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SECOND NATIONAL CONFERENCE BULLETIN

Minutes of the Second National Conference of the Socialist Alliance

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Flemington Community Centre, Melbourne, May 10-11, 2003

Saturday, May 10

Morning session

The session began at 9.12am

1. Welcome

Jody Betzien welcomed delegates on behalf of the conference Organising Committee, asking conference to acknowledge its presence on Aboriginal land.

2. Procedural motions

Session chair

(Moved: National Conveners)

That comrade Jacqui Lynch chair the Saturday morning session of conference with other session chairs to be proposed by the presiding committee at the beginning of each session.

Motion adopted unanimously

Draft standing orders for presentation to conference

(Moved: Dick Nichols, Seconded: David Glanz)

1. *Presiding committee.* That there be a presiding committee of six, to be composed of David Glanz, Carlene Wilson, Michael Morphett, Riki Lane, Alison Thorne and Dick Nichols;
2. *Voting.* Voting on reports, resolutions and amendment to be by show of delegate cards. Voting on resolutions and amendments to take place as soon as debate on the resolutions and amendments in question has ended;
3. *Majority required.* Decisions to be by simple majority;
4. *Procedure for selecting speakers.* Delegates to have voice and vote. Non-delegate members to have voice. The speaking order to be formed of delegates and non-delegates, but session chairs shall ensure that all delegates who wish to speak get the opportunity to do so. The chair to take speakers in groups of five and aim to ensure balanced representation by gender, delegation and affiliates. Any delegate or non-delegate who has not spoken in the debate to have precedence over any delegate or non-delegate who has already spoken;
5. *Conduct of debate.* After two speakers have spoken in favour of a resolution or amendment the next speaker to be a speaker against. If there is no such speaker, debate to lapse and the vote taken. Movers not to have right of reply;
6. *Speaking limit.* The speaking limit to be four minutes and speakers to be advised when they have spoken for three minutes. Speakers may ask the conference for extensions;
7. *Procedural motions and dissent in ruling of the chair.* In the case of procedural motions and dissent in the chair's rulings only one speaker to be allowed for and against. Procedural motions do not require a seconder;
8. *Motion to gag debate.* The motion to gag debate to be put without debate;
9. *Treatment and presentation of resolutions and amendments.* Movers of amendments to be entitled to amalgamate and modify amendments at any time until the vote on the matter under debate is taken. All resolutions and amendments to be submitted to the conference presiding committee so as to be able to be projected on screen for delegates.
10. *Media coverage.* Conference to be open to the media but any speaker who does not wish to be recorded by the media to so indicate and coverage to be suspended for the duration of the presentation of the speaker in question;
11. *Videoing conference.* Art Resistance to be allowed to video conference, but under the same conditions as proposed for the media.

Motion adopted unanimously

3. Special resolution on National Executive's postponement of Second National Conference

Proposal of the National Executive (Moved: Dick Nichols, Seconded: Riki Lane)

That the Second National Conference authorise the breach of Constitution involved in postponing the Socialist Alliance annual conference from 2002 to 2003.

Motion adopted unanimously

4. Greetings from Friends of the Earth (Victoria)

Cam Walker's greetings on behalf of Friends of the Earth (Victoria) were received with acclamation.

5. Proposal on size, composition and method of election of incoming National Executive and National Conveners

Reports

David Glanz reported on the National Executive's proposed changes to sections 6.4, 6.5 and 6.6 of the Constitution.

Mark Lockett reported on his proposed changes to sections 6.4, 6.5, 6.6 and 7.1 of the Constitution.

The motions under consideration and treated *en bloc* were as follows:

(i) Proposal of the National Executive on Section 6.4 (Moved: David Glanz, Seconded: Dick Nichols)

Delete:

For 2001-2 the National Officeholders shall be three National Conveners.

And replace with:

The National Officeholders shall be five National Conveners, at least two of whom shall not belong to an affiliate organisation.

1. (ii) Proposal of comrade Mark Lockett, (Moved: Mark Lockett, Seconded: Phil Chilton)

Delete Section 6.4 and renumber accordingly:

(iii) Proposal of the National Executive on section 6.5 (Moved: David Glanz, Seconded: Dick Nichols)

To replace all of 6.5 with the following:

The National Executive shall initially be composed of 21 members and be elected according to the following formula:

- Two representatives from each of the larger affiliates;
- One representative from each of the smaller affiliates;
- Eleven unaffiliated Alliance members who shall have a majority on the National Executive (at least 11 members) and shall include at least one from each state and territory;
- If a non-affiliated member cannot be found to represent a particular state or territory a casual vacancy shall exist and shall be filled through election at a state- or territory-wide meeting or the relevant state/territory executive;
- Between conferences, if necessary, proxies to the National Executive may be (i) appointed by the affiliated group, in the case of a representative of an affiliated group, or (ii) in the case of a representative of a state or territory be elected by a state- or territory-wide meeting or the relevant state/territory executive. If in case (ii) no unaffiliated member can be found to act as proxy, a member of an affiliated group may be elected, who shall have voice but not vote at meetings of the National Executive.
- Any new affiliates joining the Socialist Alliance after the Second National Conference shall be accorded representation on the National Executive, at the invitation of the National Executive.

(iv) Proposal of comrade Mark Lockett, on Section 7.1 and 6.5 (Moved: Mark Lockett, Seconded: Phil Chilton)

1. To add Section 7.1 and renumber accordingly:

The National Executive shall consist of :

- Five National Conveners (non-voting)
- Two representatives from each of the larger affiliates
- One representative from each of the smaller affiliates

- Three representatives of unaffiliated members.
- One representative from each State Organisation.

2. To amend section 6.5 to read as follows:

The National Executive other than state representatives shall be elected according to the following formula:

- Two representatives from each of the larger affiliates;
- One representative from each of the smaller affiliates;
- Any affiliates joining the Socialist Alliance after the conference shall be accorded representation on the National Executive, at the invitation of the National Executive;
- Between conferences, if necessary, proxies to the National Executive may be appointed by the affiliated group, in the case of a representative of an affiliated group.

No person shall be elected to more than one voting position on the National Executive.

(v) Proposal of the National Executive on Section 6.6 (Moved: David Glanz, Seconded: Dick Nichols)

Replace existing 6.6 with the following:

The following method of election shall apply for the election of the National Executive:

- The National Executive shall be elected by slate;
- Nominations of slates shall be open from the beginning of conference and close at the end of lunch on the last day of conference;
- Nominations for the positions of representatives of affiliate organisations on the National Executive shall be made by the affiliate organisations and made known by the opening of conference;
- Any conference delegate shall be eligible to present a slate;
- Nominees may decline nomination if they so wish;
- All slates nominated shall be available for scrutiny by conference;
- Voting shall be by show of hands;
- If no slate receives a majority of votes in the first round of voting, the slate with the least number of votes shall drop off and further rounds of voting conducted until one slate gains a majority.

(vi) Proposal of comrade Mark Lockett, on Section 6.6 (Moved: Mark Lockett, Seconded: Phil Chilton)

To add a new section 6.6 and renumber accordingly:

State representatives shall be elected by State Conferences as described in section 9.4. State representatives elected at the First Conference of Socialist Alliance shall continue in office until July 31, 2003 or until the state they represent holds a State Conference, whichever occurs first.

Procedural motion (Chair)

That conference vote first on Mark Lockett's proposed amendment to section 6.6 [(vi) above] of the Constitution.

Motion adopted unanimously

Speakers

Dick Nichols, Tim Gooden

Amendment to motion (ii) (Moved: Lisa Farrance, Seconded: Carlene Wilson)

That the motion be split into two motions, with a full stop inserted after "21 members".

Speakers

Lisa Farrance

Amendment defeated by majority

Voting on motions

(vi)

Motion defeated by majority

(ii) and (iv) lapse

(i)

Motion adopted by majority

(iii)

Motion adopted by majority

(v)

Motion adopted by majority

6. Balance sheet and perspectives for the Socialist Alliance

Procedural motion (Moved: Dick Nichols)

That debate and voting in this session be governed by the following rules:

1. Debate on all three resolutions to be taken at the same time and standing order number five suspended to allow this;
2. Amendments and addenda to all three resolutions to be moved and spoken to during the debate;
3. Debate to conclude at 12.45pm;
4. An indicative vote to be taken on all three resolutions (unamended);
5. If no resolution achieves 50 per cent support, the resolution with the lowest vote to be eliminated and an indicative vote taken on the two remaining resolutions;
6. The resolution which achieves a majority to become the substantive motion;
7. Amendments and addenda to the substantive motion to be voted on;
8. The substantive motion as amended to be voted on.

