THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN


Saturday, 11th October; 1.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
17 branches represented by 26 delegates. Not represented: Edinburgh; West Yorkshire.

Sunday, 12th October; 11.15 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.
17 branches represented by 25 delegates. Not represented: Edinburgh; West Yorkshire.

Collections: Saturday - £23.83
            Sunday - £27.40
1. **Chairman**
   Ode H Vallor (Glasgow) was nominated for the chair. It was
   agreed by the delegates that Ode Vallor take the chair.

2. **Deputy Chairman**
   It was agreed no member be appointed at this stage of the
   proceedings.

3. **Lates forces C**
   Redbridge, Jlnagow, and Paddington Branches requested permis-
   sion to sit. It was agreed they be permitted to sit.

4. **Procedure**
   Delegations agreed they would take items for discussion with
   the relevant ones on the Executive Committee’s Report.

5. **Executive Committee’s Report of Annual
   Delegates Meeting for the period 1.1.40 to 30.6.40**

5.1 **Executive Committee Attendance**
   Taken with this was the Paddington
   Branch Item for Discussion (2) “The Executive Committee’s inability to make
   executive decisions.”

   Points raised: Executive Committee had dithered in making decisions; continually
   deferring items (e.g., Barzim Economics Pamphlet, Trade’s Union Pamphlet, Draft
   should be examined – the Executive Committee to make executive decisions, while
   routine matters were run by the sub-committees. It was unnecessary for the full
   Executive Committee to consider longlets, 2-3 Executive Committee members could
   consider it off the Executive Committee table and report back the same night by
   10 p.m. Executive Committee business must be less now than it was after the
   war, when the membership was larger. Some Executive Committee members appear
   afraid to make a decision. With the Economics Pamphlet Conference had put the
   Executive Committee in a dilemma with the opposing resolutions telling the
   Executive Committee to both publish it immediately, and yet all pamphlets. A
   smaller membership need not mean less work (if they are more active). Executive
   Committee decisions have slowed up because the Executive Committee is trying
   to consider what is the Party view – they wish to be seen to be democratic.

5.2 **Branches, Membership & Organisation**
   It was agreed by the delegates to con-
   sider also the the three Items for Discussion as follows:
   Item 3
   London Branch “The best method of paying dues.”
   Item 4
   Southend Branch “Are dues stamps necessary?”
   Item 5
   Redbridge Branch “The advisability of raising dues to, say, 90p per
   month (with proportional increase to Head Office) as soon as possible and hence-
   forth the amount of dues payable to be automatically reviewed at each Conference.”

   The whole item had arisen from when the General Secretary had asked the Exe-
   cutive Committee to be allowed to re-order a supply of dues stamps. If the
   Treasurer kept records there would be no need for stamps; Head Office could check if
   a correct amount had been submitted by reference to the Form C. If stamps are
   the best way to collect the money for Head Office, then okay. An index could
   be used to regularly review the dues amount and Conference could then agree it.
   Dues are automatically reviewed by Conference, the amendments to resolution
   rather than an index gives notice of what is intended. The General Secretary
   then read the footnote to the 26th Executive Committee Meeting concerning dues
   stamps with four alternative methods of collection. Dues stamps ensure Head
   Office gets the money in advance; they are reliable for sloppy organisations.
   Dues should keep in line with inflation. Stamps can be lost or stolen. It used
   to be a view of the Party that there should be no dues, or they be kept to a
   minimum. Opposed to the Executive Committee being given any more powers. The
   cost of receipts should be considered as well as the cost of printing dues
   stamps.

6. **It was agreed by Delegates that the Bolton Deleg-**
   tate be allowed to sit despite
   his credentials not yet being received by Standing Orders Committee.

7. **Cde Healy of Vancouver (Socialist Party of Canada)** addressed the Delegates on
   activities in Canada, U.S.A. and Austria.

5. **Executive Committee Report continued**

5.1 **Auditors Report**
   It was agreed to defer consideration until Sunday when the
   Auditors would be present.

5.4 **Estates Management Committee**
   No discussion.

5.5 **Press Organizer**
   No discussion.

5.6 **Propaganda Information Bank**
   No discussion.

5.7 **Propaganda Committee**
   It was agreed to take Item for Discussion No.13.

