

21st. February
P.K.

Minutes of Meeting of the Workers Party of South Africa
(Johannesbutg Branch) held at 134 Fox Street, on Feb.15th 1935.

The meeting commenced at 8.30 p.m.

Comrade Gordon from the Cape Town branch was co-opted to the Johannesburg branch.

Present: Gordon, Purdy (chair), Williams, Lake, Blank, Kahn, Saperstein, Lee (secretary). 8.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Treasurer, Com Kahn reported 3/- in hand. Com Blank handed in 10/- donated by M.Sapire.

Com Purdy said that the matter of the bulletin should be discussed and that there should be a separate bulletin for Johannesburg on account of the great distance separating the two branches. It was decided however that one single bulletin supported by both branches would be more effective.

After discussion of the matter of an editorial board, Com Blank moved that an editorial board of three be constituted for each of the two branches. Seconded by Com Lee.

Com Purdy moved an amendment that the following be added to Com Blank's motion: "and that the two boards shall constitute a joint board, the majority decision of which shall be final; But in the event of an even division of opinion, the article under dispute shall be published as a controversial article." Seconded by Com Gordon.

Com Chairman put the motion as amended to the meeting; in favour, 6, Blank, Purdy, Gordon, Lake, Williams, Lee; against, 2, Saperstein, Kahn. The motion was therefore carried, as amended.

Com Lee reported that for the third week running no Committee meeting of the African Laundry Workers Union had been held. This month only eight members of the union had paid their subscription. Com Pooe, treasurer of the union, constantly urged that a Wage Determination be applied for.

Com Gordon suggested that the matter of the wage determination be thrashed out before a general meeting of the union.

Com Lee said that the fundamental error with regard to the A.L.W.U. was our failure to build a fraction in the union. Our control of the union was bureaucratic, through the secretary and organiser, Coms Purdy and Mngade, and we had no other contacts with the rank and file of the union. As a result of this, the union was without a backbone, and proved in the strike to be unmanageable. The union has now collapsed, as a result of the defeat of the strike, and there is no fraction ~~upon which~~

to provide a skeleton upon which it might be rebuilt. In view of this position, we should not repeat our former error of bureaucratism - we should not do as the C.P. has done in a like case: suppress all mention of the Wage Board. The correct course would be to call a general meeting of the union for the specific purpose of discussing the question of applying for a Wage Determination, and at this meeting, expose the Wage Board and the whole system of class conciliation. If, in spite of our exposure, the majority voted for application for a Wage Determination, our duty would be to carry out their wishes, while continuing with our criticism.

Com Purdy said that it was somewhat strange that Com Lee, after three months silence, should now suddenly accuse him of being a bureaucrat. He declared that he had made weekly reports, Com Thijs had been drawn into the League to form a fraction and members had agreed at a previous meeting that accusations against him of bureaucratism were without foundation.

At this stage Com Saperstein rose and stated that he was leaving the meeting. He declared that the remarks of the Chairman, Com Purdy, were irrelevant, were wasting the time of the meeting, and he moved "that Com Purdy cease to speak."

Com Lee explained that his criticism was directed against the B.L.L. as a body, himself being to blame as much as anybody -- there was no criticism against Com Purdy personally.

In the subsequent discussion, an altercation developed between Coms Saperstein and Purdy. Com Saperstein threatened Com Purdy with physical violence, whereupon Com Purdy declared that this was not the first time Com Saperstein had made such threats; members who resorted to such tactics should be suspended.

The discussion became acrimonious, culminating in a physical attack by Com Saperstein on Com Purdy. Members intervened and upon order being restored Com Purdy moved "that Com Saperstein be suspended from party membership for one month." Com Lake seconded. The voting was four in favour, Coms Purdy, Lake, Blank, and Gordon. None against, all other comrades abstaining from voting. The motion was therefore carried and Com Saperstein left the meeting.

Com Kahn reporting on the A.F.L. said that F. Glass, nominally a member of the secretariat, had in fact been excluded without any protest on her part. R. Fleet is touring the countryside and the "Star" reports him as declaring that there are more than 50,000 workers behind the A.F.L.

Com Purdy suggested first exposing the present A.F.L. in the Spark furthermore the formation of a separate A.F.L., embodying a genuine united front.

Com Gordon said our main task was to build up our own strength - to expose the A.F.L. publicly would be to play into the hands of the Fascists. Our present forces did not permit us to tackle the task of building a broad united front that would include the trade unions.

