Report of the proceedings of the 77th Annual Conference held
at the Conway Hall, London on 17th, 18th and 19th April, 1961

Friday  
10.05 a.m.-1.35 p.m.  2.25 p.m.-5.15 p.m.
Edinburgh Branch not represented
pm Collection £71.90
Edinburgh and North East Branches not represented
Literature Sold: during day £50; evening meeting £4.46

Saturday  
2.05 p.m.-5 p.m.
Edinburgh not represented
Collection £31.69
pm Edinburgh Branch

Sunday  
10.10 a.m.-1.35 p.m.  2.20 p.m.-5.30 p.m.
Edinburgh Branch not represented
1. Chairman It was agreed by the delegates that Cde B McNeoney take the

2. Late Forms C Conference was informed that Glasgow and Islington Branches
had not submitted their forms C in time in accordance with Rule 8. However,
both branches had submitted a written explanation to the EC, which was then
read and both branches requested permission to sit from the delegates. It
was agreed by the delegates they be permitted to sit.

3. Election of Tellers It was agreed by the delegates that the Standing Orders
Committee act as tellers.

4. Order of Business It was agreed to deal first with Amendments to Rules,
then the Executive Committee Report plus relevant resolutions.

5. Amendments to Rules
5.1 Rule 2 Glasgow Branch "On lines 2/3 delete 'the only receipt recognised
being the official due stamp' and insert 'the Branch Treasurer to
acknowledge receipt by signing the member's card.' Discussion.
A delegate suggested abolishing dues stamps would bankrupt weaker
branches. Carried 26-13

5.2 Rule 2 (other amendments)
   London Branch "On line 3 after 'the official due stamp' add the
words 'this amount to be reviewed by the Conference annually.'
   Lost 16-25
   Swansea Branch "On line 1 delete '50p' and insert '£1'."
   Glasgow Branch amendment "Delete '£1' and insert '60p'." Lost 11-27
   Motion Lost 9-40
   All other motions and amendments were not put.

5.3 Rule 3 London Branch "On line 3 after 'per member' add the words
   'subject to any change in members' dues.' Lost 5-32
   Glasgow Branch "Delete the whole rule and replace with 'The
Branch Treasurer shall return to Head Office 80% of the amount
collected.' Carried 20-14
   It was agreed that the remaining motions fell.

5.4 Rule 10 Picor Motion (Aberdeen Branch) "Discussion and voting to be deferred
until the relevant resolutions are dealt with' was carried on a
show of hands. (See section

5.5 Rule 12 Glasgow Branch "On line 1 delete '14' and insert '10'."
Lost 19-28

5.6 Rule 13 It was agreed by delegates that these motions fell as EC numbers
had not been changed, therefore the quorum would not change.

5.7 Rule 17 Islington Branch "Delete all up to and including 'Party literature'
on line 2 and replace with the words 'Executive Committee
shall co-ordinate and give advice on the composition of new Party
literature and shall be responsible to the Party for approving or
rejecting all such literature submitted by branches for publication.
The Committee shall publish any material felt to fulfill a
useful propaganda role', and the rule then to continue.'

Paddington Branch "On line 2 delete 'the Party literature' and
insert 'all literature issued by the Party centrally and intended
for normal distribution'. On line 4 after 'debates' and before
'establish' insert 'other than those arranged by branches'."
Discussion There should be collective responsibility within
the Party, not an elite imposing its ideas, but the ideas of the
whole Party. Another delegate could not see how the present Rule
stifled and restricted members. EC member considered appointing
deputies did not generally hold up the EC. A delegate said the
way our present literature is distributed would be no good when we
are bigger - the EC was a bottleneck. Aberdeen group had published
literature which the Party generally did agree with. The
Aberdeen members had been charged and expelled. Mistakes on a local
basis do not matter. Good material does go through the EC quickly,
it is badly prepared material that does not. Material would be
held up if the EC had a lot of work on. The delays over the Consett
Leaflet were so long that the problem went away before the leaflets
came. Drafts from inexperienced writers need more EC time.
Votes: Islington Motion Lost 10-37
Paddington Motion Lost 16-29

6. EC's Report and Instructed Resolutions
6.1 Bulletins and Instructed Resolution 1
   London Branch "That this Conference instruct the EC that in future elec-
tions for the Annual Ballot etc. ballot papers be sent to the individual
Branch Secretaries for distribution to members."
Amendment B: London Branch Addendum "and the branch secretaries notify the Ballot Committee of completion of that distribution 4 weeks prior to the closing date of the ballot." There was negligible discussion the Amendment being Carried 22-20, and the Sub-resolution Carried 27-25.