   The Paddington Branch “The current alarming tension of world capitalism in 1980 –
   is the World Socialist movement doing enough?”

   Before starting the item for discussion, Delegates considered the question of
   Canvey Hall Lecture. Delegates were informed that the Executive Committee
   considered their resolution not to hold a Friday night rally, but had not
   put any further resolutions pending hearing the Delegates’ views. Dele-
   gates who spoke were in favour of a meeting. Suggestions included a film;
a debate; more use of outside of London speakers; rallies on Sunday were successful as workers had little else to do; video film recorders; the use of posters to advertise meetings in general (the most cost effective, but little used in England). The Propaganda Committee said they had noted all that was said and would consider it all. It was suggested a debate would be unlikely on Good Friday (difficulty in getting an opponent); problems with films due to copyright (similar with video tapes).

It was appreciated that members were now more active, but had the effort been worthwhile? In reply, it was suggested that unsuccessful branch meetings were the ones that had not been organized enough. Membership had increased during the half year - 498 to 515. The Propaganda Committee can only exist by co-ordinating work it is informed of and to this end new forms A were available.

Following the adjournment for ten (4 to 4.30 p.m.) the Item 13 for Discussion was considered. Islington Branch had sent a circular to branches before the Annual Delegate Meeting, which was used as the basis of discussion and which led their Delegates to moving 5 floor resolutions after the discussion. Points raised were:

- targets would encourage members to work, sell the Socialist Standard, etc.;
- the Party must be active in dealing with problems which arise in capitalism; need
topical leaflets;
- make a greater use of Head Office; get away from the idea that
the Form A is all the education that is needed; the Party should be in a hurry,
growth is important; we must carry out our principles vigorously.
A branch that is
now moribund would have been very active in the past; members must be careful not to
burn themselves out; our capacity is limited. By Socialist movement, Islington
meant the Socialist Party of Great Britain and the Companion Parties not 'left wing
groups'. Knowledge did not end with the Form A, that is where it began. There was
a danger of a 'right wing movement' leading the workers - especially in the Midlands.
They use similar phrases to us at the first step and we must get the working class
beyond that first step. Members' state of mind is important - they are surprised
at what they can do when they make up their mind. Do not want to deter enthusiasm,
but also do not want to see members disillusioned. Members do not have a sense of
urgency - this is wrong - activity makes activity. In the past, the old members
and the Socialist Standard had a sense of urgency. There were various reasons why
this had gone. The ideas for Socialism are working in the minds of the working
class; we should forget about the word dogma, but stress we have a unique case on
everything including war ... tell those groups to forget C.W. - women's Lib, the
whole lot - and look at capitalism for what it is and make sure they see we are
different. If we do not give the impression of urgency we will appear Utopian.
Extra activity need not bring extra members (e.g. Glasgow in the early 60's contested
4 Parliamentary elections, and even sold pamphlets on the knocker when all their
Socialist Standards had been sold, but nothing tangible had been gained). However,
we should not sit around. The working class currently yawns at nuclear war, Vietnam -
they are indifferent. Socialism does not directly depend on our growth. Members
should not be suspicious of each other motives; either the stick-in-the-mud old
men, or the young fire brands ... both have their place. We are still alive in a
world which has had nuclear weapons for over 30 years and many wars - not (yet) in
the capitalists interest to use them. Preference of persuasions and example to
pressurising members; better to have a more central Head Office. Our purpose is to
provide a focal point for the working class to organize themselves around. The old
one tried ways were the best in their time, but need not necessarily be so now and
we must get in on the communications revolution (e.g. video). Readies: targets must
be set, otherwise members will become disillusioned.

Floor Resolutions, all moved by G. Slapper and S Duwatt (both of Islington Branch)

1. "That this Annual Delegate Meeting recommends that the Party should set a target
of printing and selling 7,000 Socialist Standards per month by September, 1981."
   Amendment Selwyn & Tanner (Paddington): "Delete 7,000 and replace with 6,000."
   Carried 12-0
   Amendment D. Davies & A. Davies (GWLondon): "Delete 6,000; replace with 5,000."
   Lost 4-12. The Sub resolution was Carried 12-0.