Motion adopted unanimously

The motions under consideration and treated *en bloc* were as follows.

(i) (Moved: Humphrey McQueen, Seconded: John van der Velden)

That conference endorses these seven points:

- We want the Alliance to become a single, multi-tendency socialist party.
- We want to progress this move right now, starting with this conference.
- A commitment from affiliates to building the Socialist Alliance through greater affiliate integration needs to be demonstrated, in word and in deed.
- Our multi-tendency socialist party should be as broad as possible.
- We accept and welcome a strong revolutionary socialist stream as an integral part of our vision of a broad Socialist party.
- We need strong democratic structures to accommodate diversity.
- We need a common socialist voice: in our platform, in a national paper, and in our campaigns.

(ii) (Moved: David Glanz, Seconded: Peter Murray)

That conference endorse the following nine points:

- The continuing crisis in social democracy means hundreds of thousands of Labor supporters are prepared to vote to the left in defence of the values they support but Crean and Beazley have abandoned.
- The Greens have been the major beneficiary of this process to date. But the Greens' weakness on questions relating to class means there remains even now an important minority open to a socialist, pro-working class alternative.
- This is what makes the Socialist Alliance project of continuing importance.
- The Alliance is most likely to succeed in involving erstwhile Labor supporters if it operates as a united front—a place where the existing revolutionary left and reformists can work together around common aims and objectives.
- A central element of this project is providing a broad socialist alternative at elections in defence of union rights, public services, free education, Medicare, etc, and against imperialist war, scapegoating of refugees, etc.
- We have seen that unaffiliated members and supporters of the Alliance have involved themselves most at election times. Moves to turn the Alliance into a site of revolutionary regroupment, or into

another left activist party (i.e., a multi-tendency socialist party), risk cutting us off from our central audience. The Alliance must have its own independent existence and not simply replicate the important work of the existing revolutionary left.

- A focus on elections does not mean passivity in between.
- An immediate priority for the Alliance is the campaign against Howard's war budget—a clear example of where the Alliance can strengthen the anti-war movement, the working class and the left by taking up issues affecting working-class people such as health, education and welfare.
- We also need to build on our demonstrated strengths in union networking and solidarity, and in providing forums for public discussion and debate on the big questions facing working class and student activists.

(iii) (Moved: Carlene Wilson, Seconded: Lisa Farrance)

That conference endorse the following seven points:

1: The Socialist Alliance needs to decide on its future direction if it is to play a positive role in the development of the class struggle, if it is to grow into a significant force on the Australian left and if it is to contribute towards the building of a real mass alternative to Labor. In short the Socialist Alliance needs to decide what sort of organisation it wants to become. This Conference resolves to set the Socialist Alliance on a new course. It should set as its goal the creation of a powerful movement, involving forces beyond itself, committed to the formation of a new working class party.

2: The essential elements of this new course are rooted in the objective possibilities that are emerging in the class struggle:

- the hostility of a layer of militant workers to Labor and their preparedness to consider a break from it;
- the growth of a mass anti-war movement, including some Labor MPs and anger among the Labor left at Crean's perceived backdown on troops out;
- the internationalisation of the struggle against war and globalisation and the internationalism of workers and youth that has developed as a result of this.

However, we recognise that, for a wide variety of reasons, many of the people who desire an alternative to Labor are not convinced of the need to join the Socialist Alliance.

3: To take advantage of this situation the Socialist Alliance has to constitute itself as a campaigning force for the creation of a new workers' party alongside forces outside the Alliance. We are not the socialist alternative to the ALP (a proto party). Our failure to make a significant sustained electoral breakthrough, to attract large numbers of former Labor supporters to our ranks, to transcend our existence as a coalition of far left groups and individuals are all proof of this. The Democratic Socialist Party's multi-tendency party is not the answer nor is to continue as a primarily electoral united front as the International Socialist Organisation envision. We must seek to build alliances with much wider forces than those currently organised by the Socialist Alliance (in the unions, the anti-capitalist movement, community and anti-racist campaigns etc.) in order to campaign alongside them for a new workers' party in Australia.

4: In practical terms this means:

- the Socialist Alliance should seek to build links with trade unionists, including trade union leaders who will not join the Socialist Alliance but will work with it around the project of building a new party The national executive is charged with attempting to convene a meeting (or meetings) involving Alliance and non-alliance trade union representatives to discuss such a project;
- depending upon the success of such a meeting there should a series of meetings around the country, with trade union sponsorship where possible, on the theme of building an alternative to the ALP. Speakers should include representatives of the Socialist Alliance and others from outside the organisation who are in broad agreement with the project;
- approaches should also be made to other political forces (parties, general anti-capitalist campaigns and prominent individual activists from single issue campaigns, prominent left wing writers etc.) to endorse the project—provisionally named The Campaign for a New Workers' Party—and participate in it with the Socialist Alliance and any trade unions (local or national) that join it;

- the Socialist Alliance should offer to work with and support dissident Labor MPs and their supporters in the Labor Party (who will be numerous), without demanding that they become members of the Socialist Alliance, with a view to persuading them to become part of the campaign for a new party;
- even if we are not successful in the short term in committing broader forces to this project we can, as the Socialist Alliance, make clear in future elections, rallies, local meetings and other activities—as well as in literature that we produce—that this is what we stand for and this is what we propose to others outside the Socialist Alliance.

5: None of the above means that the Socialist Alliance should cease to stand candidates in elections or undertake campaigns. It does mean, however, that in such activities we seek to promote both the idea of building a new workers' party and, where possible, promote fighting for it in practice by combining with other forces both to stand candidates or undertake campaigns and activities. Furthermore, in terms of Socialist Alliance candidates standing in elections we affirm the right of such candidates to publicly express their own views, publicly espouse the programs to which they adhere, while making clear that such views are not necessarily those of the Socialist Alliance as a whole.

6: The issue of what sort of party we are campaigning for has long been a source of dispute inside the Socialist Alliance. Some comrades favour the rebuilding of an old style Labor Party, others a coalition (multi-tendency party on a centrist basis), others are against any sort of party, while others are pledged to building a revolutionary party unambiguously committed to the overthrow of capitalism and the destruction of the capitalist state and its replacement with a workers' state based on workers' councils and a workers' militia. The truth is that these debates are currently conducted amongst ourselves rather than with significant numbers of workers in the wider labour movement. Our task should be to broaden that debate and decide on the character of a future party only when real forces (which could be measured by trade union affiliations to the campaign, numbers of individuals signed up to it, campaigns prepared to sponsor it and so on) could come together and set up a party. To that end we should recognise the full freedom of all organisations and individuals to publicly express and campaign for their own views of what the party's program should be up to the point where a democratic conference constituting the party and deciding upon its program is convened. Even after that we are in favour of maximum internal democracy to facilitate those who disagree with the program decided upon to have the right to persuade the majority of their views.

7: Finally the National Executive is charged with producing a short pamphlet setting out the case for the building of a new workers' party, for organising a campaign to turn the slogan into practical action and launching an appeal for others to join us in this project.

NOTE: The following two motions, proposed by the Non-Aligned Caucus, were withdrawn.

1. That conference asks that affiliates outline their proposals and requirements for integration into a multi-tendency socialist party within the framework of the seven points.
2. Conference asks that the incoming National Executive provide a written report to the Alliance membership within six months outlining progress on the preceding resolutions, followed by a conference within twelve months with a view to completing implementation.

Reporters

Humphrey McQueen (for i)

David Glanz (for ii)

Dick Nichols (for i)

Carlene Wilson (for iii)

The following amendments/addenda were moved

- (i) (Moved: Lynn Smith, Seconded: Riki Lane)

To add point eight to (i) to read:

8: In order to achieve a secure basis political basis for unity, the National Executive will outline a program of discussion aimed at reaching well-considered majority positions at the next national conference on the following questions:

1. What is socialism and how do we get it?
2. What is Stalinism and what is our relation to it?
3. What is the ALP and what is our relation to it?

4. What is the role of trade unions in the struggle for socialism and what is our relation to them?
5. How can Socialist Alliance relate to the working class and how can we make sure our practice is democratic?

(ii) (Moved: Patrick McLeish, Seconded: Kieran Latty)

To replace point 3 of (i) with: “Conference calls on affiliates and non-affiliated members to reaffirm their commitment to building the Socialist Alliance.”