6.2 Auditors' and Treasurer's Financial Report Discussion The Party continues to spend even more money. Members were urged to make a regular donation to funds. The moneys we have may well be gone by the year end.

6.3 Book Department (Report by General Secretary plus a late Addendum) No discussion.

6.4 Branches, Membership and Organisation No discussion, but delegates agreed to deal with Branch Reports on Saturday.

6.5 Canton No discussion, but delegates agreed that the committee of one be given a vote of thanks.

6.6 Central Literature Sales Committee If out-of-London members could get in to cover big London meetings would they inform the Head Office Assistant.

6.7 Central Branch A Central Branch member had submitted a circular to the EC and it had taken 8 weeks to be dealt with. Central Branch members should be able to circularise other branch members easily. There was no access to HO records when requests were made - the Gen Sec refused this, what he felt was a serious charge, by stating that all members and outsiders are entitled to gain such access, but that HO has not the resources to develop a filing system with instant access. At this stage Paddington Branch and Glasgow Branch Items for Discussion: Nos. 3 & 4 were taken.

No. 3: "The right of Central Branch members to participate in the formulation of Conference and Annual Delegate Meeting Agendas." Discussion Very short; it was suggested Central Branch members were better serviced than others, e.g. personal copies of EC Minutes.

6.8 Central Organiser Reported orally that he had nothing of importance to report - not that it was a lack of co-ordination which had been the cause of no written report.

6.9 EC Attendances No discussion.

7. Vice Chairman It was moved and agreed that Cde H Vivian (Glasgow) take the vice-chairmanship.

6.10 Education Committee No discussion.

6.11 Education Organiser No discussion.

6.12 Estate Management Committee No discussion.

6.13 Forms & Statutory Committee No discussion.

6.14 General Secretary It was agreed to defer until the Saturday.

6.15 Women's Organiser No discussion.

6.16 Head Office Assistant and Instructed Resolution 2 Guildford Branch "That this Conference resolves that the party take on a full-time, paid Head Office Organiser and that a special fund be set up to meet the cost and that dues be increased if necessary."

Amendments
A. Bolton Branch "Delete all after 'Head Office Organiser'."
B. Paddington Branch "Delete at the end of resolution 'and that dues be increased if necessary.'"
C. Glasgow Branch "Delete all after 'cost' on line 3."
D. Inklington Branch "Delete (line 1) 'take on' and insert instead 'agrees in principle to the idea of the E.O. taking on'.'" Discussion It was noted to have someone at HO always to answer the telephone. A HO Organiser would assist the Gen Sec, type stencils, etc., collate literature and be always available. HO Organiser would maintain file with all sorts of information and be able to ring back in minutes with a reply. In principle a paid HO Organiser is a good idea, but only when someone is available. It was a pious old scare - the paid HO Organiser - we need to be much larger to both need and support one and, as Socialists, we must be seen to pay well, at least £7,000+, and what hours per week? Do not keep with small Party philosophy - do it now. This appointment would make the party into a employer. Our lack of progress is a result of no paid organiser. An organiser would inhibit progress. What work is not being done now? HO could not be covered sufficiently by volunteers. Organiser would need time off - evenings, weekends - with covers. Many jobs are tedious, but working together relieves the routine. Would we pay overtime? Member who had been at HO all day on a Thursday had no telephone calls. Only need a rota organised - unwise to depend on 1 member only. There were favourable prestige and propaganda opportunities. Last year the EC rejected the telephone answer-
6.16 contd...

ing machine - we should try again. An organiser should be there to do jobs, but to organise a team to do jobs. Our ways of doing things have their faults, but look where the others are since 1904 - nowhere! Perhaps an advertisement could go in the Socialist Standard advising when HS was open - between what hours. A special fund should be set up to pay, so that funds are not diverted from propaganda.

Votes: 2D (Clerkenwell Branch) 1st 17-53
2B (Camberwell and Elephant Branch) 1st 17-57
2A (Bolton Branch) 1st 15-27
2 Guildford Branch 1st 14-21

Floor resolution (Swansea Branch) "This Conference recommends the EC to make enquiries into the feasibility of installing an Anaphase service in HO and report to the 1961 Annual Delegate Meeting with details."

