The General Secretary called the conference to order at 11 a.m.

Chairman - W. Waters
Vice-Chairman - A. Smallgrove
Secretary - Turner, Hopwood, Clare and Brakney.

REPORT OF THE 34TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(a) BRANCHES AND MEMBERSHIP

Items (a), (b), (c) and (d) - No action

(4) PROPAGANDA

(a) Full-time provincial propagandist/organiser etc.

RESOLUTION - Bloomsbury Branch. "That in view of our relatively weak financial position, this conference instructs the E.C. not to proceed with the amalgamation of Provincial Propagandist/Organiser with Propagandist/Organiser, but that the position be reviewed in 1926 and reported to the 44th Annual Conference"

A noaholster delegate said that the resolution closed the door for at least a year, a fact that the propaganda was providing. In his opinion quick action should be taken by all to get propaganda as quickly as possible. S. London said that we cannot afford an organiser and if conditions permitted it is presumed that the E.C. would proceed with the amalgamation. Previous paid organiser should be a vacuum cleaner and the idea that the provincial organisation had been in the minds of members for a long time. As a result of that organisation to come to the conference would be necessary to do the work of the provincial areas. The Trade Unions. Members in particular should write to the Socialist Standard and in the provincial areas so that we should quickly organise the Unions with our ideas. It is possible to keep a member on the editorial committee, because if the above method were used we should gain large numbers of workers ready for our movement - it would take time before we got substantial results. Members in the provincial felt isolated and we should do what we can for them.

The Resolution was carried 50-17.

RESOLUTION - Millen and Billinge (Paddington). "That this conference considers that the Provincial Propagandist/Organiser ventur was not worth while and that it was ill advised and badly carried out."

Paddington opened by saying that the conference had just turned down a proposal on the grounds of finances, but this was not necessarily the only reason. Part of the party's financial position is probably due to the fact that a large part of party finances had been spent on the venture which we should have known at the beginning was going to be successful. In any event we cannot now get anyone to do the job. We should not have attacked so much on the party. The party had been too optimistic and had surrounded the problem with too many restrictions as to the qualifications required of the organiser. The exception on our part would have brought out even the best man and the resolution confirmed that for the man who had done the job. Another Paddington delegate claimed that the project was premature and this province was not yet ready for full-time workers. S. London said that we want to see a man in every province to handle our work and our real task is the education of party members. At this stage the party must carry the burden of the party in the province for the last few years dealing with the scheme of full-time members. E.C. members said that conference had been at fault in the first instance in insisting on an organiser and not a propaganda. Over 1,000 of party money had been wasted. The party however, cannot grow without paid or unpaid full-time workers. It must be remembered that no one can work full time in the province. We can only speak five or six times a week and members in provincial branches cannot do adequate support. Let us concentrate on propaganda - we need a lot of them. Bloomsbury thought that whatever propaganda had been carried out was worth while, and the provincial branches on the spot had said with their hands which the scheme had not been as optimistic, the motor had been discussed at length, and the money for the scheme had been largely specially donated by members and sympathisers. The idea of a full-time worker had not been an attempt to get round and get rid of the scheme - it was merely a question of money. When we have the money we should continue the project. The aim of the Paddington resolution was really to restrict provincial propaganda. A previous paid member said that he had been very well satisfied with the result, and the project was not given his hands. We had worked with the secretary of Central branch who had given him lists of members in various areas. If we do not organise the province we shall become a knot and move in a circle. We must go to the industrial branches. We must also view the project from the standpoint of the working-class and not the party as a whole. A Paddington delegate said that the scheme had been very well worth while. Mistakes may have been made but we must learn by experience. What standard of measurement of success could we apply.
The branch had been carrying on propaganda right throughout the season and the branch had been successful in it, but the value of propaganda was not to be judged by hard cash alone, and the value of the propaganda had been judged by the results obtained. It was difficult to assess the results of propaganda, it was the value of propaganda that was being judged. The branch had been carrying on propaganda for long periods by London propagandists in Manchester before the war had been carried on long periods by London propagandists in Manchester before the war. E. J. M. had thought that the resolution should have been passed for Manchester to have had the same propaganda as London meetings had helped provincial branches as many provincial workers heard us here. Any future propaganda must be gone into very carefully. This one had been handled by too much machinery and too many reports. The resolution was lost 9-34.