(iii) (Moved: Luke Whelan, Seconded: Ron Bailey)

To add point eight: “We welcome other individuals and groups who support our broad aims and objectives.”

(iv) (Moved: Ian Bolas, Seconded: Daniel Watson)

To add point eight: “The conference recognises the organisational and programmatic integrity of its affiliate organisations and welcomes their continued existence as tendencies within the Alliance.”

(v) (Moved: Kieran Latty, Seconded: David Glanz)

To delete point seven and relace with: “We support and work towards creating a common political face through leaflets, interventions in campaigns, in our platform and in regular national publications. However, we agree that this platform should be limited to points where there is common agreement among affiliates and independent members. We respect the rights of affiliate groups to produce their own material and hold their own meetings, to discuss and promote ideas beyond the Alliance platform.”

(vi) (Moved: Sean Vickery , Seconded: Brian Webb)

To replace point 5 of (i) with: “We accept and welcome all socialist streams in building a strong and resilient approach to socialist society.”

Speakers

Sue Johnston, Tim Gooden, Tim Kirschler, Angela Budai, Patrick McLeish, Linda Seaborn, Luke Whelan, Craig Johnston, Juliette Edeson, Alison Thorne, Lynn Smith, Lisa Farrance, Pat Brewer, Lalitha Chelliah, Ian Bolas, David Scrimgeour, John van der Velden, Brian Webb, Lucy Beaton, Sybilla Kaczorek, Peter Murray, Chris Cain, Kamala Emanuel, Louise Walker

Procedural motion (Moved: Dick Nichols)

To take the last group of five speakers and give priority to those comrades who have moved amendments.

Motion adopted unanimously

Speakers

Kieran Latty, Sean Vickery, Riki Lane, Alan Woodcraft , Simon Millar

Voting

The indicative vote on the motions was as follows:

(i)

For 90 and one ninth [for one at-large delegate]

(ii)

For 27

(iii)

For 2

Motion (i) became the substantive motion

The vote on amendments to motion (i) were as follows

(i)

Amendment defeated by majority

(ii)

Amendment defeated by majority

(iii)

Amendment adopted by majority

(iv)

Amendment adopted by majority

(v)

Amendment defeated by majority

(vi)

Amendment defeated by majority

Vote on motion (i) as amended

Motion adopted by majority

The motion as amended therefore reads:

Conference endorses these nine points:

- *We want the Alliance to become a single, multi-tendency socialist party.*
- *We want to progress this move right now, starting with this conference.*
- *A commitment from affiliates to building the Socialist Alliance through increasing integration needs to be demonstrated, in word and in deed.*
- *Our multi-tendency socialist party should be as broad as possible.*
- *We accept and welcome a strong revolutionary socialist stream as an integral part of our vision of a broad Socialist party.*
- *We need strong democratic structures to accommodate diversity.*
- *We need a common socialist voice: in our platform, in a national paper, and in our campaigns.*
- *We welcome other individuals and groups who support our broad aims and objectives.*
- *The conference recognises the organisational and programmatic integrity of its affiliate organisations and welcomes their continued existence as tendencies within the Alliance.*

Afternoon session

The session began at 2.15 pm

Session chair: Patrick McLeish

1. Greetings from the CFMEU (Martin Kingham)

Greetings received with acclamation

Motion in solidarity with construction unions (Moved: Lauren Want, Seconded: Tom Orsag)

The Liberals' attack on the CFMEU and other construction unions through the Cole royal commission is the cutting edge of their offensive against unionists.

The Socialist Alliance seeks to encourage the widest active support within the union movement for the construction unions. A defeat for militant organisation on construction sites would be a defeat for workers everywhere.

This conference therefore resolves:

- That the next Alliance broadsheet should be around the theme of defending the construction unions.
- That the Alliance seeks to initiate a broad-based lobby of the ACTU's congress in Melbourne in August, calling for the union movement to unite against Tony Abbott and the Cole recommendations. To build such a lobby, Alliance branches/districts (especially in Geelong and Melbourne) should call broad-based organising meetings, inviting union officials and members, sympathetic community groups, and Green and Labor representatives. The aim would be to mobilise, in particular, rank-and-file delegations, official union contingents, and ACTU delegates.
- That the Alliance organises major public meetings in each city in defence of the construction unions and to discuss responses to the Liberals' attacks. These meetings should be similarly broad-based.

To aid this process, the incoming National Executive should prepare a petition to the ACTU setting out the case for solidarity, and a model motion for union, ALP and Greens branches, community and student groups.

Amendment (Moved: Riki Lane, Seconded: Dick Nichols)

To add the following paragraph after "a defeat for workers everywhere":

"The attack on the constructions unions follows hard on the heels of the attack on the case of Skilled Six and the ongoing persecution of former AMWU Victorian state secretary Craig Johnston."

To add the following paragraph as point 5:

“That the Alliance will continue to support the Skilled Six campaign through fundraising and attendance at pickets and protests.”

Amendment accepted for incorporation by Lauren Want.

Speakers

Lauren Want, Ian Bolas

Motion as amended adopted unanimously

2. Amendments to the Socialist Alliance platform

A. To the section “Against Australia’s imperialist foreign policy”

(Moved: Riki Lane, Seconded: Bryan Sketchley)

That the section “Against Australia’s imperialist foreign policy” be amended as follows:

1. *Rename the section **Solidarity with working class and democratic struggles in all countries***
2. *Amend first dot point to read:*
 - **Opposition to Australia’s imperialist foreign policy, and the export of military hardware, personnel and training**
3. *Insert second dot point to read:*
 - **Close Pine Gap, no to the Star Wars/missile defence shield project**
4. *Insert third dot point to read:*
 - **Solidarity with struggles against repressive regimes and reactionary forces including political Islam.**
5. *Insert final dot point to read:*
 - **For the right of nations to self-determination, including in the Middle East the Palestinians, the Israeli Jews and the Kurds, as well as around the world**

Speakers

Riki Lane

(i) Amendment (Moved: Tim Kirschler, Seconded: Brian Webb)

To delete “political Islam” from point four.

Speakers

Tim Kirschler (for amendment)

(ii) Amendment (Moved: Lisa Macdonald, Seconded: Kamala Emanuel)

To delete from point 5 the words “including in the Middle East the Palestinians, the Israeli Jews and the Kurds, as well as around the world.”

Speakers

Lisa Macdonald, Angela Budai, Ron Bailey, David Glanz

(iii) Amendment to amendment (ii) (Moved Lisa Farrence, Seconded: Carlene Wilson)

To amend amendment (ii) to include word “oppressed” before “nations” in point 5 of motion.

Accepted by mover of amendment.

Speakers

Janet Burstall

(iv) Amendment (Moved: Ian Bolas, Seconded: Daniel Watson)

To insert word “all” before “nations” in dot point 5 of the motion.

Speakers

Ian Bolas

Voting on amendments

(i)

Adopted by majority

(ii)

Adopted by majority

(iii)

Accepted by mover

(iv)

Defeated by majority

Voting on motion as amended

Adopted by majority

The platform section as amended now reads:

Solidarity with working class and democratic struggles in all countries

- *Opposition to Australia's imperialist foreign policy, and the export of military hardware, personnel and training*
- *Solidarity with Indonesia's peoples, not its military and police*
- *End ANZUS, no to APEC, for a nuclear-free Pacific*
- *Close Pine Gap, no to the Star Wars/missile defence shield project*
- *Solidarity with struggles against repressive regimes and reactionary forces*
- *For the right of oppressed nations to self-determination*

B. To 18 sections of the platform [see "Towards a comprehensive platform for the Socialist Alliance in Discussion Bulletin Volume 3 Number 7, pp.19-26 for text]

Amendment (Moved: Alison Thorne, Seconded: Peter Murray)

To amend in the section "End the gulf invasion and war in the Middle East" to delete "No to Howard's War budget—block supply to make Howard face the electorate" and insert "Block the military budget provisions— money for health, education and welfare".

Amendment adopted unanimously

Procedural motion (Moved: Dick Nichols)

That conference adopt the following method of treating "Towards a comprehensive platform for the Socialist Alliance", proposed by the Freedom Socialist Party (FSP):

1. That the FSP report on the document to conference;
2. That conference delegates be asked by the chair to indicate if they have any disagreement with any of the proposals contained in each section;
3. That in case of disagreement the relevant section be noted and submitted to the Alliance's ongoing policy development process (see point 6 below);
4. That where there is no disagreement with any section the content be incorporated into the present Alliance platform, but with the style and form of presentation to be determined by the incoming National Executive;
5. That where disagreements have been registered general discussion will take place within the allowed time remaining;
6. That the amended platform along with those sections of the FSP document on which there is disagreement at conference be submitted for discussion at Alliance branches and policy working groups; and
7. That at the end of this process the National Executive provisionally adopt a redrafted Alliance platform for presentation to the next National Conference.