Com Lee reported that Com Molifi had organised a Workers Committee at Alexandra Township. Two meetings, each attended by about 300

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workers had been organised by this committee on every day issues: bus fares, etc. Com Lee read a statement which he had prepared for Com Molifi to be presented at a sitting of the Transportation Board attended by bus owners' representatives. Com Molifi was now actively trying to make contacts for the party.

Com Gordon suggested that a Programme of Action be prepared for discussion in the immediate future. Arising out of this suggestion the matter of forming a Club on the model of the Lenin Club, Cape Town, was discussed.

It was decided that Com Kahn take over the Literature Secretaryship from Com Saperstein.

The meeting concluded at 11.15 p.m.

Chairman:

Secretary:

Date:

Minutes of meeting of the Workers Party of South Africa,
(Johannesburg Branch) held at 134 Fox Street, Johannesburg,
on 20th Feb 1935.

The meeting commenced at 8.45 p.m.

Present: Gordon, Williams, Makokoe, Kahn Lee (secretary)

Owing to the absence of the Chairman, Com Purdy, Com Gordon
was elected to take the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Treasurer, Com Kahn, reported 13/- in hand.

A letter from the W.P.S.A. Cape Town was read.

Owing to the fewness of members present it was decided to
postpone the remainder of the agenda till next meeting.

There was a ~~meeting~~ discussion of the tasks of the party,
and the project of a workers' club.

The meeting concluded at 10 p.m.

Chairman:

Secretary:

Date:

Minutes of meeting of the Workers Party of South Africa,
(Johannesburg Branch) held on the 27th Feb 1935 at 134 Fox Street,
Johannesburg.

The meeting commenced at 8.30 p.m.

Comrade Lake was elected chairman.

Present: Lake (chair), Gordon, Williams, Kahn, Lee (secretary).
The minutes of the previous meeting were read & confirmed.
The Treasurer, Com Kahn, reported 14/- in hand.

Correspondence from the Cape Town branch was read.

Arising out of the discussion on correspondence from Cape Town it was decided to send minutes to the C.C. (Cape Town) immediately after meetings instead of waiting until minutes were confirmed; further it was decided to ask for 75 copies of the "Spark" for Johannesburg distribution, and to postpone making up subscribers' lists until the first number of the Spark is issued.

It was decided to write to the Communist League in Britain asking for 12 copies of each issue of the Red Flag.

Com Lee reported that for the fourth week running no committee members of the African Laundry Workers Union had attended the committee meeting. The position now being serious, it was necessary to decide upon what steps to take to prevent the imminent collapse of the union.

After discussion it was decided amongst other steps to organise the proposed club as soon as possible so that it could also serve as a means of holding the laundry workers together. It was decided that all members look out for suitable premises for a club and further that sympathisers be approached for monthly guaranteed subscriptions for the club. Com Kahn reported that the only present activities of the A.F.L. consisted of two tours: R.Fleet (Western Transvaal) and H.Cornelius and Larkin (Lichtenburg.) Com Gordon reported that disturbances took place last Sunday night at the C.P. steps meeting on account of Greyshirts holding a counter meeting and heckling the Stalinist speakers.

Com Kahn reported that the distribution of literature was now in her hands.

The meeting concluded at 9.45 p.m.

25th March, 1935

Minutes of meeting of the Workers Party of South Africa, Johannesburg Branch, held at 134 Fox Street, Johannesburg, on 14th March 1935.

The meeting commenced at 8.15 pm.

Present: Comrades Purdy (chair), Lake, Saperstein, Kahn, Gordon, Williams, Lee (secretary).

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A letter dated 8/3/35 to the C.C. W.P.S.A. was read. Also a letter to the Communist League, Great Britain.

The Treasurer, Com Kahn, reported 16/- in hand.

Com Saperstein asked the meeting to discuss the possibility of inducing the South African Trades and Labour Council to call a meeting at the City Hall steps. Threatening letters sent by the Greyshirts to Andrews and Forsythe have been photographically reproduced in "Forward". He suggested that we now discuss ways and means of inducing the Trades and Labour Council to take the lead in the fight against the Greyshirts. He suggested that the Laundry Workers Union be asked to send a letter to the Trades and Labour Council. A suitable letter was drafted by the meeting.

Com Lee was instructed to write a letter to "Forward" in the name of the WPSA urging correct united front tactics.

