Motion: to approve.

Motion Passed

I. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Reporter - Naomi A.

Delegates: Present 49. 31% women and 69% men. Average age 23 years 6 months. Average length of time in the YSA, 2 years and 6 months. 54% students and 46% non students.

Alternates: Present 46. 35% women and 65% men. Average age 23 years and 3 months. Average length of time in the YSA, 2 years and 3 months. 23% students and 52% non students.

Fraternalists: Present 50. 30% women and 70% men. Average age 24 years 5 months. Average length of time in the YSA, 4 years and 6 months. 23% students and 77% non students.

Visitors: Present 197. 109 YSAers, 26 candidates, 72 non YSA. Of those in the YSA, 51½% students and 48½% non students.

General: 342 present, of which 280 are YSAers and candidates. 39% women, 61% men. Average age 22 years and 8 months. Average length of time in the YSA, 2 years 3 months. 14½% from the West Coast, 44% from the Midwest, 37% from the East Coast and 2.4% from the South.

48% students, 52% non students. 43 campuses and 13 high schools represented. Of the non students, 34% employed in skilled trades, 21% employed in clerical, 18% in factory and unskilled, 8% unemployed, 4% professionals and 15% full time political workers. Leading occupations: 15 teachers, 14 printers and 11 in computer field.

Issues that motivated joining the YSA: 105 antiwar movement, 47 colonial revolution and Cuba, 47 black struggle, 38 socialism, in general, 8 independent electoral activity and 6 civil liberties.

Background of those attending the convention: 118 liberals, 50 conservatives, 44 Stalinists, 35 Social Democrats, 20 non political, 18 Trotskyists, 1 Spartacist, 1 Cochranite, 3 left wing Zionists, 1 utopian socialist, 3 Catholic anarchists and 1 John Birch Society.

Motion: to approve the credentials report.

Motion Passed

II. CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION REPORT

Reporter - Robin M.

Motion from the Constitutional Commission: that there be a constitutional amendment to the constitution to be inserted as the last sentence of Section 2 of Article 3 which reads, The National Executive Committee has the authority to make exceptions in individual cases to the 29 age limit.

Motion Passed

III. ORGANIZATIONAL REPORT

Reporter - Charles B.

Discussion on the Organizational Report: Judy W., Melissa S.

Motion from the Presiding Committee that there be a five minute break before discussion continues on the Organizational Report.

Motion Passed

Discussion on the Organizational Report continued: Ellis B., Caroline L., Dave F., Richard H., Nelson B., Jim K., Robin D., Ove A., Dennis S.

Summary on the Organizational Report - Charles B.

Motion from the Presiding Committee to approve a spring fund drive quota of \$13,000.

Vote on the Presiding Committee motion.

Delegates: 49 for, one opposed, no abstentions.
Consultatives: 48 for, none opposed, no abstentions.

Motion Passed

Motion from the Presiding Committee to approve a nine month Young Socialist for Halstead and Boutelle sub campaign of the Militant and YS for \$1.00 with a national quota of 2,000 subs.

Vote on the Presiding Committee motion.

Delegates: 49 for, none opposed, no abstentions.
Consultatives: 48 for, none opposed, no abstentions.

Motion Passed

Motion from Presiding Committee to approve general line of the Organizational Report.

Vote on Presiding Committee Motion.

Delegates: 49 for, none opposed, no abstentions.
Consultative: 48 for, none opposed, no abstentions.

Motion Passed

Motion from the Presiding Committee to send the following telegram to comrades James P. Cannon and Rose Karsner:

On the occasion of the largest gathering of revolutionary socialist youth in the United States in decades, on the occasion of the publication of Letters From Prison, and on the occasion of James P. Cannon's 78th birthday, the Seventh National Convention of the Young Socialist Alliance sends revolutionary greetings to comrades James P. Cannon and Rose Karsner.

The appreciation we feel for the years you devoted to the revolutionary movement and the wealth of experience you have communicated to our generation is reflected in the fact that 210 comrades bought their copies of your joint publication, Letters From Prison, during our convention.

This action speaks louder than any words our thanks for your contribution to our growing youth movement.

Motion Passed

Appreciation expressed to comrades graduating from the YSA.

Appreciation and thanks expressed to the Detroit comrades for the excellent job done in hosting the convention.

Singing of the "Internationale."

Fourth session adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Fifth Session, Sunday, February 11, 1968, Convened at 3:30 p.m.

Delegates and fraternalists only.

Recommendation from the Presiding Committee that Dennis S. be chairman of the fifth session.

Motion Passed

I. NOMINATING COMMISSION REPORT

Reporter - Larry S.

Motion from Nominating Commission to set the number of full National Committee members at twenty.

Motion Passed

Proposed slate of 20 full National Committee members:

Charles B.	Robin M.
Steve C.	Derrel M.
Kipp D.	Derrick M.
Carl F.	Wendy R.
Jan G.	Danny R.
Lew J.	Larry S.
Marilyn L.	Melissa S.
Carol L.	Syd S.
Caroline L.	Peer V.
Mary-Alice W.	Judy W.

Motion from the Nominating Commission to accept the slate of twenty as a whole.

Discussion: Derrel M.

Motion Passed

Motion from the Nominating Commission to set the number of alternate members of the National Committee at 18.

Motion Passed

Proposed slate of 18 alternate National Committee members:

1. Will R.	10. Howard P. (on leave of absence)
2. Peggy B.	11. Walter L.
3. Bruce H.	12. Jim K.
4. Linda S.	13. Tony T.
N Nelson B.	14. Fred F.
6. Richard H.	15. David T.
7. Bob S.	16. Evelyn K.
8. Paul M.	17. Phil P.
9. Peter S.	18. Steve S.

Motion from the Nominating Commission to accept the slate of 18 as ordered.

Motion Passed

Convention Adjourned: 4:35 p.m.