7. "That this Annual Delegate Meeting recommends that the Executive Committee should
urge the New Pamphlets Committee to produce regular, topical leaflets for the
purpose of mass distribution - 20,000 copies of a leaflet (a mere 1,000 per branch) is
the least that should be produced."
   Amendment (Cook & Selwyn): "Delete all after 'mass distribution'." Carried 13-8
   Sub Resolution Carried 20-0

8. "That this Annual Delegate Meeting recommends that all branches and groups be
practically encouraged to run at least one outdoor speaking station." Carried 12-0

4. "That this Annual Delegate Meeting recommends that the Executive Committee be
urged to set up an inquiry into the use of Head Office."

   Amendment (Cook & Selwyn): "Insert 'more extensive' between 'the' and 'use of Head Office'." Carried 12-0
   Sub Resolution Agreed

5. "That this Annual Delegate Meeting recommends that branches be practically
5.7 Floor Resolution 2. contd ... encouraged to run public issues at least 4 times a year. The Executive Committee should investigate the Party on branches failing to meet this norm so that there can be full discussion as to how the branch can be helped. Carried 16-5.

Annual Delegate Meeting adjourned Saturday and recommenced at 11.45 a.m. Sunday.

5.8 Auditors Report At the request of the Treasurer the Auditors Report was re-raised. However, there was no discussion.

5.9 Overseas Contacts & International Secretary A branch raised the point that our Austrian comrades seemed to be raising matters of controversy, namely the Nuclear Power Station Referendum. The Overseas Contacts Secretary reported that the Executive Committee had asked a member to write on their behalf, but no reply had been received to date. In his letter on this matter, though they had asked for other letters on the issue. It was felt that the B.B.S. was dragging its feet and hoping the Party would drop the matter, but we should be as strict with the Comman Party as with our own members transgressions. It was felt that criticism should not be harsh in cases of the B.B.S. collapsed, but had they not taken the line of the left wing Social Democrat in Germany on the T.U. ticket? A Delegate asked if a member who had just returned from Vienna could be contacted by telephone. This was agreed. Discussion continued, points raised being: that there were grounds for concern, but voting 'No' in the referendum is not necessarily the same as the opposite of 'Yes'; the actions were reformist; the actions were politically ill-advised, but not reformist; and that the journal contained advertisements for members' businesses (heating appliances). Jacob had placed advertisements in the Socialist Standard during the first year. We tell people to put 'VOTE SOCIALIST' on their ballot papers and they should be able to understand this basic issue.

Floor Resolution moved by Vanni & Howson (Glasgow) "This Annual Delegate Meeting recommends that the Executive Committee press the Austrian comrades for a reply to our criticism of their participation in the anti-nuclear referendum." The Party's position was not clear, for example Socialist representatives in Parliament would vote "No" on War Credits. Act in favour of pressing the issue - they were not a colonial possession.

Addendum moved by D Davies (Ealing) & F Ambridge (Swansea) "... after seeking advice from Cde Lawrence, who had just returned from visiting the Austrian cdes."

The Assistant General Secretary reported she had contacted Cde Lawrence, who had been ill during his visit and had seen Cde Falk only. It was nonsense to say that they were Social Democrats - one or two were certainly very sound. The addendum was withdrawn with the agreement of the delegates. A Delegate asked "had not other Companions strayed in the past?" Non-Socialist activity is reformist - will bring in non-Socialists and weaken the Socialists' strength. Try and help them by saying its wrong and put the sound members on their mettle. If a statement is issued contrary to our stand, we must criticise; saying it is not our position. If they diverge then they are simply not in agreement. The "No" was at the end of a long article. When the Party considered the European Economic Community referendum, we would have tolerated no-one say "No". The journal should not be in the hands of a member advertising revenue. The vote was Lost 11-12.

5.10 Publicity Committee No discussion.

5.11 Head Office Assistant The Head Office Assistant considered that Head Office needed someone in attendance four or five days per week and if someone was found she would happily give up the job in January.

5.12 Central Branch Secretaries No discussion.

5.13 Ballot Committee No discussion.

6. At this point Delegates complained that not enough copies of the Executive Committee's Report had been received, as well as a number of reports being received late. The General Secretary apologised, assuring delegates this would not happen next time; it had clearly resulted due to a misunderstanding of the numbers of reports wanted by branches and Executive Committee sub-committees submitting their reports too late.