Coms. Saperstein & Williams with permission of the meeting now left.

Com Gordon reported that he had attended in place of Com Lee two committee meetings of the African Laundry Workers Union.

At the first meeting one committee man said he had handed Com Mngade 10/- for private circulars and had not seen him since.

Com Mngade was not present at the meeting. Leonardo's complained of an attempt on the part of the boss to reduce wages 1/- per week. The matter of asking for a wage determination was discussed.

Com Mngade had done no work and a new organiser was necessary. The committee meeting was attended by two members from Crystal last week. Com Kahn reported that Com Molifi had seen Committee members going to the C.P. office.

Com Lee moved that the branch levy itself 5/- per month per member to pay a salary to Com Gordon for reorganising the

A.L.W.U. Seconded by Com Kahn. Three voted in favour - none against and the motion was therefore carried.

The question of the shortage of building workers was discussed. It was suggested that a leaflet be drafted demanding higher wages for building workers on account of the labour shortage in the building boom, and pointing out that the exclusion of Cape coloured workers from Transvaal industry was detrimental to the interests of the building workers. Com Purdy was instructed to draft a leaflet to this effect in readiness for the next meeting.

Com Lee reported on the activities of the Editorial Board. Com Purdy raised the question of the present membership of the W.P.S.A. Cape Town. He asked why so many of the original group had stayed out of the W.P.S.A.

Com Lee reported that he had been introduced to the A.W.C. at Alexandra Township.

Com Gordon reported that the Anti Fascist League had held a meeting last Sunday night after the City Hall steps meeting had been broken up by the police. £15 was collected and Forsythe had said he would be the general of the A.F.L. which would probably now be reorganised.

Com Kahn reported that £2 had been sent to the "Militant" *on account of 'Militants' sold.*

Com Lee suggested that individual members compile lists of possible supporters of the club, in readiness for next meeting. The meeting concluded at 10.45 p.m.

Chairman:

Secretary:

Minutes of meeting of the Workers Party of South Africa,
(Johannesburg branch) held at 134 Fox Street on the 27th
March 1935.

The meeting commenced at 8.30.p.m.

Present: Kahn, Blank, Lake, Purdy (chair), Gordon, Lee(sec)

The minutes of the previous meeting were read.

Com Purdy pointed out that the minutes failed to record the fact that he had declared that he would not be able to resume the secretaryship of the A.L.W.U. and intended to resign at the next general meeting.

Com Gordon pointed out that the minutes also did not record the fact that he and Com Purdy had been instructed to hold factory-gate meetings during lunch hours at the laundries. It was decided to make these additions to the minutes which were then confirmed.

The Treasurer, Com Kahn reported 14/6-in hand.

Com Lee reported that the committee of the L.W.U. had sent the letter drafted at our last meeting and a formal reply had been received promising that the matter would be attended to. As for the letter to the "Forward" which he had been instructed to send, he had after consulting other comrades not sent this letter which would have been redundant and stale side by side with the articles just published.

Com Gordon reported that he had not carried out the instructions to hold factory-gate meetings and make contacts as Com Purdy had failed to call for him as arranged.

Com Purdy explained that he had not had time the previous week, but was now free.

Further arrangements were then made to visit the laundries.

A leaflet drafted by Com Purdy to building workers was read. Com Gordon offered to try and get this printed.

Com Lee reported on the last meeting of the A.F.L. at the Trades Hall. Arising out of this report, the question was discussed of holding open air meetings with W.P.S.A. speakers at the City Hall steps, and also of applying for a permit to speak. It was decided to leave this matter over until the branch was numerically stronger.

The general nature of the contents of the Spark was discussed, i.e. whether the Spark was mainly an agitational or a theoretical organ, or both. +

Com Kahn reported that 50 copies of the "New Militant" were being sold each week.

Com Gordon reported that a social is to be held next Saturday night to raise funds for the Workers' Club.

The meeting concluded at 10.30 p.m.

Signed
Chairman:

Secretary:

Minutes of meeting of the Workers Party of South Africa
(Johannesburg branch) held at 134 Fox Street, Johannesburg,
on 4th April 1935.

The meeting commenced at 8.30 p.m.

Present: Kahn, Blank, Lake, Purdy (chair), Mngade, Gordon,
Saperstein, Lee (secretary).

The minutes of the previous meeting were not available.