RESOLUTION - Bristish and Billingham [Paddington]: "That when the finances of the branch are more favourable, the E.C.G. should consider the appointment of a full-time speaker in the London area."

Paddington said that it was not a question of London versus the provinces, but that the party had more support in London than in the provinces, and there was plenty of work to be done by the party in London."

RESOLUTION [Lawrence and D'Arcy "Next Business" Carried 24-16.

Item for discussion (iv) - Croydon: "That the advisability be considered in conjunction with future full-time propagandist appointments of the purchasing and equipping of a small motor vehicle for the purposes of carrying literature, party literature etc., wherever the party may wish, and that the party equip a mobile propaganda unit."

We must put the question of full-time members on a more business like basis in the future if Croydon. Organizers in the provinces have the difficulty of getting out of the way place, carrying platforms around, and keeping with them adequate supplies of literature. S.P. London said we should consider something like the old Clarion vans. Any party activity must be done in the party and not at any provincial workers heard us here. Any future propaganda must be gone into very carefully. This one had been handled by too much machinery and too many reports. The resolution was lost 9-34.

(c) Propaganda (general)

RESOLUTION (8) - Croydon branch: "That the E.C.G. be instructed that criticism of the utterance of a party representative at a public meeting shall not necessarily be deemed to be action detrimental to the interests of the Party."

Croydon said that on the surface it appeared that members should not speak or not at meetings, but that action could be taken if the speaker at an outdoor meeting became neurotic by questioning and made a mistake. He did not want members of the party to have a false impression of what he stood for. This sort of thing happened when members were allowed to point out to the speaker and the audience were not correct. Paddington said the party did not want members to be inflammatory on a question like this. In any event there was no party rule on the question.

S.P. London said that when party members were not consistent with definite ruling, but with the generally accepted definition of party discipline at meetings. They did not oppose members at a meeting a thing that the speaker had made an incorrect statement. The members were not to the party and not to the speaker alone. The time to correct such mistakes is when it is made.

The resolution was lost 28-36.

Item for discussion (ii) - Manchester: "In party propaganda appropriate to the present political situation?"

Manchester felt that looking at the international situation as a whole, there was little of our literature (and also propaganda of our propagandists) dealing with the present situation between Russia and U.S.A. and this would stimulate interest if this and other vital current topics were dealt with. "We are told that party propagandists are continually dealing with these questions and we do not consider that the ground was sufficiently covered in the Socialism Standard."

S.P. London said that propaganda was quite appropriate for the purpose it had in view - the establishment of a socialist system of society. Paddington also said that we should have information to deal adequately with international affairs. Are the facts available? The propaganda must. The party must have information to deal adequately with international affairs? Are the facts available? We cannot build a socialist society on facts. This sort of self-criticism arises from disappointment with the progress of the party. We must not know if we are taking steps in view of the development of atomic warfare. It had been said that the atomic bomb could wipe out Great Britain industrially. We must study this in its
Item for discussion (iii) - Kingston branch. "Payment for entrance to party meetings".

Kingston said that these organisations which charge an admission, fee get very few paying audiences, while we pay as much as they do for the same good results. We charge for our literature - why not for our meetings. If workers pay to come in they will think the meeting must be worth while. Paddington said that party propaganda pays quite well. We should get better financial results if we could charge for admission. How can we compare our support with that received by organisations with large memberships? West Ham said that the only organisation which makes adequate charging for admission is the Communist Party. They have active members in the Trade Unions who work in the branches persuading members to buy tickets.

Bloombury urged that once we start this sort of thing by initiating them, Bloombury urged that once we start this sort of thing we immediately conclude some workers from our meetings. The only time other political parties got crowded meetings was at elections. Furthermore said that at 80% of our audiences are members of the party, so that by charging admission fees we should be making a levy on members who already contribute to the funds. Let us discuss this question when we have a large number of non-members at our meetings. An E.C. member said that if Kingston questioned the success of meetings in their own area in relation to the amount obtained by other organisations this was due to the fact that Kingston was a new branch and had not yet carried out much work there.

RESOLUTION - Lewes and D'Arcy (Bloombury) "That this conference endorses the policy of the party with regard to the free admission to all party meetings". Adopted Nov. 16.