Discussion: Telephone answering machines were not easy to use. People put the 'phone down as they do not like to talk to them. It could take a message or only give one. A temporary installation could be tried.

Vote: Carried 19-12

6.17 Library No discussion.

6.18 Literature No discussion.

6.19A Pamphlets plus Instructed Resolution 3.1 and Amendments

3.1 Birmingham Branch "That this Conference resolves in the light of the success of sales of the Marxian economics Pamphlet by Birmingham Branch that the next pamphlet be produced on similar lines (i.e. A4 size)."

Amendments:

A. Paddington Branch "In the last sentence, between the brackets, delete 'A4 Size'."
B. Glasgow Branch "Delete 'the next pamphlet' and insert, where appropriate, pamphlet'. Discussion A4 would be a useful format. 'With illustrations' should also have been included in the resolution. Birmingham sales were, in fact, 60.

Vote: Glasgow Branch Amendment Lost 20-22
Paddington Branch Amendment Lost 10-22
Birmingham Branch Motion Lost 22-24

6.19B Pamphlets and Instructed Resolution 3.2 and Amendments

3.2 Paddington Branch "This Conference instructs the EC to restructure the New Pamphlets committee on similar lines to the Socialist Standard Production Committee (i.e. editorial members, secretary and designer) to supervise the speedy production of topical pamphlets and leaflets, specifically designed for quick sale and distribution. The Pamphlets Committee shall be able to commission subjects, with the EC's consent, and shall have the authority to approve the text and overall presentation. Larger pamphlets intended for sale over a number of years would be referred to the EC for final approval."

Amendments:

Swansea Branch "Remove 'pamphlets' and 'sale and' on line 4 and remove last sentence completely." Discussion: Members do resist change, but it is good for use to issue leaflets quickly on topical issues. The report on the activities of the New Pamphlets Committee had been amended by the EC in their report to this Conference. The Consett leaflet was cited as an example of the EC being a too slow means of publishing topical leaflets. We should rely on ideas putting the case, but pamphlets are important too. Gen Sec reported he did ask for special meetings for the EC to consider pamphlets, but usually the requests were turned down. Some EC members were in favour of the new format of the New Introductory Leaflet, but some considered there were basic errors - the New Pamphlets Committee had not done its job. It was considered there was a point of principle involved. There is a need to elect a broadly termed of reference committee to get on with the job rather than the present cumbersome procedure. Most EC arguments appear to be over style, not content. It was suggested that the resolution was in conflict with Rule 17, but the Chairman stated that it was in order. Final responsibility will rest with the EC; the EC appoints the committee. The "EC should delegate some of its responsibility. Even if the resolution conflicted with Rule 17 it did not matter. The New Pamphlets Committee had acted on Conference Resolution, but the EC did not. A topical leaflet is not necessarily urgent. There will be arguments within the Party over the confusion between Rule 27 and the resolution - the present resolution should be turned down and it all be dealt with properly next year. Discussions on the EC were all absurd. Each EC member must have their say, control is 'hizz and fire', even the
Sec has walked out in disgust at the EC. A Motion by Guildford & Haringey
"That the Vote be Taken" was Lost Overwhelmingly.

EC is very busy and has a large amount of deferred business. The Swansea Amendment would mean the New
Pamphlets Committee could only deal with topical leaflets. Nothing going out
in the Party name must be gone over time and again. Don't be distracted by sudden
short-lived things - Rule 17 was a red herring. The EC can only appoint nomination
motions by branches. There was too much routine work taking precedence. No
matter what a sub-committee does, it is the final responsibility of the EC. Ad
Hoc committees could be used to consider drafts. A Motion by Islington and Swansea
"That the Vote be Taken" was Agreed. The delegates agreed with the Chairman’s
ruling that the movers not be allowed to wind up.

Swansea Amendment

Paddington Resolution

Before the vote was taken the Chairman ruled that
Conference Standing Orders were suspended in order that Paddington Branch and
Swansea Branch could move "The Vote be Taken" - this was Lost Overwhelmingly.
A further motion by Paddington and Swansea Branches "That Paddington be allowed to
wind up" was Carried Overwhelmingly by the delegates. Following Paddington Branches
winding up the vote was taken and the Resolution was Carried 27-20.