Com Purdy reported that Crystal workers had been spoken
to by Comrades Gordon, Mngade and himself. Crystal, New
York and International had promised to send committee men
to the next meeting. At Ideal a factory gate meeting was
held and it was arranged that committee men would attend
the meeting on Tuesday night.

Com Saperstein moved that the meeting adjourn to attend
the A.F.L. meeting at the Trades Hall (seconded Com Blank).
5 in favor, none against. The meeting therefore was
closed at 8.45 p.m.

Signed:

Chairman:

Secretary:

Minutes of meeting of the Workers' Party of South Africa, Johannesburg Branch, held at 134 Fox Street on 11th April 35.

The meeting commenced at 8.30 p.m.

Present: Kahn, Gordon, Purdy (chair), Mngade, Lake, Williams, Lee (secretary).

The minutes of the two preceding meetings were read and confirmed.

A letter from Cape Town Branch was read.

Comrade Chairman explained the objects of the W.P.S.A. and the conditions of membership to Edward Dimati who came to enquire concerning the W.P.S.A.

Comrade Purdy proposed (seconded by Com Mngade) that Comrade Edward Dimati, Room 80, Wolhuter Men's Hostel be accepted as a member. This was passed unanimously.

Com Purdy suggested that it would be a mistake to print the Spark at the present moment. There was a discussion of sales organisation of the Spark. Com Purdy said that the E.B. policy should be to devote at least 70% of our propaganda activities to exposing the C.P. ↓

Com Gordon moved that the Spark appear in printed form as soon as possible. (seconded by Com Kahn) →

Com Purdy moved an amendment that as soon as possible a purely theoretical duplicated bulletin be issued side by side with the printed "Spark." (seconded by Com Lake). ✕

The motion as amended was put and carried unanimously. ✕

Com Lee reported that a meeting of the committee of the L.W.U. had been held at which it had been decided to apply for a wage determination. Nearly all members present tonight had attended the meeting.

Com Purdy declared that Com Lee had not been sufficiently emphatic in condemning the wage board at the committee meeting. He refused to believe that the demand for a wage board came from the workers themselves; somebody had told the workers that the wage board would be discussed and he asked Com Mngade what had been said to the workers.

Com Mngade said that the demand for the wage board was spontaneous and had been raised at factory gate meetings. They had not been told to make this demand. For the last few months Com Lee had constantly agitated against the wage board among committee men.

Com Dimati said the workers themselves want the wage board to be called. The workers would ^{not} come back to the union until this method was tried. Both himself and other laundry workers had for a long time favoured discussion of the wage board. Com Lee said that although Com Purdy had been sufficiently emphatic in condemning the wage board he had evidently not been emphatic enough to prevent the ^{workers} from voting unanimously in favour of calling the wage board. Obviously if precept failed they must learn in practice.

Com Lee reported that Coms Kahn, Gordon and himself would attend the A.F.L. ^{conference} conference. Com Saperstein had collected funds towards this.

Com Purdy proposed that the delegates to the A.F.L. press for proportional representation.

Com Lee read a leaflet on the programme of the A.F.L. It was decided to print this for ~~future~~ circulation in Durban.

The meeting discussed resolutions to be submitted to the A.F.L. Resolutions Committee.

Com Purdy moved that our delegate propose that representation of the A.F.L. shall be on the basis of 10/- for 500 members or under; thereafter one farthing per member; and that for each 500 or part of 500 affiliated, one delegate be allotted. (sec Com Gordon) This was passed.

Com Purdy moved that a page or portion of a page be added to the leaflet already accepted which will deal with the bureaucratic methods adopted by Joffe, representative of the C.P. (seconded by Com Lake) 4 voted in favour, 2 against. The motion was carried.

The meeting was closed at 11 p.m.

Signed: Chairman:

Secretary:

Minutes of meeting of the WORKERS PARTY of SOUTH AFRICA,
Johannesburg Branch, held at 154 Marshall Str, Johannesbg,
on 9th May 1935.

The meeting commenced at 8.30 p.m.

Present - Mngade, Sapper, Dimati, Lake, Blank, Purdy (Chair),
Gordon, Kahn, Lee.(Sec).

Letters from the W.P.S.A. Cape Town and from the W.P.America
were read and discussed. The secretary was instructed to
send suitable replies.

The treasurer reported a deficit of 4/-.

Com Lee reported on the A.F.L. Conference in Durban.