Item for discussion (iv) - Kingston branch. "Propaganda to Youth organisations".

Kingston said that there were a number of community centres around London with youth organisations attached to them which ran debates. Open forums of this type should join them if their aims were not in conflict with our principles, and we should then be able to get in with our speakers. S.W. London wanted us to use our limited means to the best possible extent in going against getting in. Most of these movements have someone behind them and they will get behind us and we will "get out". Islington claimed that it was not true that many of these groups were in conflict with our principles. Members suggested that this argument would be thrown out. There are a number of organisations in which members can play an active part.

S.W. London gave an account of the usual work played by members of his branch in a youth parliament attached to a youth centre and suggested to branches that they should try and get in touch with their local youth parliaments.

RESOLUTION (C) - Islington branch. "That this conference is of the opinion that no useful purpose is served in debating with Fascist organisations and endorses the E.C. to refuse to sanction debates with such organisations."

Amendment - Lewisham branch "to delete all after 'Fascist organisations' and insert 'let present, and that the E.C. be urged to continue the practice of judging each case on its merits'".

Islington said that there was very little propaganda value in those debates. Most Fascist organisations now are unsavoury organisations with unsmiling faces, boredom by rampant prolinquents. Its branch had had one experience when they had an outdoor meeting near a Fascist meeting of a very small audience, until the Fascist meeting was closed by the police when a howling mob from this meeting descanded upon them. Shortly after their own meeting was shut down by the police. As time goes on the violence is not added but is growing, and the workers attracted by this sort of thing are not responsive to our ideas. It is true that we hold a successful debate with Raven Thompson, but when our branch had had a challenging accepted by Molesley the E.C. had refused to sanction the debate on the grounds that there seemed to be little possibility that the debate would be orderly.

The only reason the Fascists wanted to the could not get a hall to speak in. When they could get halls they will not want to debate. Leave these people alone and save ourselves from wrecked meetings. We do not let us ourselves be defeated by these things can get meetings. Lewisham said that under some circumstances it might be inexpedient to debate with those organisations, but it is unfair to see that the party should record on its archives that it is not willing to debate with a particular organisation. The party is opposed to political discrimination and our position would be a difficult one to record that we were unwilling to debate. Motley said that during a past summer there had been large crowds coming down to meetings to listen to How of the Fascists. The majority who showed up were the young, and only a few were supporters of the party. Our position must be put over to these people. Our debates can be held in London, and this is the only way to combat hostility. Edwards asked for an action of Fascist organisations, but some people said Fascists - even us. The term "Fascist" has become a political swear word. Let the E.C. judge debates on their merits. The
Resolution (C) was lost 4-71
Amendment thereto was lost 36-59.

Resolution - C. Lester and J. Lester (Leyton) "That this conference appreciates the unspecified use of the term 'Fascist Organisation'". Lost 2-17.

Resolution - Andrews and Cottis (Southend) "That this conference is of the opinion that the party should be prepared to debate with any political party". Carried hom. con.

(c Propaganda (General) (Contd)

Paddington delegate regretted that there was no medium by which party members could thrash out controversial issues amongst themselves. He suggested that meetings should be called for this purpose. Those meetings should be run in an informal fashion.

AMENDMENTS TO RULE

Edwards, Hackney, Ilington, Kingston and Southend - Rule 2 line 1 - "Delete 'threepence' and insert 'threepence'."
Lost 25-46.

Tottenham branch amendment - "Delete 'sixpence' and insert 'fourpence'."
Lost 25-56.

Southend - Rule 9 line 2 - "Delete 'two pence' and insert 'threepence'."
Lost 25-60.

Edwards, Hackney and Ilington - Rule 9 line 2 - "Delete 'two pence' and insert 'fourpence'."
Lost 17-56.

Ealing - Rule 12, lines 2, 3, 4 and 5 - "Delete 'Assistant Treasurer, Assistant Secretary and Literature Secretary'."
Carried 55-11.

Executive Committee - Rule 13, line 4 - "Delete 'Assistant Treasurer, Assistant Secretary and Literature Secretary'."
Carried 55-11.

Ilington - Rule 23, line 4 - "Insert the word 'only' between the words 'which' and 'shall'."

Ilington branch amendment - line 3 - "Delete all from the word 'the' to the word 'shall' on line 4 and insert in their place the following: 'For resolutions and amendments to rules which shall be submitted by branches only shall...". Amendment lost 24-42.