Speakers

Dick Nichols

Amendment to procedural motion (Moved: Alison Thorne)

To change section 6 of motion to read:

Once the end of the document is reached, the chair returns to the first of the sections where a disagreement has been registered and proceeds to accept amendments for discussion and vote, with a maximum of two

speakers on each side of an issue and each speaker given a time limit of two minutes. This procedure continues until the time allocated for this session expires.

Speakers

Alison Thorne

Voting on amendment

Amendment defeated by majority

Voting on procedural motion

Adopted by majority

Reporter

Alison Thorne

Attitude of conference delegates to sections of document:

No objection to “Platform of the Socialist Alliance”

Objection to section “End the Gulf invasion and war in the Middle East”

No objection to “Fight corporate globalisation”

Objections to “Remove barriers to immigration”

Objections to “Indigenous self-determination”

Objections to “Defend civil liberties”

No objections to “Defend workers’ rights”

No objections to “Education for all”

Objections to “End criminalisation of working poor”

Objections to “No discrimination against people with disabilities”

Objections to “Lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgendered”

No objections to “Defend and extend welfare”

Objections to “Women’s liberation”

No objections to “Universal free health care”

No objections to “Housing”

Objections to “Environment”

Objections “Publicly owned transport”

Objections to “United fronts against fascism”

Speakers

Riki Lane

Procedural motion (Moved: Kieran Latty)

That a three-quarter majority should over-ride objections.

Speakers

Kim Bullimore

Procedural motion defeated by majority

Speakers

Kim Bullimore, Katrina Heckendorf, Angela Budai, David Scrimgeour, Mark Lockett

[NOTE: The sections to which there were no objections are now referred to the National Executive for incorporation in the platform with the style and form of presentation to be determined by the National Executive.]

C. Resolution on policy development

(Moved: Paul Johnson, Seconded: Dick Nichols)

That conference resolves:

1. To push along the process of Alliance policy development by forming policy working groups in the following areas:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
 - Agriculture and the countryside
 - Democratic rights and civil liberties
 - Economy and full employment
 - Education
 - Environment
 - Housing
 - Health
 - Immigration, refugee and migrant rights
 - Industrial relations and union rights
 - International relations
 - Lesbian, gay and transsexual rights
 - Military and defence
 - Social justice and welfare
 - Women's rights
 - Young people's rights
2. To conduct Alliance policy working groups as moderated e-groups open to any interested Alliance member;
 3. To call for volunteers to act as moderators for the various working groups, with the incoming National Executive to nominate moderators for each group as soon as possible; and
 4. To ask these working groups to produce draft statements of policy in accordance with a schedule to be established by the incoming National Executive.

Amendment (Moved: Angela Budai, Seconded: Juanita Feldbauer)

To add policy working groups on Israel-Palestine conflict and Cuba

Amendment (Moved: Katrina Heckendorf, Seconded: Luke Weyland)

To add a policy working group on drug use

Amendment (Moved: Luke Whelan, Seconded: Mark Cronin)

To add policy working groups on disability access, public transport, family support, and drug law reform

Amendment (Moved: Sean Vickery, Seconded: Mark Lockett,)

To add a policy working group on science and technology

All amendments acceptable to the mover

Voting on motion as amended

Motion adopted unanimously

The motion as adopted reads:

Conference resolves:

1. To push along the process of Alliance policy development by forming policy working groups in the following areas:

- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander*
- *Agriculture and the countryside*
- *Democratic rights and civil liberties*
- *Economy and full employment*
- *Education*
- *Environment*
- *Housing*
- *Health*

- *Immigration, refugee and migrant rights*
 - *Industrial relations and union rights*
 - *International relations*
 - *Lesbian, gay and transsexual rights*
 - *Military and defence*
 - *Social justice and welfare*
 - *Women's rights*
 - *Young people's rights*
 - *Israel-Palestine conflict*
 - *Cuba*
 - *Drug use and drug law reform*
 - *Disability access*
 - *Public transport*
 - *Family support*
 - *Science and technology*
2. *To conduct Alliance policy working groups as moderated e-groups open to any interested Alliance member;*
 3. *To call for volunteers to act as moderators for the various working groups, with the incoming National Executive to nominate moderators for each group as soon as possible; and*
 4. *To ask these working groups to produce draft statements of policy in accordance with a schedule to be established by the incoming National Executive.*

Session after afternoon tea

The session began at 4.05pm

1. Greetings from the Victorian Greens

Greetings from Gurm Sekhon (Green councillor for Yarraville) received with acclamation.

2. Building the Socialist Alliance (part one)

Motion on relations with the Greens (Moved: Tom Flanagan, Seconded: Angela Luvera)

That this second National Conference of the Socialist Alliance:

- Welcomes the rise in the vote for the Greens both federally and in state and territory elections as a reflection of the growing mass rejection of the policies of economic rationalism and war;
- Congratulates the Green parliamentarians on their opposition to the criminal war on Iraq and their role in the mass movement against this war;
- Calls on all Socialist Alliance organizations to pursue close collaboration with Green organizations in community, social and environment campaigns;
- Affirms that Alliance organizations will always be prepared to negotiate joint election campaigns with local Green organizations where there is agreement on the key issues of the election and that the Alliance is prepared to withdraw its own candidates in those specific cases where withdrawal would further the cause of left and progressive unity;
- Affirms the need for ongoing serious discussion between the Greens and the Alliance on how to advance towards a society based on the principles of grass-roots democracy, environmental sustainability, social justice and peace.

2. *Speakers*

3. Tom Flanagan

(i) Amendment (Moved: Lauren Want, Seconded: Louise Walker)

To delete the words “and that the Alliance is prepared to withdraw its own candidates in those specific cases where withdrawal would further the cause of left and progressive unity”.

Speakers

Lauren Want

(ii) Amendment (Moved: Carlene Wilson, Seconded: Lisa Farrence)

To delete the fourth dot point in its entirety.

Speakers

Carlene Wilson, Angela Luvera, Rachel Evans

Procedural motion (Moved: Sean Vickery)

To allow one speaker against the motion

Voting

Motion adopted by majority

Speakers

Sean Vickery

Voting on amendments

(i)

Defeated by majority

(ii)

Defeated by majority

Voting on motion

Adopted by majority

Motion on Socialist Alliance and the ALP (Moved: Tom Orsag, Seconded: Brian Webb)

To adopt the following resolution:

Labor's current leadership crisis highlights the ALP's continuing shift to the right. Kim Beazley was the leader who surrendered to the Liberals' racism over refugees, Simon Crean is the leader who failed the test of war. Neither offers an alternative to the pro-market policies Labor leaderships have supported for 20 years.

The result is that even more ALP members will resign, and hundreds of thousands more previously rusted on Labor voters will be prepared to vote to the left of Labor in defence of values Labor has abandoned.

Such people are breaking with the reformism of Labor on a reformist basis—in the overwhelming number of cases they are looking for a new electoral home to express their working class and socialist values, rather than for revolutionary organisation. The evidence for this is the Greens vote in recent elections.

Socialists want to channel this dissatisfaction with Labor in an anti-capitalist, pro-working class and explicitly socialist direction.

This cannot be done simply by denouncing Labor; we also need to find ways to work alongside those still in Labor's orbit, including many union activists, community leaders and even those who voted against Labor at recent elections. The Socialist Alliance needs to demonstrate in both electoral terms and in practice through campaigns that it can offer a genuine alternative to Labor.

Socialist Alliance will therefore seek to work with Labor leaders and members over issues which affect the lives of working class people. Concretely, this will typically mean inviting dissident and/or leftwing ALP members to share platforms on questions of common concern, like opposing the war budget or defending the CFMEU.

Speakers

Tom Orsag

Amendment (Moved: Chris Pickering, Seconded: Mark Hilder)

To delete the second and third paragraphs.

Speakers

Chris Pickering, Jonathon Sherlock, Alison Maxwell, Tim Gooden, Brian Webb

Voting on amendment

Adopted by majority

Voting on motion as amended

Adopted by majority

The motion as adopted reads:

Labor's current leadership crisis highlights the ALP's continuing shift to the right. Kim Beazley was the leader who surrendered to the Liberals' racism over refugees, Simon Crean is the leader who failed the test of war. Neither offers an alternative to the pro-market policies Labor leaderships have supported for 20 years.