Com Lee reported that a general meeting of the A.L.W.U. had
been held on Sunday 5th May at which Com Gordon was appointed
secretary. At this meeting, after the report had been heard
of the Trades and Labour Council Conference it was decided that
the union was in favour of demanding a new Wage Determination.

Premises have been obtained for the club at Nels Rust Bldgs.

The meeting closed at 10.25 p.m.

Chairman.

Secretary.

29th May 1935

Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the International Workers Club held at 5 Nels Rust Bldgs, Joubert Street, Johannesburg on 22nd May 1935 at 8.30 p.m.

The Chairman, Comrade Glass opened the meeting with a few opening remarks on the objects of the Club. The matter of the constitution was thereupon discussed.

Comrade Atkinson, seconded by Comrade Routh moved that the name of the organisation be the International Workers Club.

Comrade Gordon moved that the name of the organisation be the Lenin Club. seconded by Comrade Sapire. After some discussion the chairman summed up and put the motion to the vote by calling for a show of hands for each name. 14 voted for the "International Workers Club" 9 for the "Lenin Club".

Com Atkinson, seconded by Com Sapers moved A.) That the aim of the International Workers Club was to assist in uniting the workers on the basis of the teachings of Marx and Engels.

Comrade M.Sapire moved, seconded by Com B.) That the aim of the International Workers Club is to assist in the building of the new workers international on the basis of the teachings of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky.

Comrade Purdy moved an amendment, seconded by Comrade Posthumus, C.) That the word "Lenin" be added to A.

Comrade L.Sapire moved, seconded by Com M.Smith D.) That the aim of the International Workers Club was to assist in uniting the Working class on the basis of revolutionary principles.

After discussion the motions were put together and the voting was as follows:

- A.) 8.
- B.) 10
- C.) 3.
- D.) 1.

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It was decided to vote upon motions A or B. The voting was as foll: For A - 13 votes. For B - 12 votes.

The following articles of the constitution were unanimously passed:-

Membership.

- 3. Membership is open to all persons who accept:
 - (a) the class struggle and the dictatorship of the proletariat.
 - (b) the unconditional defence of the Soviet Union.
 - (c) the Constitution and Rules of the Club.
 - (d) the struggle against fascism.
 and whose application is approved by the Executive Committee.

29 May, 1935

Subscription.

4. The membership fee is 1/- per month. Unemployed members are exempted. Members whose fees are in arrears for three months shall cease to be members in good standing.

Administration.

5. The Club is administered by the Executive Committee which is elected once in every six months. The Executive Committee, consisting of eleven members, appoints the officers of the Club, namely, a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Librarian. 6 shall constitute a quorum.

General Meeting.

6. The highest authority of the Club is the General Meeting which is summoned once in every six months. The General Meeting elects:
- (a) the Executive Committee.
 - (b) an Auditor to examine and report upon the books and balance sheet of the Club.

It was decided to refer the remaining articles of the constitution to the incoming Executive Committee.

The following were elected: Comrades Glass, M. Kahn, Lee, Elsa de Gimba, Posthumus, Purdy, Du Bourg, M. Sapire, Gordon, Atkinson, Frieslich.

The meeting concluded at 11 p.m.

Chairman:

Secretary:

The following comrades: Glass, M. Sapire, Gordon, Kahn, Lee, at a meeting held on Tuesday 14th May 1935 at Von Brandis Street, Johannesburg constituted themselves the provisional committee of the club provisionally named the International Worker's Club. Com Glass was elected chairman, Lee secretary, and Sapire treasurer. All pro tem.

Com Kahn submitted the following financial statement:

Receipts

Donations at Social, etc. £7.1.3

Expenditure.

Half month rent £2.15.0

Expenses at social 14.0

Cash in hand £3.12.3
£7.1.3

Com Kahn reported that to date monthly contributions of £2 had been guaranteed.

Com Glass guaranteed 3/- per month.

It was decided to authorise the secretary to make necessary expenditures for benches, partitions etc.

It was decided to hold the inaugural meeting on Wednesday night 22nd May at 8.15 p.m.

Business: Adoption of a constitution and a lecture.

It was decided that Com Lee give the first lecture on the foll. subject: "A Marxist view of South Africa."

Com Glass reported that a Mrs Dellbrook was in Pretoria exhibiting German proletarian art and offered to try and get into touch with her on behalf of the club.

It was agreed that the committee would if necessary meet the following Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Chairman:

Act. Secretary

59th May, 1935
D.K.