Resolution lost without any support.

Item for discussion (L) - Bloomsbury "Should the E.C. have power to put forward amendments to rules at Annual Conferences?"

A Bloomsbury delegate opened by saying that in an emergency the E.C. would be justified in taking action and obtaining party sanction afterwards. In the meantime the rule book should be the preserved of the party. Another Bloomsbury delegate stated that there was a precedent in that previous Executive Committees had placed amendments to rule on the conference agenda. The E.C. had the responsibility of carrying out the administration of the party between conferences and in the course of their experience they may come across things that they consider should be dealt with. Some members appeared to have a fear that the E.C. would become leaders. There was no reason for this in an organisation like ours; we had all the democratic safeguards necessary. S.W. London said that members were affected too much by the experience of leadership in Trade Unions. Ilington said that the branch is the unit of the party and E.C. members can put forward to their branches any suggested amendment to rule. Westminster claimed that the present rules gave no power to the E.C. to place amendments to rule on the conference agenda. An E.C. member claimed that the E.C. took the status of a branch when submitting amendments without having any powers from the party to do so. Another E.C. member said that the E.C. did not have to wait twelve months for party decisions. We had a half-yearly Delegate Meeting. A third E.C. member asked what was being against the E.C. doing this. It was better for the E.C. to do it then for an E.C. member to try to persuade his branch to support him.

(9) ORGANISATIONS ABROAD

(a) International Conferences. The Overseas Secretary said that the proposed conference abroad of small organisations which was to be held at Christmas had not materialised and one suggested for this Easter had also been postponed owing to lack of support.

(b) Overseas Secretary's Department. The Overseas Secretary read greetings cables received from the world Socialist Party of the U.S.A. and the Socialist Party of Canada, together with a letter to the Conference from R. Franklin of Vienna.

Resolution - R. McCullagh and R. Cottis "That greetings be sent to all companion parties and socialists abroad". Agreed.
Resolution - H. Collin and J. Lawrence: That the E.G. be asked to hand
K. Prank's letter to the Editorial Committee with a view to possible
publication in the Socialist Standard.
Agreed.

The General Secretary informed the conference that the Executive
Committee had received no advice from the U.S.A. party of their intention
to change their name from the Workers Socialist Party of the U.S.A.
to the Socialist Party of the U.S.A. and that they thought
that in view of the name selected all companion parties should first
have been consulted.

Resolution - B. Moss and E. Rose: "That this conference recommends the E.G.
to contact the W.S.P. stating that it is our view that we should have
been informed of any change in the name of the latter organisation."
Amendment: Dr. H. Staden and W. Colson: "That this conference recommends that
whilst the S.R.P.B. have no objection to the W.S.P. changing their name
we believe that the change in unfortunate and that it would have
better if all companion parties had been consulted."

Resolution - M. H. G. and E. Rose: "That the whole question be
deferred pending consideration by the E.G." Curried 42-6.

[8] ELECTORAL ACTIVITY

Resolution (H.B.) - Croydon branch: "That this conference instructs the E.G. to
declare its electoral activity until such time as the provisions of
the Party's Declaration of Principles: 'That this conference must
be the working class and that as the working class is the
powerful force of the nation, seek to
destroy the monopoly by the capitalist class of the wealth and power
that is theirs and that the working class must organise co-operatively
for the conquest of these powers of government, national and local. In order
that this machinery including these forces, may be converted from an
instrument of oppression into the agent of unification and the
abolition of aristocratic and plutocratic power.

What is Croydon putting at aski Edward? Have we to wait until we are
certain that a large majority of the working class is going to
use? How can we find out if they do support us unless we flight ourselves
or delegate? A Bloomsbury delegate said that parliamentary activity did not necessarily
mean that the party put forward a parliamentary candidate. A delegate
argued that this conclusion was the result of the electoral activity
and that the working-class situation was not advanced enough to
prove us putting forward candidates. Manchester supported the resolution.