Socialists want to channel this dissatisfaction with Labor in an anti-capitalist, pro-working class and explicitly socialist direction.

This cannot be done simply by denouncing Labor; we also need to find ways to work alongside those still in Labor's orbit, including many union activists, community leaders and even those who voted against Labor at recent elections. The Socialist Alliance needs to demonstrate in both electoral terms and in practice through campaigns that it can offer a genuine alternative to Labor.

Socialist Alliance will therefore seek to work with Labor leaders and members over issues which affect the lives of working class people. Concretely, this will typically mean inviting dissident and/or leftwing ALP members to share platforms on questions of common concern, like opposing the war budget or defending the CFMEU.

Motion on elections and the Socialist Alliance (Moved: Suzanne Johnson, Seconded: Patrick McLeish)

To adopt the following resolution:

1. Elections have been the events where the Socialist Alliance has had most success in mobilising members and supporters to join us in political activity.
2. Elections remain key events for the Socialist Alliance as they are times when the greatest number of people are most engaged with political debate.
3. Success in elections is a legitimate and primarily strategic goal for the Alliance, ensuring we are taken seriously by our biggest audience—left Labor supporters and class conscious trade unionists who are angry and disappointed with Labor.
4. Election campaigning is not sufficient to sustain the Alliance and the relationships we build in election work. We need to participate with those supporters in other political campaigns as this is the primary means by which we will meet them and form those relationships in the first instance.
5. However, because these people do consider elections and parliament to be the primary means of political expression, we should not expect from them the same level of political activity as is the norm for committed socialists and revolutionary organisation members.
6. We should expect the normal level of activity for most members and supporters will be:
 - regular monthly meeting which are political events rather than business or organising meetings;
 - some key fundraising events; and
 - mobilisation for major rallies or similar events in the major campaigns we participate in.

Speakers

Suzanne Johnson, Raul Bassi, Ben Halliday, Luke Whelan

Voting

Defeated by majority

Procedural motion (Moved: Dick Nichols)

To hear greetings from comrade Jacob Rumbiak from the OPM.

Motion adopted by majority

4. West Papua—Greetings from the OPM

Greetings from Jacob Rumbiak (OPM) were received with acclamation

Motion on West Papua (Moved: Michael Reidie, Seconded: Frances Evans)

1. Socialist Alliance supports the struggle of the West Papuan Independence Movement, and condemn the Australian Government's support of the continuing occupation by the Indonesian Government and the brutal suppression by the Indonesian Military of independence activists.

2. Conference resolves that:

4. Socialist Alliance show solidarity for West Papuan activists, political prisoners and exiles and commits to building networks and sponsoring meetings to build awareness around West Papua.

Speaker

Michael Reidie

Motion unanimously adopted

Motion on relations with left organizations presently outside the Alliance (Moved: Alison Thorne, Seconded: Pat Brewer)

This second National Conference of the Socialist Alliance:

Noting that a number of left and socialist organisations still remain outside the Alliance;

- Resolves to renew our invitation to all such organisations to join the Alliance;
- Reaffirms that the Alliance is prepared to seriously negotiate a collaborative relationship with any left organisation which has differences with specific aspects of the Alliance platform; and
- Instructs the incoming National Executive to arrange meetings with all left organisations as are prepared to engage in dialogue with the Alliance.

5. *Speaker*

6. Alison Thorne

Procedural motion (Moved: Dick Nichols)

That the rest of the items under the section "Building the Socialist Alliance" be taken in the session "Building the Socialist Alliance (part two)", set down for Sunday.

Voting

Adopted by majority

Amendment (Moved: Ian Bolas, Seconded: Michael Reidie)

To add to the end of the first point the words "except the CPA".

Speakers

Ian Bolas

Gag moved (Jonathon Sherlock)

Gag motion adopted by majority

Voting on amendment

Defeated by majority

Voting on motion

Adopted by majority

The session ended at 5:50 pm

Sunday May 11

Session started at 9.12am

Chair: Debbie Brennan

1. Amendments to the Socialist Alliance Constitution

Procedural motion (Moved: Dick Nichols)

That those proposals by Mark Lockett which are agreeable to the National Conveners, as well as the motions from the National Executive and National Conveners, be treated first.

Adopted by majority

Reports

Riki Lane (for National Conveners), Mark Lockett

The motions from Mark Lockett agreeable to National Conveners as well as the motions from the National Executive and National Conveners were as follows:

Section 4.1 (Moved: Mark Lockett, Seconded: Phil Chilton)

To add the phrase “or local councillors” to 4.1 so as to read:

The Socialist Alliance does not allow its parliamentarians or local councillors to exercise a conscience vote. As they have been elected on the basis of the Socialist Alliance platform they are required to vote in accordance with that platform and publicly advocate it.

No discussion

Motion unanimously adopted

Section 4.2 (Moved: Mark Lockett, Seconded: Phil Chilton)

To remove the old section 4.2 and replace with the following:

- 4.2.1 Socialist Alliance parliamentarians, local councillors and persons employed to work in the offices of Socialist Alliance parliamentarians shall be subject to the specific direction of the Branch that covers the electorate except that if their electorate is covered by more than one branch or their electorate is not covered by any branches they shall be subject to specific direction by their state organisation.
- 4.2.2 Socialist Alliance parliamentarians, local councillors and persons employed to work in the offices of Socialist Alliance parliamentarians shall be subject to the specific direction of the National Executive which shall override any specific directions given by their local branch or state organisation.
- 4.2.3 Socialist Alliance parliamentarians, local councillors and persons employed to work in the offices of Socialist Alliance parliamentarians shall be subject to the specific direction of the National Conference which shall override any specific directions given by their local branch or state organisation or the National Executive.

(i) Amendment (Moved: John Goldman, Seconded: John O'Brien):

To delete section 4.2.2

Speakers

John Goldman

(ii) Amendment (Moved: Tim Gooden, Seconded: Peter Murray)

To add after words National Executive in 4.2.2 “where such directions relate to Alliance platform or national policy”

Speakers

Tim Gooden, Mark Lockett, Peter Murray, Chris Cain, Kim Bullimore

(ii) Amendment (Moved: Sean Vickery Seconded: No seconder)

To reword 4.2 to read as follows:

Socialist Alliance parliamentarians, local councillors and persons employed to work in the offices of Socialist Alliance parliamentarians shall be subject to:

- The specific direction of the branch that covers the electorate, except that if their electorate is covered by more than one branch or is not covered by any branches they shall be subject to specific direction by their state organisation.
- The specific direction of the National Executive which shall override any specific directions given by their local branch or state organisation.
- The specific direction of the National Conference which shall override any specific directions given by their local branch or state organisation or the National Executive.

Speakers

Sean Vickery

Voting on amendments

(i)

Defeated by majority

(ii)

Adopted by majority

(iii)

Lapsed for want of a seconder

Voting on motion as amended

Carried by majority

Section 4.2.2 as amended now reads:

Socialist Alliance parliamentarians, local councillors and persons employed to work in the offices of Socialist Alliance parliamentarians shall be subject to the specific direction of the National Executive where such directions relate to Alliance platform or national policy, which shall override any specific directions given by their local branch or state organisation.

Section 4.4

Socialist Alliance parliamentarians shall be required to gain the consent of the body they are accountable to in Section 4.2.1 to be able to employ persons to work in their office(s).

Amendment (Moved: Angela Budai, Seconded: Juanita Feldbauer)

To add “which will not be unreasonably withheld” at the end of 4.4.

Speakers

Angela Budai, John Goldman

Voting on amendment

Defeated by majority

Voting on motion

Carried by majority

Section 5.1 (Moved: Riki Lane, Seconded: Dick Nichols)

To delete the sentence:

Membership fees for 2001 shall be \$50 high waged, \$20 waged, \$10 unwaged and \$5 high school student per year.

No discussion

Adopted by majority

Section 6.1 (Moved: Riki Lane, Seconded: Dick Nichols)

7. To replace:

8. “by an annual National Conference or by Special Conference”

9. with

“by a National Conference which shall normally be held annually but at least every two years, or by Special Conference.”

No discussion

Adopted by majority

Section 6.7 (Moved: Riki Lane, Seconded: Dick Nichols)

To change 6.7 to read:

“If one quarter of the paid-up membership requests it by petition to the National Executive, a Special Conference of the Alliance shall be called in addition to National Conferences.”