6.19g Instructed Resolution

3.3 Paddington Branch and Amendments and Deferred Amendment to Rule 10

3.3 Paddington Branch "This Conference holds that branches should be
encouraged to produce their own propaganda leaflets for immediate urgent
distribution without first having to submit the text to the time-wasting
inhibiting procedure of first obtaining EC approval. Ultimately, the EC
is responsible for all Party written material, but should show flexibility in
the exercise of its authority. In the opinion of this Conference it
should be sufficient for a branch intending to produce a leaflet to get
the approval of a member of the Socialist Standard Production Committee or
Pamphlet Committee (by 'phone if necessary) providing a record of what has
been printed is sent to the EC."

Amendment

Camden Branch "Delete all after the word 'leaflets' in line 2."
Swansea Branch "Remove the sentence beginning 'ultimately' on line 4 and
delete everything from 'get' on line 7 to 'providing' on line 9 replace
it by 'do so and ensure that'."

Islington Branch

A "Delete the word 'urgent' in line 2."
B "Delete all beginning 'ultimately' in line 4."

Rule 10 Paddington Branch "(on line 4 delete the words 'advertising meet-
ings' and replace with 'and leaflets issued by a branch')."

Amendment North East Branch Addendum to Paddington Branch's Amendment -
"providing that the branch supply the EC with a copy of the leaflet as
soon as possible."

Discussion

Sometimes mistakes do occur. Afterwards a copy should be
sent to the EC to resolve all doubts. This was a vital step to expand
and improve the impact of the Party - this way the Party will achieve
its object within 15 years. The EC should not have authority. Each mem-
ber is well informed, but should we let each publish? The EC is not
perfect, but we can keep a finger on them. Party progress has not been
hindered by a sub-committee being subject to recall. If all members
published their own views then we would become a Party of Anarchists,
democracy means recall. Aberdeen members were active, sincere, but
naive and ill-informed. Some may think it exciting to expel, but it's
no good. Get responsible people to check. The object of the resolu-
tion is not to remove all limitations, but to simplify procedure. What
have branches to fear in putting something to the EC? The object of the
resolution is for branches to use publishing as a spur to activity.
The procedure should be for the branch to submit a copy after publica-
tion - then, if the EC does not like it, they should ask the branch to
submit the next few before publication; but this would not give branches
a free hand. Mention was made of an EC Ad hoc committee which changed
draft back to its original form after the EC had amended it. For there
to be a small elite on the Party's education work is inhibiting. Members
and branches have redress to the EC. This is not so easy with branches.
If passed, resolution would contravene Rule 17. The Rule Book is not
perfect.

As a Point of Procedure, the Chair ruled in agreement
with a delegate's suggestion that the Conference now take the Amendment
to Rule 10 also outstanding.

Vote on Amendment to Rule 10
North East Branch Amendment Carried 29-17
Sub-Resolution Lost 19-28
Floor Motion (Glasgow Branch) "That this Conference rules, in accordance with Rule 10, the Paddington Branch Resolution out of order." Lost 11-20
Vote on Resolution:
   Islington Branch Amendment B Lost 11-23
   Islington Branch Amendment A Lost 18-26
   Swansen Branch Amendment Lost 13-33
   Camden Branch Amendment Lost 12-35
   Paddington Branch Resolution Lost 16-31

Floor Resolution (West London) "This Conference draws the EC's attention to the importance of considering drafts for written propaganda with greater urgency." Carried Overwhelmingly

Conference agreed to send fraternal greetings to all the Companion Parties and Groups abroad at the suggestion of the Gen Sec.
Conference adjourned at 5.15 on Friday.
Conference recommenced at 2.05 p.m. on Saturday.

6.20 Overseas Contacts Discussion It was too early for the French group to form a Party. The Socialist Party of Great Britain should not behave as if the Companion Parties were affiliated subordinates. Branches and members should place regular orders with HOAssistant for Companion Party journals.

6.21 Parliamentary Negligible discussion.
6.22 Party Funds No discussion.
6.23 Press Committee No discussion.
6.24 Press Officer Members were advised they should try to get letters in newspapers themselves, but to send copies to HO for the Press Officer.