They considered that the whole matter needed thorough examination. Is
the working-class sufficiently advanced for us to put forward candidates?
We lost about half the votes we received at the general election when we
lost the bye-election at M. Paddington. Our opponents have taunted us
with the fact that party members are not entitled to carry on the usual
party work. L. Lyon said that during the election campaign there was a greater feeling of co-operation and
consensus. The蓝和 our propaganda covered during the election was
much wider than the constituency. The votes we lost at the bye-election
must have been from workers who did not completely understand our
parliamentary activity until such time as the provisions there
was greater that they were not opposed to parliamentary activity, but were
opposed to what they considered to be the undue use of party money and
democracy who have socialist, and not just by putting crosses on voting papers. We know by the membership of
our branch how many socialists there are in a particular area. Some
members were not aware of anything to gain from putting a cross on voting papers. The delegation referred to vote-casting aloha which had been alleged and been
used during the campaigns. A Bloomsbury delegate said that elections provide
opportunities for our propaganda. There is evidence that vote-casting aloha has been used. Paddington said that
our parliamentary activity in Paddington had been one of our successes.
This is because we were not content to have meetings in a large hall like the Metropolitan Hall. It was quite untrue that the
party had gone vote-casting. Time and time again we told the workers not to vote for us if they did not understand socialism. We achieved
more publicity from our campaigns in Paddington than we received during all the previous years of our existence. An E.C. member said that those
members who had opposed parliamentary activity during the past few years
had been proved to be wrong. The party had not suffered from exhaustion
or apathy after the campaigns. They gained in strength and campaigns
had brought considerable stimulating effect on the party membership. The
elections had been largely financed by members and sympathisers who supported the idea. It would be a tragedy if the party for financial reasons
could not put a candidate or candidates forward at the next general
election.

The resolution was lost 16-65.

Item for discussion (ix) - Islington branch: "The attitude of a socialist M.P.
in the House of Commons towards reform"
S.W. London said that socialists are not prepared to give their most powerful weapon, their votes, to anyone for the purpose of carrying out a reform without their approval or voting the same way in the House of Commons. Until we have a socialist majority, he said, the working-class should be supported by socialists. He claimed that by means of the ballot the socialist M.P. should work with Parliament for the purpose of explaining our position when we do not have a socialist majority. He said that the membership were not unanimous on this question, and they needed thorough discussion. He said that the conditions in 1910 were very different to the conditions today. He felt that the socialist M.P.'s are not prepared to support any reforms that are not proposed by the socialist. He felt that socialism is withdrawing some of the reforms which are in existence. He felt that socialism must be more perfect in order to avoid difficulties. Another S.W. London delegate said that the party would decide whether reform is supported or opposed by the socialist. He felt that the socialist M.P. should support the measures that are for the better, and the working-class would have realized that the socialist can help them. He felt that the socialist M.P. should support the measures that are for the better. Another Bloomsbury delegate said that if a socialist M.P. supports some reform measure it would be difficult for them to carry on the position. He felt that the socialist M.P. must be instructed to oppose war and the granting of war credits. He felt that the socialist M.P. must be instructed to oppose war and the granting of war credits. He felt that the socialist M.P. must not be able to speak at all in the House of Commons. He felt that if a socialist M.P. did not introduce reform measures to help the working-class, some measures do indirectly carry with them some benefit. The Resolution was carried 58-0.

