

IX - 76 - 2. By-Laws of National Citizens Political Action Committee,  
April 20, 1946, 8 pp. Attachment page National Citizens  
Political Action Committee Officers, April 22, 1946 -  
Mimeographed.

BY-LAWS OF  
NATIONAL CITIZENS' POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be the National Citizens' Political Action Committee.

ARTICLE II

OBJECTIVES

National Citizens' Political Action Committee is an independent, non-partisan committee formed to mobilize citizens from every walk of life to work in unison with forces of organized labor, farm, business, professional and other progressive groups to carry out by means of political action the principles set forth in the following paragraphs and to elect into public office those candidates who will best serve these ends.

National Citizens' PAC believes that we can and must attain the goals of Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Economic Bill of Rights."

National Citizens' PAC believes that it is possible to effect a lasting peace, to build an effective United Nations Organization, to maintain unity with our wartime allies.

National Citizens' PAC insists that we must eliminate from our national life the virus of discrimination based on race, color, creed or national origin.

National Citizens' PAC insists upon the removal of all hindrances to that key to democracy -- the ballot.

ARTICLE III

STRUCTURE

1. The structure of the National Citizens' Political Action Committee shall be as follows:
  - (a) The National Organization;
  - (b) State or regional organizations which affiliate to the National Organization as hereinafter provided;

- (c) City organizations in states where there is no affiliated state or regional organization, and which affiliate to the National Organization as hereinafter provided.
- (d) Specialized professional, religious or other organizations, desiring to cooperate with the National Citizens Political Action Committee and which are granted affiliation by the National Executive Board on such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon.

2. Affiliated organizations may adopt the name "CITIZENS' POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE" preceded by the name of their state, region or city, or may adopt such other name as they determine and the National Organization approves.

#### ARTICLE IV

##### NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS

1. National Council. There shall be a National Council composed as follows:
  - (a) Each affiliated state and regional organization shall be represented on the National Council by a number of members equal to the number of members of such state or region in the Federal Electoral College. If there are two or more affiliated regional organizations in a single state, the number of members of the National Council to which the state as a whole would be entitled, shall be apportioned among such regional organizations on the basis of population. Each affiliated state and regional organization shall, in January of each year, designate its members of the National Council for the ensuing year in such a manner as its by-laws may provide.
  - (b) The National Officers shall be members of the National Council by virtue of their offices;
  - (c) The National Executive Board may, in February and August of each year, propose additional persons as members of the National Council.

cil. The names of the persons so proposed shall be placed on a ballot and submitted by mail to the members of the National Council designated in accordance with Clauses (a) and (b) above. Nominees approved by a majority of those voting shall become members of the National Council.

2. National Executive Board. There shall be a National Executive Board composed as follows:

- (a) The Chairman of each affiliated state or regional organization shall be a member of the National Executive Board by virtue of his office;
- (b) The National Officers shall be members of the National Executive Board by virtue of their offices;
- (c) The National Council may, at any annual or special meeting, elect additional members of the National Executive Board from among members of the National Council.
- (d) The National Executive Board may, from time to time, propose additions to its number from among members of the National Council. The names of the persons so proposed shall be placed on a ballot and submitted by mail to the members of the National Council. Nominees approved by a majority of those voting shall become members of the National Executive Board.

3. National Officers. The National Officers shall be:

- The Honorary Chairmen
- The Chairman
- The Chairman of the National Council
- The Chairman of the National Executive Board
- The Executive Vice Chairman
- 25 Vice Chairmen
- The Treasurer
- The Secretary

All officers shall be elected by the National Council at its annual meet-

ing and shall serve for the period of one year and until their successors are elected.

ARTICLE V

POWERS AND DUTIES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS

1. National Council. The National Council shall be the highest governing body of the National Citizens' Political Action Committee. It shall meet regularly once a year on such date as the National Executive Board may determine. A Special meeting may be convened by the Chairman of the National Council and shall be convened by him at the request of a majority of its members or of the members of the National Executive Board. Regular and special meetings shall be held on not less than thirty (30) days' written notice. Attendance at meetings may be either in person or by a proxy, designated in writing, who shall be a member of the National Executive Council. One third of the members of the National Executive Council present at any meeting, in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum. Decisions shall be by the affirmative vote of a majority of those present, either in person or by proxy.

2. National Executive Board. The National Executive Board shall be the highest governing body of the National Citizens' Political Action Committee between meetings of the National Council. All decisions of the National Executive Board shall be subject to review by the National Council. The National Executive Board shall meet regularly once every two months. Special meetings may be convened on the call of the Chairman of the National Executive Board and shall be convened by him at the request of a majority of its members. Regular and special meetings shall be held on not less than ten (10) days' written notice. The National Executive Board shall have the following specific powers:

- (a) It shall determine all policies of the organization within the framework of such general policies as may be adopted by the National Council.

- (b) It shall consider and approve the annual budget.
- (c) It shall grant or deny all applications for affiliation from state, regional and city organizations and shall have power, for cause, to revoke any affiliation.
- (d) In the event of the death or resignation of any National Officers, it shall elect a successor to serve until the next meeting of the National Council.
- (e) It may create committees, whose members may but need not be members of the National Executive Board and delegate to such committees such powers as it may from time to time determine.

Attendance at meetings of the National Executive Board may be either in person or by a proxy, designated in writing, who need not be a member of the Board but shall be a member of the National Executive Council. One-third of the members of the National Executive Board, present at any meeting, in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum. Decisions shall be by the affirmative vote of a majority of those present, either in person or by proxy.