Minutes of Meeting of the Workers Party of South Africa,
Johannesburg Branch held at 154 Marshall Street, Johannesburg
on 22nd May 1935.

The meeting commenced at 8.30 p.m.

Present: Comrades Lake, Purdy (Chairman,) Blank, Gordon, Kahn,
Lee, (Secretary)

The reading of the correspondence was suspended on the arrival of Edward Dimati. Lee reported that Dimati had at the last meeting of the Laundry Workers Union demanded that himself (Lee) be ordered to leave the committee meeting. Lee said that unless a satisfactory explanation was forthcoming from Dimati he would move the expulsion of the latter.

Dimati declared 1.) that Lee was neither secretary nor committee member and therefore not entitled to be present and 2) Lee was against the Wage Board being called upon and was preventing the decision of the committee from being carried out. As witness no reply had yet been received to the letter sent to the Wage Board. Lee said that Dimati's explanation showed antagonism to the party and moved that Edward Dimati be expelled. Seconded by Com Kahn. Com Purdy pointed out that Dimati could possibly be very useful in regaining the influence of the Party in the union. If the antagonism was merely personal and directed against Com Lee only, it would be a mistake to proceed to such lengths as expulsion.

Com Lee declared that he was prepared to withdraw the motion if Dimati asserted that the antagonism was personal and not political. After much discussion and in answer to repeated questions put by the chairman and others Dimati said that he was not prepared to obey the majority decision of the branch concerning the L.W.U. Upon the motion being put 5 voted in favour and none against. The motion was therefore carried and Dimati was asked to leave, and did so.

The meeting continued with the reading of correspondence from the C.C. Cape Town and after considerable discussion Com Purdy moved that this meeting is not satisfied that all necessary steps have been taken to reconcile the differences between the two sides in Cape Town. Com Purdy also moved a second motion that the secretary be instructed to write and request that stronger and further efforts be made towards effecting a reconciliation between the two sections. The first motion seconded by Com Lake was put to the vote - 3 in favour (Purdy, Blank, Lake) and three against (Gordon, Kahn, Lee) The motion thereupon fell away. The second motion seconded by Com Blank was then put and passed unanimously. The meeting closed at 11 p.m.

Chairman.

Secretary.

12th June, 1935

Minutes of meeting of the Workers Party of South Africa,
Johannesburg Branch, held at S Nels Rust Bldgs, Joubert Street,
on June 6th 1935 at 8.15 p.m.

Present: Gordon, Lake, Blank, Kahn, Purdy (chair) Lee (secretary)

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Correspondence. A letter from the W.P.S.A. Cape Town, to the
I.S. was read and discussed.

Com Purdy moved that this section considers it necessary to
immediately accept all the Cape Town opposition members into the
ranks of the Workers Party individually. That we recommend this
course as the only way to achieve the necessary unity recommended
by the I.S. and we believe that a Cape Town branch meeting should
be called to discuss this resolution.

Com Blank seconded but afterwards withdrew.

Com Purdy again moved his motion with the word "all" deleted.
There was no seconder.

Com Blank moved that this section considers it necessary to
immediately accept the Cape Town opposition members into the
ranks of the Workers Party individually providing those members
subscribe to the eleven points. That we recommend this course
as the only way to achieve the necessary unity recommended by
the I.S. and we believe that a Cape Town Branch meeting should
be called to discuss this resolution. Com Purdy seconded.

Com Kahn moved that the matter of the opposition applications
be left to the discretion of the Cape Town branch of the W.P.S.A.
Seconded by Com Lee.

Com Gordon moved that this section considers it necessary for the
C.T. branch to call a general meeting of the branch to discuss the
merits of each individual of the fourteen if they apply individually
for membership in the Workers Party and leaves the decision in
the hands of the Branch meeting.
There was no seconder.

Com Blank's motion was put to the vote. In favour: Blank, Purdy,
Lake. -3- Against Kahn, Gordon, Lee -3-. The motion thereupon
fell away.

Com Kahn's motion was then put to the vote. In favour - Kahn,
Gordon, Lee. -3-, Against- Blank, Purdy, Lake. -3-. The motion
fell away.

At com Kahn's request the following observation of the Chairman

Com Purdy was recorded: "I have no confidence in the impartiality of the Cape Town branch."

Com Purdy moved that this meeting repudiates the letter dated 29th May 1935 to the I.S. that it considers it far too personal an expression of opinion and exemplifies the antagonistic attitude of the leading elements of the C.T. branch of the W.P.S.A. towards the supporters of the Fourth International who are not in agreement with them, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the I.S. There was no seconder.