Resolution - Lawrence and D'Arcy: "That the statement in answer to W.B. Upton Park in the February 1910 issue of the Socialist Standard be included in the report of the conference." Agreed.
BLOOMSBURY opined by saying that the new pamphlet to cost us just over 6d per copy, and the B.C. originally decided to charge 7d for them and then alter their position. We are a propaganda organisation and we resist our pamphlets by scurrying on party pamphlets. A charge of 7d would have been reasonable. We should not aim at making money on them, but rather on losing on them. Our present financial position is not due to the low price of literature. The price of a pamphlet influences its sale. 1/- is not a reasonable price for pamphlets which cost just over 6d. We would give literature away if we had the funds to do so. In the job to the B.C. and B.E., they get the advice of committees on it. Another Bloomsbury delegate said that only a small number of pamphlets were sold through wholesale agents, although this represents a small part of the total. The General Secretary read to the conference reasons put forward by B.C. members that the price was fixed at 1/-. He said that his personal responsibility was whether the price hindered sales, and from information he had received he appeared that the two pamphlets were selling very well. The party was opposed to giving literature away, and in any case our surplus from the sale of the pamphlets would be used for furthering the party's cause. M.W.London said that there was no precedent for the 6d per copy profit the party were getting from the sale of the pamphlets. The conference ought really to be publishing where the party should be charged by the party above cost price. The party is trying to get back money that it has spent in the past two years by mailing profit on pamphlets. Manchester said that it was important in price matters to decide who would not object to paying 1/- for our pamphlets. Edwars said that while we shall not object to paying 1/- for our pamphlets, we must not do it in a way that will hinder the sale of our literature. Manchester said that supporters of the resolution really had nothing to gain but a 1/- price. Paddington delegate expressed anxiety not that the time of the conference had been taken up, a question of the price of the pamphlets in any event was a reasonable price. An E.C. member asked what the position would be if the Bloomsbury resolution were carried? What price would the B.C. have to quit? To distribute literature to branches without allowing them a rebate. A member of the Publicity Committee said that it was a very sound figure for the selling price of pamphlets, and discount must be taken into consideration, and also the cost of advertising. Bloomsbury wound up by saying that this was a question of party propaganda, and not of any personal gain. While the question was raised a 'reasonable' price might have difficulties. He claimed that to charge 1/- for a pamphlet costing just over 6d was 'unreasonable'. Five branches had written to the B.C. on this question, and it was therefore a fit item for the conference agenda.

Resolution Carried 4-27
Resolution Not voted upon
Resolution (2) Lost 4-60

Resolution - D'Arcy and Le Touche 'That this conference recommends the E.C. to circulate branches with a view to finding out their attitude towards the purchase of literature from Head Office at its selling price to the public and reports to the Autumn Delegate Meeting. Lost 14-8.'

Resolution - Peck and Keogh (Paddington) 'That this conference recommends that every effort be made to publish at least a short pamphlet on "War and the working-class" as speedily as possible.' A member of the Editorial Committee reported that they had just received the script of a pamphlet on "War". The E.C. had also instructed the Editorial Committee to prepare a short pamphlet embodying a declaration of the party's position on war. The resolution was agreed to.

Resolution - Hadley 'That a new edition of Questions of the Day be printed'
A member of the Editorial Committee reported that a new edition of this pamphlet is to be published with certain alterations, additions, etc. It is not yet finished but would not take very long to complete. The main difficulty is the question of paper.
Resolution carried 67-0

Resolution - Addams and Cottrell 'That a short statement on our position on war be included in the next edition of Questions of the Day'
A member of the Editorial Committee stated that this chapter was omitted from the previous edition owing to the war situation at the time. The E.C. had ordered a chapter on war should be included in the next edition. The resolution was agreed to by acclamation.
Item for discussion (viii) - Kingston branch: "Controversial articles in the S.S."

A Kingston member said that no here could appeal to the party from the publication of articles upon which members might have divergent views. Paddington thought these articles should not be likely to upset the 'S.S.' at the present time. The articles in the 'S.S.' appeared as the party's point of view, and they might have strong reasons for disagreement with an articles standpoint on a particular issue. If, however, controversial articles are published, an opportunity should be provided for the publication of a contrary viewpoint. Bloomsbury deprecated the attack made on a section of the working class (the doctors) in a recent article. Let us keep controversial articles in an inter-party journal. Edwardo said that if these articles were published it should be said in the 'S.S.' that they represent only the writer's views and not those of the party. Another Edwardo delegate commented that he had had to stop publishing a controversial article. Manchester asked for controversial articles of a political character, and not on side issues. West has asked the Editorial Committee to ensure continuity of controversial articles. South London said that every article in the 'S.S.' is controversial to somebody. The trouble is that the paper limitations do not permit enough space for this sort of thing. A member of the Editorial Committee said that the last applied his committee for articles for the 'S.S.' and that they do not conflict with the party's position. Provided an article is suitable and does not conflict with the party's position they would publish it even if it contained material which represented only the writer's point of view.

Resolution - Hinton and Peck (Paddington): "That this conference recommends that when a suitable material including 'answers to correspondents' is available for publication that the 'Party News Briefs' be discontinued."

Paddington said that the only reason for the 'News Briefs' was to be the fact that there was a shortage of material. A member of the Editorial Committee said that they never had enough material for the 'S.S.', and if the 'News Briefs' would not exist, as it stood, to supplement it. Other delegates who spoke deprecated the idea of abandoning the 'News Briefs', even if additional articles were available, as readers found them useful and informative. They made it clear that they meant to ask their branches to appoint a member to send in material for the column each month. The resolution was lost 9-42.

