

IX - 76 - 1. Minutes of Meeting of Steering Committee of National
Citizens Political Action Committee -- Commodore Hotel,
11:00 A.M. April 13, 1946. Mimeographed - 4 pp.

Minutes of Meeting of
Steering Committee of
NATIONAL CITIZENS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE
Commodore Hotel

11:00 AM

April 13, 1946

Present:

John Abt	Michael M. Nisselson
C. B. Baldwin	Mrs. Dorothy Roosevelt
Mrs. Verda Barnes	Morris Rosenthal
Jack Becker	Charles Segal
Elmer A. Benson	Miss Rose Segure
Dwight Bradley	David Seiferheld
Thomas Connor	Ralph E. Shikes
Mrs. Virginia Durr	Michael Straight
Clark Foreman	Miss Rose Terlin
Bradford Fraley	Mrs. Lillian Traugott
Mrs. Thelma Girande	Jerome I. Udell
Mrs. Elinor S. Gimbel	J. Raymond Walsh
Sidney Hillman	Palmer Weber
James Imbrie	Clifford Welch
Frank Kingdon	Justice Williams
William Lanier	I. A. Wyner
Abner Larson	Mrs. I. D. Ylvisaker
Alfred Baker Lewis	James Youngdale
Miss Mae Morrison	Abraham Zeitz

Presiding: Frank Kingdon

BY-LAWS: The proposed by-laws for National Citizens PAC were read by John Abt and after full discussion during which several changes were made, it was moved and carried that the by-laws be accepted. A copy of the by-laws as adopted is attached.

POLITICAL SITUATION: Mr. Baldwin reported that if the Senate goes Republican by a shift of 8 seats in November, the Chairmen of Senate Committees would be:

Agriculture: Capper, Kansas (Shipstead next in line)
Appropriations: Bridges, N. H.
Banking & Currency: Tobey, N. H.
Education & Labor: LaFollette (Taft next in line)
Finance: LaFollette (Vandenberg next in line)
Foreign Relations: Capper (LaFollette & Vandenberg next)
Judiciary: Wiley, Wisc.
Military Affairs: Austin, Vt.
Naval Affairs: Tobey, N. H. (Willis, Ind. & Brooks, Ill. next)
Rules: Vandenberg (White, Me. next in line)
Atomic Energy: Vandenberg (Austin, Milliken, Ore. next in line)

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In the House, a shift of 26 seats would place the following into chairmanships:

Agriculture: Hope, Kansas
Appropriations: Taber, N. Y.
Banking & Currency: Wolcott, Mich.
Education: Dondero, Mich.
Expenditures in Exec. Dept.: Hoffman, Mich.
Foreign Affairs: Eaton, N. J.
Judiciary: Hancock, N. Y.
Labor: Welch, Calif.
Military Affairs: Andrews, N. Y.
Naval Affairs: Cole, N. Y.
Rules: Allen, Ill.
Un-American Activities: Thomas, N. J.
Ways & Means: Knutson, Minn.

It is estimated that a vote of 43 or 44 million will be necessary to keep the Congress Democratic. NC PAC is now working with other progressive organizations to start an organization to concentrate on a get-out-the-vote campaign.

STATE REPORTS: Connecticut: Mr. Alfred Baker Lewis and Mr. Charles Segal reported that there are now 4 Democrats and 2 Republicans in the House and that there is a chance of reelecting several of the progressive representatives despite the fact that in off-presidential years the results have not been favorable heretofore. It was reported that the Connecticut Committee has arranged for organizational meetings in all district in the very near future.

Michigan: Mrs. Dorothy Roosevelt reported that no decision has yet been reached regarding the candidates in Michigan. As far as can be learned, all present incumbents will run again.

Mrs. Roosevelt also reported that the Michigan Citizens Committee has a large chapter in Detroit and has recently organized one in Grand Rapids.

Minnesota: Mr. Youngdale reported that the Minnesota Committee has a mailing list of about 5000 and another mailing list of about 2000 to whom literature is sent quite regularly. To date, the Committee has distributed 120,000 pieces of literature. The Committee is setting up community organizations and is working with college groups, veterans groups, etc. They have set up veteran affairs and race relations committees and hope to set up atomic energy and foreign affairs committee.