6.25A Propaganda plus Instructed Resolution 4.1
   4.1 Paddington Branch "This Conference recognising the opportunities which the Marx centenary in 1965 offers, instructs the EC to set up an ad hoc committee to plan special literature and activities for this event."
   Discussion "At the time of the centenary all others, including the press and broadcasting will have special features and we cannot afford to be left out - both a pamphlet and a leaflet would be needed. Why copy others? A delegate dislikes the term 'Marxian'. A critical and explanatory work on Marx (including his mistakes) should be published. Should not exploit nor glorify Marx, but only put the record straight. Special Socialist Standard issues do not stimulate writers and members, but don't go overboard - use it, but don't go mad. We need to reply to the distorters of Marx."
   Vote Carried 31-13

6.25B Item for Discussion 1 (North East Branch) "Should the Party obtain a caravan for propaganda purposes?" Discussion A caravan would put the Party's name around. Too expensive: £2,500 for a minimum good secondhand one. Better to pay expenses. No resolution.

6.25C Propaganda - Prototype £50 Platform was viewed, demonstrated and discussed by delegates, who generally thought it to be an excellent design. No resolution.

6.25D Propaganda - Forms E Discussion This gave a report of branch activities and the Master Form E could be used in place of branch reports. The committee said they would welcome the fuller information. The Propaganda Committee report was not an adequate replacement of oral reports. Propaganda should be based on the branch. The Propaganda Committee reported they received very few forms E from branches.

6.26 Publicity No discussion.
6.27 Propaganda Information Bank No discussion.
6.28 Review Journals No discussion.
6.29 Socialist Standard Production Committee The delegates agreed to defer consideration of the committee's work until Sunday.

6.29A SSFC - Instructed Resolution 5.3 plus Islington Branch Amendment
   5.3 Paddington Branch "That in view of the many interesting discussions now proceeding in the Party, this Conference urges the EC to give serious consideration to the publication of an occasional discussion journal to absorb material which is not necessarily suitable for the SS."
   Amendment Islington Branch "Delete the word 'urges' in line 2, insert instead 'instructs'.' Discussion It was needed. We should not advertise disputes. It would not divert attention from the SS. It would explain difficult theoretical ideas. Party needs debate. Why were members so keen to write. Could they not find anyone at their branch to discuss
matters? This journal would create more problems than it would solve. There is a surplus of SS material available, but the journal would be nothing like Forum. Surplus SS material was not intended for this journal - very different. SS would end up like a book, not this journal. If a member has something to say, the end is able to circulate it. The proposition has 3 good points: 1. To clarify theories; 2. Publication of Archives; 3. A correspondence column for where discussion discussion is inadequate. Forum has become distorted. 90% of it was very good. We should talk to each other in frank terms. But the journal must be edited - we should become real dialectical materialists and not be afraid of theoretical development. We should also study in depth our possible future too, though, of course, we should not say how a Socialist society should be run (the danger of appearing to be leaders), but talk about what a model society could be like.

Vote: Islington Branch Amendment Lost 28-27

Paddington Branch: 5-3 Lost 19-22

6.30 SS Subscribers: No discussion.
6.31 Standing Orders: No discussion.
6.32 Tapes: Discussion. They reported 2/3 enquiries were received per week and branches were invited to order more. Tapes were important and branch discussions should be recorded in order they may be transcribed into writing.
6.33 Ad Hoc Committee on Party Literature: Delegates agreed to defer until Sunday.

8. Swanssea Branch: Instructed Resolution 5.4

5.4 Swanssea Branch: "This Conference considers that the description of the Socialist Standard as 'Official Journal of the Socialist Party of Great Britain' appearing on the front page of the SS and elsewhere in Party publications and publicity be changed to 'Monthly Journal of the Socialist Party of Great Britain.'"

Amendment

A Haringey Branch: "In line 4 delete 'The Socialist Party' and insert 'THE SOCIALIST PARTY', i.e., the title of the Party to appear as 'THE SOCIALIST PARTY of Great Britain.'"

B Islington Branch: "Insert after 'The Socialist Party of Great Britain', 'and the World Socialist Party of Ireland' (lines 2 & 3) and also insert after 'Socialist Party of Great Britain' and the World Socialist Party of Ireland' (last line)."

Discussion. There was no desire to cease collaborating with the Irish Party on the SS. The charge would be a toning down in the importance of the SS. Styles do change as one goes on - even the word 'official'.

Vote: Islington Amendment Carried 26-20. It was agreed by delegates to the Haringey Branch Amendment fell. The Sub-Resolution was Lost 20-26.