Speaker

Ian Bolas

Adopted by majority

Section 7.3 (Moved: Riki Lane, Seconded: Leon Parissi)

To add the following clause 7.3 and renumber all clauses accordingly:

The National Executive has the duty to both canvass the broadest possible consensus within the Alliance and to initiate and lead political discussion throughout the Alliance to clarify and resolve differences on all important matters.

Speaker

Riki Lane

Amendment (Moved: Janet Burstall, Seconded: Brian Sketchley)

To add “whilst continuing to take decisions on behalf of the Alliance on immediate decisions consistent with the platform and decisions of the National Conference.”

Amendment acceptable to mover

Adopted by majority

New section 7.3 as amended now reads:

The National Executive has the duty to both canvass the broadest possible consensus within the Alliance and to initiate and lead political discussion throughout the Alliance to clarify and resolve differences on all important matters whilst continuing to take decisions on behalf of the Alliance on immediate decisions consistent with the platform and decisions of the National Conference.

Procedural motion (Moved: Dick Nichols)

To proceed with constitutional motions until finished.

Adopted unanimously

Section 7.3 (Moved: Riki Lane, Seconded: Dick Nichols)

- To add a new Section 7.3 and renumber all subsequent clauses in Section 7. 7.3. to read:

The National Treasurer shall be appointed by the incoming National Executive after each National Conference.

No discussion

Motion adopted unanimously

(Moved: Riki Lane, Seconded: Dick Nichols)

To add new Section 8.x to read:

A branch meeting shall be properly convened if it is held on a regular scheduled day (or days) of the month, or else called by authorised branch officers or on receipt of a petition by 25 per cent of branch members to branch officers, and notified by mail or email with at least seven days notice to each branch member.

No discussion

Motion adopted unanimously

(Moved: Riki Lane, Seconded: Dick Nichols)

To add new Section 8.xx to read:

Each branch meeting shall have a chair and a minutes secretary. The approved minutes shall be forwarded to the relevant State, District or City Organising Committee.

Amendment: (Moved: Lynn Smith, Seconded: Ron Bailey)

To add “and branch members” to the end of 8.xx

Speakers

Lynn Smith, Tim Gooden, Brian Webb, Kerry Anne

Amendment to the amendment (Moved: David Glanz, Seconded: Peter Murray)

To add “as requested” to “and branch members”

Amendment to amendment accepted by mover of amendment

Voting on amendment as amended

Adopted unanimously

Voting on amended motion

Adopted unanimously

Section 8.xx now reads:

Each branch meeting shall have a chair and a minutes secretary. The approved minutes shall be forwarded to the relevant State, District or City Organising Committee and branch members as requested.

Section 8.xxx (Moved: Riki Lane, Seconded: Dick Nichols)

To add new Section 8.xxx:

Where branch meetings will conduct elections for office bearers, delegates or candidate pre-selections (except where a public election called at short notice makes this notice impossible), then 28 days notice of the meeting and the intended ballot should be given to all members.

Amendment (Moved: Angela Budai, Seconded: David Scrimgeour)

To replace “28 days” with “14 days”.

Speakers

Angela Budai, Kim Bullimore, Riki Lane, Lynn Smith

Amendment withdrawn

Amendment re-moved (Moved: Nick Fredman, Seconded: Tom Flanagan)

Nick Fredman, Paul Benedek

Motion to gag debate (Moved: not noted)

Adopted by majority

Voting on amendment

Defeated by majority

Addendum (Moved: Peter Murray, Seconded: Maureen Murphy)

To add: “Nothing in this section removes the responsibility of branch officials to carry out directions/policies of the state or national conference as appropriate.”

Speaker

Peter Murray

Addendum accepted by mover

Voting on motion as amended

Adopted unanimously

Section 8.xxx as amended now reads:

Where branch meetings will conduct elections for office bearers, delegates or candidate pre-selections (except where a public election called at short notice makes this notice impossible), then 28 days notice of the meeting and the intended ballot should be given to all members. Nothing in this section removes the responsibility of branch officials to carry out directions/policies of the state or national conference as appropriate.

Section 8.3 (Moved: Mark Lockett, Seconded: Phil Chilton)

To amend section 8.3 to read:

Branches shall elect office bearers, including a Convener, Treasurer and Returning Officer, at least annually. Office bearers can be voted out at any properly convened branch meeting. Office bearers shall be subject to the specific direction of the branch.

No discussion

Motion adopted unanimously

Section 9 (Moved: Mark Lockett, Seconded: Phil Chilton)

To amend the title of Section 9 to “States and Districts”

No discussion

Motion adopted unanimously

(Moved: Mark Lockett, Seconded: Phil Chilton)

To add new section 9.1 to read:

There shall be an Annual State or Territory Conference in every state or territory where Socialist Alliance has Branches.

No discussion

Motion adopted unanimously

Section 9.2 (Moved: Mark Lockett, Seconded: Phil Chilton)

To add new section 9.2 to read:

All financial members of Socialist Alliance who reside in the relevant state or territory shall have the right to vote at a State or Territory conference.

Amendment (Moved Peter Murray, Seconded: John Goldman)

Add: “unless a previous state or territory conference properly constituted establishes that future conferences shall be delegated.”

Speaker

Peter Murray

Voting on amendment

Adopted by majority

Voting on motion as amended

Adopted by majority

Section 9.2 as amended now reads:

All financial members of Socialist Alliance who reside in the relevant state or territory shall have the right to vote at a State or Territory conference, unless a previous state or territory conference properly constituted establishes that future conferences shall be delegated.

Section 9.3 (Moved: Mark Lockett, Seconded: Phil Chilton)

To add new section 9.3 to read:

The quorum at a properly constituted State conference is 5 members or 10 per cent of the financial membership, whichever is the greater.

No discussion

Motion adopted unanimously

Section 9.7 (Moved: Mark Lockett, Seconded: Phil Chilton)

To add new section 9.7 to read:

Two or more branches may decide to form a district.

No discussion

Motion adopted unanimously

Section 9.8 (Moved: Mark Lockett, Seconded: Phil Chilton)

To amend existing Section 9.1 (now Section 9.8) to read:

States or-districts may choose to have organising committees to coordinate campaigns across branches and to coordinate state electoral campaigns.

Amendment (Moved: Mark Lockett, Seconded: Phil Chilton)

To insert “or two or more neighbouring branches” after “districts”

No discussion

Adopted unanimously

Section 9.8 now reads:

States or-districts or two or more neighbouring branches may choose to have organising committees to coordinate campaigns across branches and to coordinate state electoral campaigns.

Section 9.9 (Moved: Mark Lockett, Seconded: Phil Chilton)

To amend existing Section 9.2 (now Section 9.9) to read:

States and districts shall elect their own executives and office bearers, as required, and shall have control of all campaigns at their corresponding level. Such committees shall usually be formed on the basis of one delegate per branch, with affiliate organisations who are not represented by branch-elected delegates also eligible to nominate a representative.

No discussion

Adopted unanimously

(Moved: Mark Lockett, Seconded: Phil Chilton)

To add new Section 9.10 to read:

A Special State or District conference shall be called if the State or District executive decides, if at least one branch in the state or district demands it or if 25% of the membership of the state or district petition for a state conference. In the case of a conference called for by a branch or petition the conference must be held within 30 days.

No discussion

Adopted unanimously

Section 10.3 (Moved: Riki Lane , Seconded: Dick Nichols)

To add new Section 10.3 to read:

10.3 Caucuses, groups or affiliates within the Alliance have the right to produce and circulate literature publicly.

Discussion

Riki Lane

Adopted unanimously

All other motions proposed by Mark Lockett (on Sections 7.7, 9.4, 9.5, 9.6) were withdrawn

Procedural motion (Dick Nichols)

To allow new motions to be considered.

Adopted unanimously

Moved: (Mark Lockett, Seconded: Alan Woodcraft)

1. To form Alliance Constitution working groups as moderated e-groups open to any interested Alliance member;
2. To call for volunteers to act as moderators for the various working groups, with the incoming National Executive to nominate moderators for each group as soon as possible; and
3. To ask these working groups to produce draft Constitution amendments for the next National Conference.

Addendum: (Moved: Ian Bolas, Seconded: Alan Woodcraft)

That a working party be established to investigate how a proper and effective right of recall of elected representatives can be incorporated into the Alliance constitution.