5.14 Socialist Standard Production Committee Policy of themes not liked if too often used, as they effected sales. Too many mistakes in proof reading. Special issues directed interest and were an aid to sales. In the 'Benn Interview' we should have attacked Labour's Clause 4 'means of exchange'. In reply, the Socialist Standard Production Committee said 'Benn' was an innovation, not a secret. The problem in the article was to summarise an interview to be readable. Regardless of themes, they were in a difficulty - proof reading was difficult, they tried to be careful, but afterwards could only print a correction.

North East Branch Item for Discussion No. 8 "Should more space in the Socialist Standard be spent on Socialist theory?" Opener asked if, when theory was put in the Socialist Standard, could it be put in a simpler fashion. More difficult items could be included in a periodical, inserted quarterly in the Socialist Standard - possibly an extra sum could be paid. Sometimes can only be expressed in a difficult way, no matter how simply expressed. More theoretical articles wanted on
North West London Branch

Item for Discussion No. 9

"Methods of determining increases in the price of the Socialist Standard." The executive committee must review the price each year. The Socialist Standard must make a profit or just cover the cost of production or be subsidised. It has been 15p since 1976 and 20p would just cover costs. It could be 25p by next conference.

Floor Resolution: Selwyn & Smith (Paddington) "This Delegate Meeting recommends to the Executive Committee that the price of the Socialist Standard be raised to 20p from the November issue." The Party needed a dynamic, but unencumbered, process to determine the price because of inflation. It could be left to the Executive Committee. The Party should subsidise the Socialist Standard. It is in place already and to set it at 15p - 25p would increase sales resistance and work against the target set yesterday. The Executive Committee does have the power to determine the price and does not need to leave it to the Annual Delegate Meeting or Conference. It must be recognised subsidies come from somewhere, and we must not depend on legacies to continue the Socialist Standard.

The effect of a price rise is more on the seller than the buyer of the Socialist Standard. No regular sales has been lost by price rises. The Executive Committee may have delayed putting the price up as they would probably have wanted the Party behind them on such an important issue. Ask the executive committee to recommend a price each year to Conference. Concerning costs: would the Party wish the discount to branches who order over 3 dozen to be stopped? The Floor Resolution was carried 18-2.

Birmingham Branch

Item for Discussion No. 11

"The unsatisfactory pictorial contents of the Socialist Standard." Many illustrations were irrelevant to articles. Too many illustrations. They should be used only when the words by 'staining' more in the same space. Pictures on the cover help sell the Socialist Standard; they attract people to it. Illustrations had the advantage of illustrating a point in the text (difficult to achieve); giving help to text and finally, though rarely, making a point in themselves. For the Socialist Standard Production Committee, it was stated illustrations were not going in at the expense of words - using the smaller typeset, the word count in the October, 1980 Socialist Standard was 18,500 compared to 14,500 in January, 1978; books have always used illustrations since before printing ever; agreed some were not good and appealed for photos; would like graphs, charts and photos in a vast bank. Members could check quality by putting a tissue over the black and white picture and that would show the result after being printed. A member(s) could take photographs in liaison with the Socialist Standard Production Committee. All should have a caption, as not everyone may read the text at the time they see the picture. In canvassing the Socialist Standard 'on the knocker' a good illustrated cover is helpful.

Annual Delegate Meeting adjourned from 2 p.m. to 2.50 p.m.

5.15 Central Organising

No discussion.

5.16 Literature Secretary

There were 1,250 copies of the War Pamphlet at Head Office.

5.17 New Pamphlets Committee

Taken with this were 2 items for Discussion No. 6

North West London Branch

"The interpretation of Conference 1980 Resolution 6 A (Carried 27-21) which reads 'What this Conference endorses the recommendation of the 1979 Delegate Meeting that the Executive Committee adhere to the practice of reading the drafts of pamphlets at the Executive Committee table, then ensuring that any errors, ambiguity or unsound arguments occurring in the text are dealt with prior to publication' and what constitutes a pamphlet?"