(c) 1977 Delegate meeting, recommendation on loss of seats.

Resolution (P) - Edwardo branch: "That the party endeavours to produce at least every three months a news sheet dealing with items of current interest for some distribution or sale at a low price. Current items to main any political action which appear interesting among the working class."

In reply to a question a member of the Editorial Committee said that it did not appear that paper could be available for this purpose. Edwardo said that two conferences had expressed a wish for this sort of thing and the E.O. had done nothing about it, although branches had sent in suggestions. A member of the Editorial Committee said that they could not get enough material for the 'S.S.' and so their hands were very full. The first need is for writers for the 'S.S.' Paddington said that the only time the party will be able to publish topical material is when we have our own press and a permanent staff.

Resolution (P) was lost 27-11.

Resolution - Bayne and La Touche (Bloomsbury): "That this conference recommends that the E.O. should set up a committee to consider the possibility of producing a subject index of articles in the 'S.S.' (e.g. 'War', 'Labour Government', 'Trade Unions', etc.) for use of party members."

It was pointed out that we have an index covering the years since 1977. Bloomsbury wanted, however, an index covering the earlier years. A member of the Editorial Committee said that something more than an index was required. We need files at E.O. of articles under various subject headings. This had been done before but these papers were destroyed when our previous Head Office was bombed. The resolution was lost 9-11.

(d) 1977 Delegate meeting recommendation on literature sales.

Item for discussion (xviii) - Edling branch: "Methods of selling the 'S.S.'". S.M.A. asked the delegates for suggestions on selling the 'S.S.'. Their experience had shown that the door to door canvas by a number of members acting together about once a month was the most successful. They had found a large percentage of returns, of 'S.S.' supplied to newsagents.

Resolution - Nicholls and Adams (Palmer Groves): "That this conference is of the opinion that a more scientific approach should be made to the selling of pamphlets. Palmer Groves said that we should aim at selling our literature to those who were going to read it. One method is to first interest progressive people in our case and get them to that point where they wish to read the pamphlet. There should be arrangements between branches and sponsors at propaganda meetings with a view to particular literature being dealt with from the platform and adequate supplies of it being available. S.W. London said that we should not adopt the approach usually used in selling commodities generally."

The resolution was carried 14-0.
No action.

10. EDUCATION

(c) H.O. Tutorial Class. A member of the Education Committee was present who said that the membership of the class was not merely to provide an educational centre for party members, but to provide a permanent, self-perpetuating class for new members of the party, so that when a member joins the party he has an opportunity of getting an insight into the party's position and his responsibilities as a member. He also pointed out that the class was now in operation and that it has been found useful. There are about six classes and they are working well in the various branches.

Item for Discussion (x) - Camborwell branch. "Industrial action and the party"

Camborwell asked how the party stood in relation to industrial activity. He then asked whether the party was not merely to provide an educational centre for party members, but to provide a permanent, self-perpetuating class for new members of the party, so that when a member joins the party he has an opportunity of getting an insight into the party's position and his responsibilities as a member. He also pointed out that the class was now in operation and that it has been found useful. There are about six classes and they are working well in the various branches.

Other people who want to bring out publications got the paper soshoed. The journal would provide an excellent training ground for writers for the "S.S."
I alington argued that in 1907 the 'S.S.' had said that trade unions will be necessary for the establishment of socialism. We now say that political action only is necessary. Members should not hesitate to take up positions in trade unions. Hackney said that 90 per cent of their members were trade unionists, but none of them were enthusiastic supporters of the party's ideas or their ideas in their branches. As soon as politics are introduced into trade unions their effectiveness is reduced. We should examine the present tie-up of the union with the state machine. An E.C. member said that the unrest in the branch was not a question of the party's attitude to trade unions. The real basis of the party's attempts to keep out of trade unions was the prevention of the party's members from reaping the benefits of trade unionism. As soon as politics are introduced into trade unions their effectiveness is reduced. We should examine the present tie-up of the union with the state machine. An E.C. member said that the unrest in the branch was not a question of the party's attitude to trade unions. The real basis of the party's attempts to keep out of trade unions was the prevention of the party's members from reaping the benefits of trade unionism.