Com Blank, seconded Com Gordon moved that this branch requests that correspondence to the I.S. purporting to express the opinion of the party should be submitted to the Johannesburg branch for discussion before being dispatched. 4 voted in favour- none against. The motion was carried.

The treasurer Com Kahn reported that there were no funds on hand.

Com Gordon reported that a letter with the signatures of twelve committee men had been sent to the S.A. Trades and Labour Council as a result of which Weinbrenn had stated that the Council had instructed him to reorganise the Laundry Workers Union. Lists for the Wage Board signatures had been sent out and a memorandum is being prepared to be sent to the Wage Board. There was a great deal of intrigue in the committee particularly in the manipulation of funds which Thipe, the treasurer, refused to hand over.

Com Gordon said he intended to demand the custody of the funds and the repudiation of the letter failing which he would resign.

Under general Com Purdy moved, seconded Com Gordon, that this section of the Workers Party of South Africa unconditionally endorses the action of the French Communist League in entering the S.F.I.O. And agrees that this move was a brilliantly conceived stratagem dictated by the unique situation in which the numerically insignificant French League was placed, in face of the imminent danger of a Fascist bid for power. After some discussion Com Lee moved that the matter be postponed till next week. This was agreed upon.

The meeting closed at 11 p.m.

Chairman.

Secretary.

10th July, 1935

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WORKERS PARTY OF SOUTH AFRICA, JHB.
HELD ON SATURDAY 22ND JUNE 1935 AT 5 NELS RUST BLDGS, JOHANNESBURG.

THE MEETING COMMENCED AT 8.30 P.M.

PRESENT: PURDY CHAIR, GORDON, LAKE, KAHN, SAPERS, LEE SECRETARY -6-

THE MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETING WERE READ AND CONFIRMED. ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES, COMRADE PURDY ASKED THE MEETING TO VOTE UPON THE MOTION HE HAD MOVED AT THE LAST MEETING. COM LEE ASKED THAT THE TWO PARTS BE TAKEN SEPARATELY. THE MOTION, MOVED COM PURDY SECONDED COM GORDON, THAT THIS SECTION OF THE W.P.S.A. UNCONDITIONALLY ENDORSES THE ACTION OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST LEAGUE IN ENTERING THE S.F.I.O., WAS PUT. 5 IN FAVOUR, NONE AGAINST.

THE MOTION MOVED BY COM PURDY SECONDED COM GORDON, THAT THIS SECTION OF THE W.P.S.A. AGREES THAT THIS MOVE WAS A BRILLIANTLY CONCEIVED STRATAGEM DICTATED BY THE UNIQUE SITUATION IN WHICH THE NUMERICALLY INSIGNIFICANT FRENCH LEAGUE WAS PLACED, IN FACE OF THE IMMINENT DANGER OF A FASCIST BID FOR POWER, WAS PUT. THREE VOTING IN FAVOUR AND ONE AGAINST.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE E.C. W.P.S.A. WAS READ AND DISCUSSED. IN REFERENCE TO THE CRITICISM OF HIS ACTION IN AMENDING THE RESOLUTION OF COM SAPIRE AT THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE I.W.C., COM PURDY SAID THAT HIS ACTION WAS UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES CORRECT, THAT COM LEE WAS WRONG IN DECLARING THAT HE HAD MADE A MISTAKE, AND THAT A STATEMENT SHOULD BE SENT TO THE E.C. W.P.S.A. POINTING OUT THE CORRECTNESS OF HIS ACTION. HE PROCEEDED TO DRAFT THE STATEMENT. THE MATTER WAS POSTPONED TO BE DEALT WITH UNDER GENERAL. COM SAPERSTEIN POINTED OUT THAT THE E.C. W.P.S.A. HAD CORRECTLY CHARACTERISED COM PURDY'S WRITING OF HIS 'OPEN LETTER' AS A BREACH OF PARTY DISCIPLINE. COM PURDY UNDERSTOOD SUFFICIENT TO REALISE THAT HIS LETTER CONSTITUTED SUCH A BREACH AND IT WAS QUITE OBVIOUS HAD PUBLISHED HIS LETTER DELIBERATELY. IN VIEW OF THIS HE MOVED THAT COM PURDY BE EXPELLED FROM THE W.P.S.A. SECONDED COM LEE. COM PURDY EXPLAINED AT LENGTH THAT HIS ACTION WAS JUSTIFIABLE BREACH OF DISCIPLINE SINCE THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY LEFT TO URGE UNITY ON THE TWO FACTIONS AFTER THE JOHANNESBURG BRANCH HAD COME TO NO POSITIVE DECISION. COM LAKE SAID HE JOINED IN CONDEMNING THE ACT AS A BREACH OF DISCIPLINE, BUT WISHED TO POINT OUT THAT THE POSITION WAS PECULIAR. A COVERING LETTER HAD BEEN SENT TO THE E.C. POINTING OUT THAT ~~THE~~ ONLY COM PURDY WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LETTER EVEN THOUGH THE SIGNATURE SUGGESTED THAT IT WAS THE OPINION OF THE BRANCH.