In the event of a future series of articles in the same form as the Marxist Economics Pamphlet, they should be vetted by the Executive Committee. It had been expected the Executive Committee would have vetted the Marxist Economics Pamphlet. It was to
Production Committee for pamphlets. The New Pamphlets Committee had been asked to report on it and all the points they had made were accepted. There was no reason to change the present way. The present way was not necessarily the best. The delays in issuing the Marxian Economics Pamphlets were mainly due to printing problems. It was not easy to correct a mistake in a pamphlet being one-off, unlike the continuous Socialist Standard. Some members could see no contradiction in the two resolutions passed at Conference. Pamphlets could be produced quicker without loss in quality.

7. At the request of the General Secretary, it was agreed to send the Delegates’ Prerogative Greetings to all the Companion Parties.

5.17 contd...

B Item for Discussion No. 7 Birmingham Branch "The Marxian Economics Pamphlets.” Cottis (Southend) and Yanni (Glasgow) "Next business."

C Item for Discussion No. 12 Islington Branch "Is it necessary for the Party’s Declaration of Principles and Object to appear on all leaflets advertising propaganda meetings."

The Islington Branch Delegate expanded their case, which had been made by them in their circular. They included the problems of typing a stencil; reproduction; the Declaration of Principles inhibited the flow of reading; they favoured the object appearing. They must recognise conditions have changed over the years. No Declaration of Principles would reduce printing costs. Labour Party uses ‘common ownership’ but has no Declaration of Principles.

Floor Resolution: B. G. Slapper and Grant (Islington Branch) "That this Annual Delegate Meeting recommends that it should not be a requirement that leaflets advertising a meeting with text included must on all occasions carry the Declaration of Principles."

Amendment: Cottis and Wilson (Southend Branch) "Insert ‘very limited’ before ‘text.’"

Most people who receive a leaflet do not attend the meeting, therefore give them something to read instead. Duplicated leaflets cost between 5s and 10s per 1,000.

Delegates heard the 1958 and 1971 Conference resolutions on the matter and it was decided the Floor Resolutions were in order. The Amendment was lost 10-12. The Resolution was Carried 15-6.

5.18 Forms A Committee No discussion.
5.19 Types Committee No discussion.
5.20 Review Journal Secretary No discussion.
5.21 Library Committee No discussion.
5.22 Membership Committee No discussion.
5.23 Book Department No discussion.
5.24 Education Committee and Education Organiser Under this heading were taken:

5.24 contd...

A Camden Branch Item for Discussion No. 14 "The present Education Bulletins; their contents and purpose." B Camden Branch Item for Discussion No. 15 "The Education Committee’s Bulletin Bulletins."

They are of great value, but need classes to go with them. The effort put into them has not been fully used and they had become an end in themselves. They should be more practical as not all members have the time to fully research items before putting them over to non-Socialists. They are difficult to understand. Found stimulating for discussion, but should not be treated as gospel. Delegates discussed the influence or not of Spencer on early members, as well as other early influences. Education classes had been poorly attended – possibly as members tend to vote with their feet when frightened off by material. There will always be questions we cannot answer. We need an elementary set of classes, based on the Speakers’ Test Questions. We need to transmit knowledge in an encouraging way. The Education Committee stated the Bulletins had been based on the discussion at classes; they maintained a mailing list for those members who especially wanted a copy otherwise a few were sent to each branch; at the end of each bulletin questions were added so that members could correspond, but these would not be published; future classes would be simpler; the committee felt members were trying to stab them in the back. It was also reported that there had been problems in distributing copies through Head Office and it was felt that this may have been over unclear instructions.

5.25 Press Officer No discussion.
5.26 Socialist Standard Subscribers’ Committee No discussion.

A motion to adopt the Executive Committee’s Report to 1960 Annual Delegate Meeting was agreed being moved by D. Davies (North West London Branch) and H. Cottis (Southend).
be hoped the Executive Committee could develop a system like the Socialist Production Committee for pamphlets. The New Pamphlets Committee had been set up to report on it and all the points they had made were accepted. There was no wish to change the present system. The present way was not necessarily the best. The delays on issuing the Marxism Pamphlets were mainly due to printing problems. It was not easy to correct a mistake in a pamphlet being one-off, unlike the continuous Socialist Standard. Some members could see no contradiction in the two resolutions passed at Conference. Pamphlets could be produced quicker without a loss in quality.