Resolution - Lawlor and Chalk (Shornwell) "That this conference urges the E.C. to publish a pamphlet on Trade Unionism." Agreed.

(7) PUBLICITY

(b) General Publicity

RESOLUTION (1) - Hackney branch "That the party have permanent posters printed advertising the 'S.S.' for nowagents display boards". Resolution (1) carried 33-12.

MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION (J) - I alington branch "That this conference instructs the E.C. to set up a permanent committee of members familiar with the trade union movement to co-ordinate the work of the party in this sphere. I alington said that we need members conversant with trade union work to deal with issues as they arise, particularly for writing up strikes etc., in the 'S.S.' and to arrange for lectures in trade union branches. A member of the E.C. said that the E.C. do not need a committee but for members engaged in disputes to write them up for the 'S.S.'

Resolution (J) was lost 26-37.

Resolution - Cox and Lubson (Bloomsbury) "That this conference recommends the E.C. to hold several rallies in Hyde Park to publicise party literature with special emphasis on the 'Communist Manifesto'." It was pointed out that we were not permitted to advertise literature in Hyde Park.

The resolution was lost 10-20.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Items for discussion (xi) and (xii) - I alington and I alington branches.

"Attitude of the party to price controls" and "New and price controls"

I alington said that the lifting of price controls at the moment would cut down the living standards of the workers. Some members thought that if prices went up it would encourage the workers to demand higher wages. The party should sometimes come out and make a definite stand on things happening in the world to-day. I alington said that rent and price controls help the capitalists more than anyone else. F yddington asked if price controls were not an issue for the party all the time. I alington replied that their main issue was to support one section of the workers against another. Bloomsbury said that if we agree with price controls we must also agree with wage controls. If controls were removed the working class would win through strike action. Bloomsbury said that if we agree with price controls we must also agree with wage controls. If controls were removed the working class would win through strike action.

I alington replied that there was nothing mechanical about wages immediately following prices. It is a question of trade union action. It can be argued that wages do not catch up with prices, and that they only level out over a long period. I alington replied that there was nothing mechanical about wages immediately following prices. It is a question of trade union action. It can be argued that wages do not catch up with prices, and that they only level out over a long period. I alington replied that there was nothing mechanical about wages immediately following prices. It is a question of trade union action. It can be argued that wages do not catch up with prices, and that they only level out over a long period.

I alington replied that there was nothing mechanical about wages immediately following prices. It is a question of trade union action. It can be argued that wages do not catch up with prices, and that they only level out over a long period.

Item for discussion (xiii) - I alington branch. "Attitude of the party to inflation."

We have had no authoritative statement from the party on this, said I alington, and the branch put it on the agenda for the purpose of clarifying the position. A member of the National Committee said that it might be useful to have this written up for the 'S.S.' It had a direct bearing on the previous items for discussion. Governments do not stabilise prices, but stabilise the cost of living. Government action is always a different thing. Governments also help to stabilise inflation in order to get over some of their problems. The relation of the pound sterling and the dollar to gold had been altered by government action, and in the Government's point of view they were fighting against the effects of the world's war and the inflationary wages. Governments also have a huge burden of debts which they can reduce by permitting prices to rise and thus paying in pounds of less value. If we look at the history of wages over a number of years we find that they closely follow changes in the cost of living. Our point is that we are not in favour of deflation, inflation etc. etc., but against the capitalist system. I alington
replied that if high or low prices were immaterial was it not also the case that high or low wages made no difference? We cannot consider prices in the long run, but have to deal with fluctuations as they occur.

Item for discussion (xiv) - Islington branch "The attitude of the party to the transitional period."

Islington said that many workers who are not socialists consider that there is some transitional period between capitalism and socialism. We do not link up this idea with the policies of the Communist party in discussion. Paddington replied that the whole question had been amply covered by articles in the "J.S." and by our speakers.

Resolution - LaTouche and E. Ross "That the report of the 44th E.C. be adopted" Agreed.

The Conference terminated at 5.30 p.m.

(signed) C.G. Groves......General Secretary.

29th March 1948.

1st day 60 delegates representing 23 branches.
2nd day 63 delegates representing 22 branches.
3rd day 61 delegates representing 23 branches.

Bedale and Bradford branches were not represented during Conference.