9. Branch Reports: These commenced on Saturday, during which the Conference adjourned at 5 p.m., and recommenced Sunday at 10.10 a.m. Almost every branch present reported increased activities and membership, though Glasgow reported problems getting meetings - including physical attacks by supporters of both sides in the Irish question, with very bad weather dampening outdoor activities. Some groups also gave reports.

10. Instructed Resolutions and EC Report (continued)

10.1 SSEC and Instructed Resolution 5.1

5.1 Islington Branch: "This Conference rejects the 77th EC's acceptance of Cde J Darcy's complaint against the following passage in the May SS: 'The object of capitalist production is profit, but profits are not what many people imagine them to be; they are not the result of capitalists selling commodities at a price which is higher than their value. On the contrary, commodities generally sell at around their value, but profits are still made'. This Conference endorses the theoretical correctness of this statement and stands by Marx's contention that 'to explain ... the general nature of profit, you must start from the theorem that, on average commodities are sold at their real value, and that profits are derived from selling them at their values, that is, in proportion to the quantity of labour realized in them. If you cannot explain profit upon this supposition you cannot explain it at all.' Value, Price & Profit"

More than 1 delegate either read from or referred to prepared speeches or circulars - no copies of which had been made available to the Gen Sec for reference, therefore this report of a complex, but interesting discussion will contain gaps for which the secretariat must apologise.
10.2 Ad Hoc Committee on Party literature (interim report) Discussion Short and of a critical nature.

10.3 General Secretary No discussion.

10.4 MOTION to ADOPT EC's Report to Conference, General Secretary's Report and Late Reports, including the Master Form C was Approved by delegates.

11. INTEGRATED RESOLUTIONS

Policy 6.1 Islington Branch "This Conference repudiates the view that capitalism is not yet ripe for Socialism. Conference acknowledges that material conditions now make Socialism a practical possibility, but the lack of class consciousness on the part of most workers stands in the way of the urgently needed Socialist revolution. Conference deplores the view that Socialism must be discussed as if it is only likely to come about in the distant future. Whilst recognising that the revolutionary party is not the sole stimulus to working class political consciousness the Socialist Party of Great Britain maintains that it, together with its Companion Parties throughout the world, must be more vigorous than ever before in confronting the international working class with the clear choice between world Socialism or world barbarism.

Amendments

Islington Branch "In the final sentence delete 'world barbarism' and replace with 'world capitalism'."

NW London Branch, Paddington Branch and Glasgow Branch all sent in identical amendments. Discussion A greater sense of urgency is required - we must not regard Socialism as in the unattainable future. Need for consistency in our case. We should get down to plans as to how we would use present
 tecnología. Want to develop the Party Case - the "World Barbarism" would help. Barbarism to a Socialist means quite a happy time. A curtate's egg of a resolution. No future in Capitalism for the working class - Socialism is the working class only interest. Because a member knows he will not see Socialism, it does not mean he, therefore, lacks enthusiasm only in the numerical sense do we have a long way to go. Astonishment at the depth of knowledge members have of Capitalism, but not of Socialism and of how it would work. Members should think big.

Vote: Paddington Branch Amendment Carried 39-7
Paddington Branch Sub-Resolution Lost 33-5

Adjournment: 1.35 to 2.20 p.m.

11.2 INSTRUCTED RESOLUTION

6.2 Policy

6.2 Paddington Branch: "This Conference sympathises with those in the Party who want to improve the wording of the Object and Declaration of Principles by clarifying possible theoretical ambiguities, by modifying outmoded rhetoric, and by modernising the language, but considers that, as the text has become an historic document of the Socialist movement, untouched for 30 years, it should not now be tampered with. Further, this Conference considers that as the wording of the Declaration of Principles could not have anticipated important developments in the Party's case since 1904, and because a literal interpretation of the text can cause misunderstanding, the Party to-day requires a freshly drawn-up statement which will adequately express its basic position, acceptance of which would be the minimum requirement for Party membership.

To this end the BC is instructed to set up a committee to prepare a draft statement of the Party's basic propositions, of not more than 500 words, in good clear English. The committee should fully consult branches, individual members and Companions Parties; a provisional draft should be submitted to branches and members within one year, for discussion and suggested amendments. The final draft should be placed on the Agenda of the 1953 Annual Conference for possible amendment and final decision."