Speakers

Mark Lockett, Ian Bolas, Paul Benedek

Voting on addendum

Adopted unanimously

Voting on motion

Adopted unanimously

The motion as amended now reads:

Conference resolves:

- 1. To form Alliance Constitution working groups as moderated e-groups open to any interested Alliance member;*
- 2. To call for volunteers to act as moderators for the various working groups, with the incoming National Executive to nominate moderators for each group as soon as possible; and*
- 3. To as these working groups to produce draft Constitution amendments for the next National Conference.*
- 4. That a working party be established to investigate how a proper and effective right of recall of elected representatives can be incorporated into the Alliance constitution.*

Procedural motion (Moved: Dick Nichols)

To change the agenda to reverse the order of greetings from the FSP (US) and Scottish Socialist Party.

Adopted unanimously

2. Greetings from Freedom Socialist Party (US)

The greetings from the FSP (US, delivered by Henry Noble), were received with acclamation.

3. Reviving militant democratic unionism

Procedural motion (Moved: Dick Nichols)

To suspend standing order five for this debate

No discussion

Adopted unanimously

The motions under debate were as follows:

1. Resolution of the National Conveners (Moved: Riki Lane, Seconded: David Glanz)

To adopt the document “Rebuilding democratic, militant unionism—Socialist Alliance and the trade unions”.

2. Resolution of Workers’ Power (Moved: Lisa Farrance, Seconded: Carlene Wilson)

To adopt the document “Turn to the workplace” [published in *Discussion Bulletin* Volume 3 Number 6, page 14].

Reports

Rikki Lane (for the National Conveners)

Lisa Farrance (for Workers Power)

Amendments already acceptable to the movers of both resolutions were noted (see relevant Discussion Bulletins).

The following amendment (by Sue Bolton) was withdrawn:

“In Australia today, there are hundreds of militant unionists scattered through a wide range of unions and workplaces. If these union militants were organised, they could have a big impact transforming more unions into more militant organisations. Socialist Alliance, as a united left organisation, could play a key role here, especially as militant unionists have an extremely well-organised, well-resourced and politically conscious opponent in the ALP, which will stop at nothing to attempt to crush militant unionism.”

(i) Amendment to National Conveners’ resolution (Moved: Riki Lane, Seconded: Sue Bolton)

To add an extra paragraph at end of Section A, to read:

“In Australia today, there are hundreds of militant unionists scattered through a wide range of unions and workplaces. If these union militants were organised, they could have a big impact transforming more unions into more militant organisations. Socialist Alliance, as a united left organisation, could play a key role here, especially in countering the politics of the ALP leadership.”

(ii) Amendment to National Conveners’ resolution (Moved: Craig Johnston, Seconded: Chris Cain)

Add as follows: “National Conference believes that trade union organization is a crucial issue for Socialist Alliance. As such National Conference directs the National Executive to do the following: a sub-committee be setup to construct a trade unionists’ education program. This to be properly resourced and deal with: history of struggles, debates in the union movement, and organizing methods as well as strategy, tactics and critical analysis skills. Further that these courses should be delivered locally, regionally, statewide and nationally.”

(iii) Amendment to National Conveners’ resolution (Moved: Michael Reidie, Seconded: Natalie Zirngast)

Add the following words in section D:

“and help members in non-militant unions develop as workplace delegates and develop unionism in the workplace.”

(iv) Amendment to National Conveners’ resolution (Moved: Ian Bolas, Seconded: Mark Lockett)

To insert “and West Australian” between “Victorian” and “CFMEU” in the relevant section.

(v) Amendment to amendment moved by Craig Johnston (Moved: Kieran Latty, Seconded: Brian Webb)

Add: “If resources allow, the working group, in conjunction with the National Executive, is to produce a pamphlet which runs over the history of the trade union movement, current debates and industrial issues, and the Socialist Alliance trade union policy. Such a pamphlet would include the Liberals’ anti-union agenda, the Workplace Relations Act, as well as tactical issue such as pattern bargaining. As part of the education program and the Alliance’s activity, the working group, in liaison with relevant state and national organizations, to investigate the possibility of hosting broad meetings/seminars on the attacks on the unions and resistance to these attacks, and the fight to build militant, democratic unions.”

(vi) Amendment to National Conveners’ resolution (Moved: Mark Lockett, Seconded: Daniel Watson)

In section D, add the following after “seek to recruit unionists”:

“As part of this we seek to build the links within the Alliance between members who are active trade unionists and other members who are students, fulltime political organizers, unemployed, and others.”

(vii) Amendment to amendment moved by Craig Johnston (Moved: Lalitha Chelliah, Seconded: Graham Matthews)

Add at end of amendment:

“That these education sessions be open to non-Socialist Alliance members”

Speakers

Craig Johnston, Bridget Ellery, Michael Reidie, John Morris

Procedural motion (Moved: Alison Thorne)

To reduce speaking limit from four minutes to three minutes.

Adopted unanimously

Speakers

Humphrey McQueen, David Glanz, Stuart Martin, Ian Bolas, Carlene Wilson

Procedural motion (Moved: Dick Nichols)

To take one last group of five speakers and ensure that all movers of amendments be included in this group.

Adopted unanimously

Speakers

Tim Gooden, Sam Wainwright, Kieran Latty, Mark Lockett, Chris Cain, Lalitha Chelliah

Amendments to amendment moved by Craig Johnston accepted

Amendments to National Conveners' resolution accepted

Voting on resolutions

Workers Power motion defeated by majority

National Conveners' resolution as amended adopted by majority

4. Presentation from Workers First

Craig Johnston's presentation of \$500 from Workers First event to Socialist Alliance was greeted with acclamation.

5. Greetings from the Scottish Socialist Party

Carrie Marwick's greetings from the SSP were received with acclamation.

6. Building the Socialist Alliance (part one - continued from Saturday)

Procedural motion (moved Riki Lane)

That:

1. The three-minute speaking limit continue to apply;
2. Debate resume on motions beginning with "Developing a united intervention in the movements";
3. Lunch be taken between 1.30pm and 2.15pm;
4. The rest of the motions in this session be dealt with after lunch;
5. Workshops follow; and
6. The election of the National Executive be held between 5.30-6pm

Adopted unanimously

Motion on developing a united Socialist Alliance intervention in the movements (Moved: Ruth Ratcliffe, Seconded: Riki Lane)

This second National Conference of the Socialist Alliance resolves:

- That the Alliance strives wherever possible to intervene in a united way in the various movements (anti-war, refugee rights, women's liberation, environment, gay, lesbian and transsexual rights, aboriginal rights, Asia-Pacific and Latin American solidarity and anti-globalisation movement);
- Where necessary, special Alliance meetings be organised to work out political agreement;
- To set up national working groups in these areas. All members are eligible to join these groups which shall communicate via moderated email group;
- That the moderator(s) of the email groups shall be the comrades nominated by the various workshops on these movements held at this conference (or, where no workshop is held, by the incoming National Executive); and
- To urge state and regional Alliance organizations to adopt a parallel approach to that outlined here.

No discussion

Motion adopted unanimously

NOTE: The Democratic Socialist Party resolution on "Aiding Alliance growth and recruitment" was withdrawn

Motion on stalls policy (Moved: Linda Waldron, Seconded: Tim Gooden)

Conference resolves:

In the light of ongoing differences among affiliates on the issue of Socialist Alliance stalls;

- That all Socialist Alliance stalls shall be clearly demarcated by the use of Socialist Alliance placards, profile posters, flags and other any other relevant paraphernalia;
- That Socialist Alliance stalls can and should carry the literature of all affiliates;
- That where the literature of affiliates is carried on a Socialist Alliance stall, the Alliance's own material and the material of affiliates should be clearly demarcated; and

- That all affiliates are urged to carry Socialist Alliance material on their own stalls.

Speakers

Tim Kirschler, Robyn Waite, Juliette Edeson

(i) Amendment (Moved: Brian Webb, Seconded: Juanita Feldbauer)

To delete dot points two and three.