7. At the request of the General Secretary, it was agreed to send to the delegates at the General Conference all the Chairman’s reports to the conference.

5.17 contd ...

B Item for Discussion No. 15 Islington Branch: "The Marxism Pamphlets..."
Adopted unanimously. Agreed.

5.17 contd ...

C Item for Discussion No. 16 Islington Branch: "Is it necessary for the Party’s Declaration of Principles and Object to appear on all leaflet advertising propaganda meetings?"

The Islington Branch Delegate expanded their case, which had been made in their circular. They included: the problem of typing a stencil reproduction; the Declaration of Principles inhibited the flow of readings; they favoured the object appearing. They raised the question of whether the Declaration of Principles would reduce printing costs. Labour Party use ‘common ownership’ but there is no Declaration of Principles.

Floor resolution: S. Sutcliffe and Grant (Islington Branch) "This annual Delegate Meeting recognises that it should be a requirement that leaflets advertising a meeting with text included must on all occasions carry the Declaration of Principles."

Amendment: Cottis and Wilson (Islington Branch) "Insert ‘very limited’ before ‘to text.’"

Most people who receive a leaflet do not attend the meeting, therefore give them something to read instead. Suggested leaflets cost between 50 and 80 per 1,000. Delegates heard the 1935 and 1971 Conference resolutions on the matter and it was decided the Floor Resolution were in order. The Amendment was rejected by 12 votes.

5.18 Appeal to a Committee
No discussion.

5.19 Adjourn Committee
No discussion.

5.20 Review Journal Secretary
No discussion.

5.21 Library Committee
No discussion.

5.22 Property and Equipment Committee
No discussion.

5.23 Book Department
No discussion.

5.24 Education Committee and Education Department
Under this heading were taken:

A Islington Branch Item for Discussion No. 17: "The present Education Bulletin: does it serve its purpose?"

B Cottis Branch Item for Discussion No. 18: "The Education Committee’s Discussion Bulletin:"

They are of great value, but need classes to go with them. The effort put into this has not been fully used and they have become an end in themselves. They should be more practical as not all members have the time to fully research items before putting them out to non-socialists. They are difficult to understand. Found stimulating for discussion, but should not be treated as gospel. Delegates discussed the influence of not having access to early members, as well as other early influences. Education classes had been poorly attended - possibly as members tended to vote with their feet when frightened off by material. There will always be questions we cannot answer. We need an elementary set of classes, based on the speakers’ text questions. We need to transmit knowledge in an encouraging way. The Education Committee stated the Bulletins had been based on the discussion at classes; they maintained a mailing list for those members who especially wanted a copy. Otherwise a few were sent to each branch at the end of each bulletin questions were added so that members could correspond, but those would not be published; future classes would be simpler; the committee felt members were trying to stuff the bag in both of them. It was also reported that there had been problems in distributing copies through head Office and it was felt that this may have been over unclear instructions.

5.25 Press Officer
No discussion.

5.26 Socialist Standard Subscribers’ Committee
No discussion.

A motion to adopt the Executive Committee’s report to 1930 annual Delegate Meeting was agreed being moved by B. Davies (north west London Branch) and R. Cottis (Southend).

5.24 contd ...

C Paddington Branch Item for Discussion No. 16: "What is the most effective form of education for the Party and for whom should it cater?"

Delegates expressed their pleasure that education was being discussed.
be hoped the Executive Committee could develop a system like the Socialist Production Committee for pamphlets. The New Pamphlets Committee had been asked to report on it and all the points they had made were accepted. There was no reason to change the present way. The present way was not necessarily the best. The delays on issuing the Marxist Economics Pamphlets were mainly due to printing problems. It was not easy to correct a mistake in a pamphlet being one-off, unlike the continuous Socialist Standard. Some members could see no contradiction in the two resolutions passed at Conference. Pamphlets could be produced quicker without loss in quality.

7. At the request of the General Secretary, it was agreed to send the Delegates' Fraternal Greetings to all the Companion Parties.

5.17 contd...

B Item for Discussion No. 7 Birmingham Branch "The Marxist Economics Pamphlets." Cottis (Southend) and Vanni (Glasgow) "next business." Agreed.

5.17 contd...