COM GORDON SUGGESTED THAT A VOTE OF CENSURE WOULD MEET THE CASE. COM SAPERS ASKED COM PURDY TO ANSWER A QUESTION: WOULD HE REPEAT HIS ACT UNDER SIMILAR CONDITIONS OCCURRING IN THE FUTURE. COM PURDY SAID IN EFFECT THAT HE WOULD, AND THAT IT WAS THE 'PREROGATIVE' OF MEMBERS TO BREAK DISCIPLINE PROVIDED THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO TAKE THE CONSEQUENCES.

COM SAPERS SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE WITHDRAWN THE MOTION IF COM

5 July 1935

R J Lake

(chairman)

R Lee

(secy)

PURDY HAD BEEN PREPARED TO ADMIT THE OFFENCE AND UNDERTAKE NOT TO REPEAT IT, BUT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES HE URGED MEMBERS TO SUPPORT HIS MOTION. COM LEE SAID IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT COM PURDY WAS PREPARED TO OBEY THE PARTY DECISION AS LONG AS IT COINCIDED WITH HIS OWN DECISION, BUT AS SOON AS THERE WAS A DISAGREEMENT HE WOULD DO AS HE PLEASED. ON THE MOTION BEING PUT 3 VOTED IN FAVOUR, ONE AGAINST LAKE, AND ONE ABSTAINED GORDON.

THE MOTION WAS THEREFORE CARRIED AND COM PURDY LEFT THE MEETING, DECLARING THAT THE MEMBERS PRESENT HAD EVIDENTLY DECIDED ~~XXXX XNR~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ TO HAVE TWO PARTIES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

COM GORDON REPORTED THAT THE OFFICE OF THE L.W.U. HAD BEEN LOCKED BY THE LANDLORD BECAUSE PART OF ONE MONTHS RENT WAS IN ARREARS. HE HAD TAKEN COMPLAINTS TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT. COM SAPERS SUGGESTED MAKING USE OF THE GARMENT WORKERS HALL IF POSSIBLE. THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.15 P.M.

R Lake
Chairman

R Lee
Secretary

5 July 1935

10 = July 1935
D/C

Minutes of meeting of the Workers Party of S.A. (Johannesburg Branch) held on Friday 5th July 1935 at 5 Nels Rust Bldgs.

The meeting commenced at 8.30 p.m.

Present; Lake, Gordon, Kahn, Lee (secretary).
Com Lake was elected chairman.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Lee moved that this branch declares that it reposes the fullest confidence in the Central Committee of the W.P.S.A. Cape Town. Seconded Com Gordon. In favour 3 - against 1 Lake. Com Lake pointed out that he voted against on the grounds that the C.C. had not, he believed, correctly represented to the I.S. the 'opposition' viewpoint.

Com Lee moved that the motion of June 6th regarding ~~the~~ branch discussion of I.S. correspondence be rescinded. Seconded Com Kahn.

After discussion Com Lee declared that if this motion did not follow automatically from the constitution he would withdraw. After consulting the constitution the motion was unanimously agreed upon.

Laundry Workers Union. Com Gordon reported that a memorandum had been sent to the Wage Board which has replied that a meeting would be arranged after 15th July. Complaints had been made to the Labour Department including a letter which pointed out that inspectors do not investigate cases but merely question employers in the privacy of their office.

Com Kahn said that every effort should be made to get the signatures of the letter to the S.A. Trades & Labour Council to repudiate it.

The copy of the letter of Com Blank to the C.C. was taken as read.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

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WORKER'S PARTY OF SOUTH AFRICA, 1933-1935

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