Discussion: Do support the Declaration of Principles, but the Party's horizons have widened since 1904 - nothing outrageous was intended in the resolution. 'Hostile' is ambiguous - it implies aggression and not a reasoned case. Prefer 'totally opposed'. Non-pacifist attitude contained in 'wage war': it needs to be replaced by 'expose' - no other Party can reason without exposing themselves too.

At this stage the Delegates agreed to include Item for Discussion Q.

9. Swann_mx: "Party polls to decide whether members are satisfied with the Declaration of Principles in its present form and whether members want to change the Party name to the World Socialist Party of Great Britain."

Discussion: Delegate expressed that he was hostile and wanted to make war against those who employed him - wanted to make it more aggressive. Delegates should not attach too much importance to this issue, but they should not belittle words. There is an order to evolution - more advanced do show the way to the backward. The founders of the Party would not object to our reconsidering the D of P if it was found to be a stumbling block. Do not want yet another committee. A branch declared it would wage war on those wishing to change the D of P. Specific reference to religion, reformism within the D of P are not needed - they would lead to a long, turgid document - all members agree with the D of P, why draw up something we will all disagree with. No one joins on just reading the D of P: they study the Party Case before joining. At the first meeting of the Party there was only one proposal amendment to the D of P - to change the word 'war to Hostile' - this was lost overwhelmingly. People who would rather not join use the present D of P an excuse. If people go away we can never know why not. D of P has stood the test of time. Do not wish to be confused with people who want to fight on the streets. The D of P deals with the primary effects of Capitalism - wages and reforms are secondary. Will the new version be used with or instead of the old D of P? Must include our attitudes to War, Russian and World Socialism.

Floor Resolution (Paddington Branch) "The Vote be taken." Carried Overwhelmingly.

Vote: Paddington Branch Resolution Carried 18-25
Floor Resolution (Swannex Branch) "This Conference recommends the BC to hold a Party Poll to decide whether members are satisfied with the D of P in its present form and whether members want to change the Party name to the 'World Socialist Party.'"
Floor Resolution (Glasgow Branch) "The Vote be Taken." Carried Overwhelmingly.
Vote: Lost 11-24

12. Fraternal Greetings were received from World Socialist Party of United States of America. The delegates agreed to note this.

13. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
13.1 Paddington Branch "The right of Central Branch members to participate in the formulation of Conference and Annual Delegate Meeting Agendas."

4. Glasgow Branch "Central Branch participation in Party democracy."
Discussion. HO and BC facilities should be open to all members. It took 2 months to get a circular to branches. Central Branch members have not got the political strength to put anything to Conference and ADM. The proposal would not be an extension of democracy, but would be a restriction of it - but worth looking at. A question was asked on the mechanics of Central Branch voting at Conference - why, if they were the largest branch (over 160), did they not have 16 votes instead of 2/3 called out by the Central Branch secretaries? Delegates were informed the long-established practice had been to establish voting strength on a vote at Conference per 10 Ballot papers returned, i.e., despite the branch being over 160 members, only 20/36 returned their Ballot Papers. Therefore, Central Branch had 2 votes this Conference.

Floor Resolution (Paddington Branch) "This Conference recommends the BC to instruct the Central Branch Secretaries to investigate the possibility of setting up a mechanism to better involve Central Branch members in Party democracy." Carried Overwhelmingly

13.2 Item for Discussion
6. Glasgow Branch: "Is membership of the armed forces and the police compatible with membership of the Party?" As a Socialist in the armed forces it would be quite likely the member would be given orders incompatible with their views as a Socialist, i.e., strike breaking. Capitalists are allowed to be members. Is the Party afraid of being infiltrated. Only armed forces and police would do anything directly against the working class. Previous ruling was in 1961, when conscription was still an issue - if a member joined voluntarily, then that in no way could be tolerated. Members had done their best during wartime to avoid conscription - many went on the run. Members were warned against advising members of the armed forces to go on the run - this is regarded as a serious crime. 'Seducing a member of the armed forces.' All workers are involved to some degree in the wage system, but all - except armed forces and police - have a degree of choice. Towards the Socialist revolution the armed forces will contain Socialists and we should take this into consideration.

13.3 Final Item for Discussion
10. Islington Branch: "This Conference recommends the BC to allow branches and members to sell copies of the Socialist Party of Canada pamphlet - "Lenin Distorts Marx - the the public." Discussion BC had acted incorrectly over this. SPC is not an affiliated Party of the SPGB.

Vote: Carried 25-5

Conference adjourned at 5.30 p.m.

General Secretary