C Item for Discussion No. 12 Islington Branch "Is it necessary for the Party's Declaration of Principles and Object to appear on all leaflets advertising propaganda meetings."

The Islington Branch Delegate expanded their case, which had been made in their circular. They included: the problems of typing a stencil; reproduction; the Declaration of Principles inhibited the flow of reading; they favoured the object appearing. We must recognize conditions have changed over the years. No Declaration of Principles would reduce printing costs. Labour Party uses 'common ownership' but has no Declaration of Principles.

Floor Resolution: B. G. Slapper and Grant (Islington Branch) "That this Annual Delegate Meeting recommends that it should not be a requirement that leaflets advertising a meeting with text included must on all occasions carry the Declaration of Principles."

Amendment: Cottis and Wilson (Southend Branch) "Insert 'very limited' before 'text'."

Most people who receive a leaflet do not attend the meeting, therefore give them something to read instead. Duplication leaflets cost between £5 and £10 per 1,000.

Delegates heard the 1976 and 1977 Conference resolutions on the matter and it was decided the Floor resolutions were in order. The Amendment was lost 10-12. The resolution was Carried 11-5.

5.18 Form a Committee. No discussion.

5.19 Think Committee. No discussion.

5.20 Review Journal Secretary. No discussion.

5.21 Librarian Committee. No discussion.

5.22 Library Department. No discussion.

5.23 Book Department. No discussion.

5.24 Education Committee and Education Organiser. Under this heading were taken:

A Lewisham Branch Item for Discussion No. 34 "The present Education Bulletins; their contents and purpose." B. Cottis Branch Item for Discussion No. 35 "The Education Committee's discussion Bulletins."

They are of great value, but need classes to go with them. The effort put into them has not been fully used and they have become an end in themselves. They should be more practical as not all members have the time to fully research items before putting them over to non-socialists. They are difficult to understand. Found stimulating for discussion, but should not be treated as gospel. Delegates discussed the influence or not of Spencer on early members, as well as other early influences. Education classes had been poorly attended - possibly as members tend to vote with their feet when frightened off by material. There will always be questions; we cannot answer. We need an elementary set of classes, based on the Speakers' Test Questions. We need to transmit knowledge in an encouraging way. The Education Committee stated the Bulletins had been based on the discussion at classes; they maintained a mailing list for those members who especially wanted a copy otherwise a few were sent to each branch; at the end of each bulletin questions were asked so that members could correspond, but these would not be published; future classes would be simpler; the committee felt members were trying to solve them in the back. It was also reported that there had been problems in distributing copies through Head Office and it was felt that this may have been over unclear instructions.

5.25 Press Officer. No discussion.

5.26 Socialist Standard Subscribers' Committee. No discussion.

A motion to adopt the Executive Committee's report to 1969 Annual Delegate Meeting was agreed to moving by J. Davies (North West London Branch) and L. Cottis.

5.24 contd...

B Paddington Branch Item for Discussion No. 16 "What is the most effective form of education for the Party and for whom should it cater?" Delegates expressed their pleasure that education was being discussed.
Items for Discussion Remaining

North West London Branch - No. 17 “Electoral Activity.”

Branches should have a committee room, show they are active and committed. It was appreciated Bolton intended standing at the next General Election. In London, the old elections should be contested, they required no deposit and we could make an impact if several branches stood. Use the freepost and Central Branch members to write the envelopes. Even if we have no candidates in a constituency, we should regard ourselves as ‘contesting’ and be active as best we can. We need more forward and systematic planning - the 25 point questionnaire used at Bolton was very encouraging.

5.1 Holborn Branch - No. 10 “Should a period of time be set aside at Conference for dealing with items for discussion not linked to instructed resolutions?”

We need a more organised Conference; particular times for certain items; it is unsatisfactory for the General Secretary initiating matters by the order he draws up the Executive Committee Report; should go by the Agenda and fit the Executive Committee Report into it, not the other way round. Could act the Standing Orders Committee, who drew up the Agenda, work closer with the General Secretary? Delegates always have the authority to decide the order of business, a half hour could be set aside for delegates to consider the order of business. The whole work of the Party, contained in the Executive Committee Report, must be looked at.

Annual Delegate Meeting adjourned at 6.30 p.m.