3. Officers.

- (a) Honorary Chairmen. The Honorary Chairmen shall perform such duties as they may from time to time volunteer to undertake.
- (b) Chairman. The Chairman shall be the principal executive officer of the Committee but shall not be required to devote full time to its work.
- (c) The Chairman of the National Council. The Chairman of the National Council shall preside at all meetings of the National Council.
- (d) The Chairman of the National Executive Board. The chairman of the National Executive Board shall preside at all meetings of the National Executive Board.

- (e) The Executive Vice-Chairman. The Executive Vice-Chairman shall be a full-time salaried officer of the Committee and shall be its principal administrative officer, serving under the direction of the Chairman.
- (f) The Vice-Chairmen. The Vice-Chairmen shall have such specific duties as the National Executive Board may from time to time determine.
- (g) The Secretary. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the National Council and the National Executive Board and shall have such other duties as are usual to his office.
- (h) The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have general supervision of the funds and books of the Committee. He shall make or cause to be made a full report of all receipts and disbursements to each meeting of the National Council and National Executive Board. He shall perform such other duties as are usual to his office.

ARTICLE VI

STATE, REGIONAL AND CITY ORGANIZATIONS

1. The National Executive Board may in its discretion grant affiliation to any state or regional organization organized for the same general purposes as the National Citizens' Political Action Committee. The National Executive Board may also grant affiliation to a city organization in a state where there is no affiliated state organization, provided that in the event a state organization subsequently affiliates, such city organization shall thereupon affiliate with it and shall no longer be directly affiliated to the National Citizens' Political Action Committee.
2. Each affiliated state and regional organization and directly affiliated city organization shall prepare by-laws for its government. All by-laws shall be submitted to and be subject to approval by the National Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII

MEMBERSHIP

All persons who make a financial contribution directly to the national organization shall be members of the National Citizens' Political Action Committee for the calendar year in which the contribution is made. Membership in the National Organization shall confer no voting rights, but shall entitle the member to receive all publications and other services extended by the National Organization to its membership. The conditions for and rights of membership in a state, regional or city organization shall be determined by the by-laws of that organization. Members of state, regional or city organizations shall be considered to be associate members of the National Organization.

ARTICLE VIII

FUNDS

1. The funds of the National Organization shall be derived, primarily, from voluntary contributions made to it and such portion of voluntary contributions made to state, regional or city affiliates as may be determined by agreement between the National Organization and each such state, regional or city affiliate.

2. The funds of the Committee shall be deposited in its name in such banks as the National Executive Board may from time to time determine and checks against such accounts shall be signed by such persons as it may from time to time designate.

ARTICLE IX

AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be amended at any time by the National Council by a majority vote at any regular meeting thereof, provided that, in the case of special meetings, notice of the proposed change in the by-laws shall be incorporated in the notice of the meetings.

ARTICLE X

TEMPORARY ORGANIZATION

The first meeting of the National Council shall be convened in September 1946 on such date and at such place as the Steering Committee may determine. The first National Council shall be constituted not less than sixty (60) days prior to such meeting in the manner provided in Article IV. Pending the first meeting of the National Council, the selection of a National Executive Board and the election of national officers as provided in these by-laws, the National Officers and members of the National Executive Board shall be persons named in the exhibit attached to these by-laws.

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4/20/46

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NATIONAL CITIZENS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

OFFICERS

Sidney Hillman - Honorary Chairman  
Elmer A. Benson - Chairman, National Executive Council  
C. B. Baldwin - Executive Vice Chairman

Vice Chairmen

Verda White Barnes	Michael M. Nisselson
Mary McLeod Bethune	Dorothy Parker
Bruce Bliven	James G. Patton
Evans Carlson	Gifford Pinchot
Don Chapman	Morris Rosenthal
Bartley C. Crum	R. J. Thomas
Mrs. Marshall Field	Channing H. Tobias
Mrs. J. Borden Harriman	J. Raymond Walsh
Robert W. Kenny	Mrs. Edward M. M. Warburg
Frank Kingdon	Orson Welles
Freda Kirchwey	A. F. Whitney
Max Lerner	R. R. Wright, Jr.

John Abt	-	General Counsel
Jerome I. Udell	-	Treasurer
James H. McGill	-	Comptroller
Clark Foreman	-	Secretary

STEERING COMMITTEE

Frank Kingdon - Chairman

John Abt	James H. McGill
C. B. Baldwin	Charles Megan
Verda White Barnes	Vernon E. Mikkelson
Elmer A. Benson	Philip Murray
Mary McLeod Bethune	Patrick Nertncy
Van A. Bittner	Michael M. Nisselson
Bruce Bliven	Dorothy Parker
Harry Braverman	James G. Patton
Mrs. Howard Brubaker	Miles Pennybacker
Angus Cameron	Hon. & Mrs. Gifford Pinchot
Evans Carlson	Liston Pope
Charlotte Carr	Martin Popper
Don Chapman	Jacob Potofsky
Oliver H. Clapp	George L. Quilici
Bartley C. Crum	Ralph H. Read
Melvyn Douglas	Morris Rosenthal
Mrs. Clifford Durr	David F. Seiferheld
Mrs. Marshal Field	Michael Straight
Clark Foreman	Rose Terlin
Kenneth I. Fulton	R. J. Thomas
Elinor S. Gimbel	Paul Tishman
Mrs. J. Borden Harriman	Channing H. Tobias
Sidney Hillman	Jerome I. Udell
James Imbrie	J. Raymond Walsh
Mrs. Howard Mumford Jones	Mrs. Edward M. M. Warburg
Robert W. Kenny	Robert C. Weaver
Freda Kirchwey	Louis S. Weiss
Abner Larson	Orson Welles
Max Lerner	A. F. Whitney
Lucy Randolph Mason	R. R. Wright, Jr.

I. A. Wyner