Mrs. Ylvisaker and Gov. Benson reported on the candidates who will run for Congress and Senate.

North Dakota: Mr. Abner Larson reported on his and Mr. Quentin Burdick's meeting with the Democratic Party in North Dakota. As a result of this meeting, Mr. Burdick was named Secretary of the Democratic Party in North Dakota and the Party adopted the most liberal platform the state has ever had. The candidacy of Mr. Lanier for Senator was discussed.

Wisconsin: Mr. Thomas Connor reported that a formal organization of NCPAC will be set up in Wisconsin within the next few weeks. At present, the organization is a temporary one with Frank Baker as Temporary Chairman.

Mr. Connor also reported on the candidates in each congressional district, having just returned from a trip through the state which took him into about 41 counties and 66 villages and towns.

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Maryland: Mrs. Girande reported that in February the Maryland Citizens PAC began an organizational campaign and to date have organized 14 ward clubs out of 28 possible clubs yet to be set up. These clubs are engaging in activity on a registration drive, are holding rallies on OPA, and many of the clubs are turning out their own literature. Plans are now under way to work out a citizens bulletin in the state of Maryland.

New Jersey: Mr. Imbrie reported that the N. J. Independent Citizens League has more than 2000 members organized in 18 chapters. Last year they distributed over 185,000 pieces of literature.

Pennsylvania: Miss Segure reported that of the 15 progressive congressional incumbents, about 7 stand to lose their seats unless there is a heavy registration and vote. The registration is generally Republican and became larger in the last registration period. However, there are thousands of working people who are not registered and the Philadelphia Committee is working on this. Members and contacts at present amount to 5000 in Philadelphia.

New York: Mr. Walsh reported that a meeting was held during the last ten days with representatives of the ALP, CIO PAC, ECC, and other independent progressive groups at which agreement was reached concerning retention and strengthening of this coalition and making it mean something in terms of candidates to be supported.

South: Mr. Foreman reported that campaigns are on in the south; two primaries will be held on May 5 in Alabama and Florida. Mr. Foreman reported a definite attempt to revive the KKK and to make race the election issue rather than economic and social conditions of the south.

ORGANIZATION: Mr. Nisselson read a proposal that a Youth Division be created in NC PAC. The possibility of establishing such a division is now being investigated.

Mr. Nisselson stated that the time has arrived for organizing a Women's Division and referred to the contribution made by the Women's Division in 1944. It is hoped that a Women's Division will again be in operation by mid-summer.

Mr. Nisselson also suggested that it would be very worthwhile to form a Business Men's Committee. Nothing definite has as yet been done on this.

The attached proposal for affiliation made by the National Council of Scientific, Professional, Art and White Collar Organizations was read and approved by the Steering Committee.

SCHOOL FOR PRACTICAL POLITICS: Mr. Baldwin announced that plans have been drafted for a school for practical politics to be held in Washington in June to run for 5 days. Effort will be made to obtain the attendance of members of our state organizations, campaign managers, CIO PAC personnel, and that of all other interested groups in order to bring to them as many techniques developed in the field of political action in the last two years as possible. A motion was made and carried that the Administrative Committee study the proposal and make final decision after checking costs, etc.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED: Mr. Walsh read the attached resolutions, all of which were adopted.

MOTIONS: The following motions were made and carried:

Mr. Benson suggested that the time has now come for a discussion with President Truman concerning the political and economic situation in the United States. A motion was made and carried that the Chairman be empowered to appoint a committee of National Citizens PAC representatives to call on President Truman and Mr. Robert Hannegan for this purpose.

Mr. Baldwin moved that a resolution be drafted on Argentina in consultation with Miss Freda Kirchwey of the Nation.

Mr. Lewis made a motion that we welcome the request of the British government to still further cut down their rations if we will institute rations on wheat.

Mr. Benson moved that NC PAC go on record opposing universal military training.

ADDITIONS TO STEERING COMMITTEE: Mr. Baldwin proposed the addition of Paul Tishman to the Steering Committee. This was seconded and carried. It was also moved and seconded that L. Szilard and Harold C. Urey be asked to become members of the Steering Committee.

Mr. Lewis made a motion that Margaret Connors be made a member of the NEC. This was seconded and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P.M.