Speaker

Graham Matthews

(ii) Amendment (Moved: Sean Vickery, Seconded: Michael Reidie)

Under dot point two to append “and members” and under dot point three to change “affiliates” to “affiliates and members”

(iii) Amendment (Moved: Alan Woodcraft, Seconded: David Glanz)

To add a dot point as follows: “During election campaigns only Alliance material to appear on stalls”

(iv) Amendment (Moved: Kieran Latty, Seconded: Steve Cilia)

To add a dot point as follows: “These points and protocols lapse as soon as a regular Alliance publication launched”

Gag motion (Mover: Not noted)

Gag motion defeated

Speaker

Raul Bassi

Procedural motion (Dick Nichols)

To end discussion

Carried by majority

Voting on amendments

(i)

Defeated by majority

(ii)

Carried by majority

(iii)

Defeated by majority

(iv)

Defeated by majority

Voting on motion as amended

Carried by majority

The motion as amended reads:

Conference resolves:

In the light of ongoing differences among affiliates on the issue of Socialist Alliance stalls;

- ***That all Socialist Alliance stalls shall be clearly demarcated by the use of Socialist Alliance placards, profile posters, flags and other any other relevant paraphernalia;***
- ***That Socialist Alliance stalls can and should carry the literature of all affiliates and members;***
- ***That where the literature of affiliates and members is carried on a Socialist Alliance stall, the Alliance’s own material and the material of affiliates and members should be clearly demarcated; and***
- ***That all affiliates are urged to carry Socialist Alliance material on their own stalls.***

Motions on Publications

1. (Moved: Peter Boyle, Seconded: Chris Cain)

Conference resolves:

- That the Socialist Alliance will seek to produce its broadsheet regularly every three months;
- That the Socialist Alliance will produce a monthly newsletter, to be called *Stand Up!*, to be edited by the National Conveners and produced by comrade Ian Bolas;
- That the Socialist Alliance should move to produce its own regular publication aimed at:
 - Propagating the Alliance's analysis of contemporary politics and its own policy alternatives;
 - Providing analysis of trends in the trade unions and various social and environmental movements;
 - Stimulating and housing debates in the broadly anti-capitalist and anti-neo-liberal camp (Greens, left ALP, various movements); and
 - Reflecting debate within the Alliance itself.
- That the incoming National Executive, in the light of discussion at this conference and any further suggestions received from Alliance members and affiliates, produce a draft plan for the publication covering format, frequency, editorial board, name, funding and any other relevant issues.

2. (Moved by Janet Burstall, Seconded by Lynn Smith)

Conference resolves:

That the Alliance commence production of a monthly publication as soon as the National Conveners are able to organise the resources to support it:

If this proposal is carried then the following amendments to the Constitution be made to enable it:

- The Editorial Board should be chosen by the Conference.
- The editors have a responsibility within the Alliance to both develop an editorial line which represents genuine consensus, and to seek contributions from various points of view that will enable differences to be clarified and understood.
- The editorial policy should be a balance between:
 - reporting news of current campaigns and struggles around Australia
 - letters, and readers' points of view
 - political discussion.
- The publication is open to all points of view within the Alliance, in coverage of news stories and in debate.
- The frequency of the publication can be increased by a vote of the National Executive, on a unanimous recommendation from the Editorial Board, or else by a National Conference.

Procedural motion (Moved: Riki Lane)

That both resolutions be discussed before moving to vote.

Carried unanimously

(i) Amendment to motion 1 (Moved: Kieran Latty, Seconded: Juliette Edeson)

1. To amend dot point 1 as follows:

“...its broadsheet as regularly as possible and practical, ideally at least every two months”.

2. To delete dot point 2

3. To add dot point 5 as follows; “This be reproduced as an insert in affiliates' publications with run-ons for distribution”.

4. To add dot point 6. as follows: “That up to one page, if needed, be assigned to contributions to discussion and letters.”

5. That all other content be in line with Alliance policy and platform

Speakers

Peter Murray, Kerryn Williams

Procedural motion (Mover: Dick Nichols)

To extend discussion

Carried unanimously

(ii) Amendment to motion 1 (Moved: Riki Lane, Seconded: Bryan Sketchley)

To add to dot point 2: “this newsletter be designed to be usable publicly. It will include an editorial and a letters page”.

Speaker

David Glanz

(iii) Amendment to motion 2 (Moved: Michael Reidre, Seconded: Steve Cilia)

To add dot point 5 as follows: “Members are encouraged to submit articles for consideration for publication”.

Speaker

Pat Brewer

Procedural motion (Moved: Dick Nichols)

That speakers to amendments not yet heard speak and then move to vote.

Carried unanimously

(iv) Amendment to DSP resolution (Moved: Sue Johnson, Seconded: Tom Orsag)

To delete from dot point two the words “to be called *Stand Up!*, to be edited by the National Conveners and produced by Ian Bolas”.

Speaker

Tom Orsag

(v) Amendment to motion 1 (Moved: Luke Weyland, Seconded: not noted)

To change in dot point 1 “three months” to “monthly”.

Voting on amendments

(i)

Defeated by majority

(ii)

Defeated by majority

(iii)

Accepted by mover

(iv)

Accepted by mover

(v)

Defeated by majority

Voting on motion 2

Defeated by majority

Procedural motion (Moved: David Glanz)

To break motion 1 into points to be voted separately.

Defeated by majority

Voting on motion 1 as amended

Carried by majority

The motion as amended now reads:

Conference resolves:

- *That the Socialist Alliance will seek to produce its broadsheet regularly every three months;*
- *That the Socialist Alliance will produce a monthly newsletter;*
- *That the Socialist Alliance should move to produce its own regular publication aimed at:*

- *Propagating the Alliance's analysis of contemporary politics and its own policy alternatives;*
- *Providing analysis of trends in the trade unions and various social and environmental movements;*
- *Stimulating and housing debates in the broadly anti-capitalist and anti-neo-liberal camp (Greens, left ALP, various movements); and*
- *Reflecting debate within the Alliance itself.*
- *That the incoming National Executive, in the light of discussion at this conference and any further suggestions received from Alliance members and affiliates, produce a draft plan for the publication covering format, frequency, editorial board, name, funding and any other relevant issues.*

Motion of thanks (Moved: Alison Thorne, Seconded: Dick Nichols)

To thank comrade Debbie Brennan for her effort in chairing for five hours without a break.

Carried by acclamation

Afternoon session

The session began at 2.35pm

Session chair : Leon Parissi

1. Building the Socialist Alliance (part two)

Motion on book on socialism (Moved: Dick Nichols, Seconded: David Glanz)

In light of the urgent need for the Alliance to produce its own lively and compelling case for socialism, conference resolves:

- To establish a writing group, initially composed of comrades Humphrey McQueen, Dick Nichols, David Glanz and [other names] to produce a draft text;
- To urge all members to forward their suggestions and concerns to the group; and
- To initiate a thorough national discussion in all branches on the draft and contributions made to the working group; and
- To empower the incoming National Executive to adopt the final version of the text and oversee its publication.

(i) Amendment (Moved: Dick Nichols, Seconded: David Glanz)

Amend dot point 1 to read: "to establish a writing group to be appointed by the incoming National Executive to produce a draft text;"

(ii) Amendment (moved by David Glanz, Seconded: Dick Nichols)

To insert a new dot point 2: "this working group should be guided by conference's decision in the first session that the Alliance is a 'broad socialist party' , not a revolutionary party."

(iii) Amendment (Moved: Riki Lane , Seconded: Janet Burstall):

10. Insert the following as dot point 2:

"To base the general line of the pamphlet on the following:

By socialism, we mean nothing like the old Stalinist Soviet Union with its bureaucracy and repression, but instead solidarity raised from a principle of resistance to the guiding principle of society.

We mean the working class organising to liberate itself from the rule of profit and create its own democracy, abolishing the privileges of managers and officials.

Every major industry should be reorganised on the lines of social provision for need, publicly-owned, and democratically controlled by workers and the community. No rich and no poor, no profits and no wage-slavery, no mansions and no homeless, no jobless and no overworked!"

Speakers

Susan Price, Janet Burstall

Voting on amendment

Defeated by majority

Voting on motion as amended

Adopted by majority

The motion as amended now reads:

In light of the urgent need for the Alliance to produce its own lively and compelling case for socialism, conference resolves:

- *To establish a writing group to be appointed by the incoming National Executive to produce a draft text;*
- *That this working group should be guided by conference's decision in the first session that the Alliance is a "broad socialist party", not a revolutionary party.*
- *To urge all members to forward their suggestions and concerns to the group; and*
- *To initiate a thorough national discussion in all branches on the draft and contributions made to the working group; and*
- *To empower the incoming National Executive to adopt the final version of the text and oversee its publication.*

Motion on finances (Moved: Dick Nichols Seconded: John Goldman)

This Second National Conference of Socialist Alliance:

Notes that, although the Alliance has concluded the period from its Founding Conference free of debt (see report of National Treasurer), the projections contained in the various resolutions adopted at this conference will require the Alliance to have a much higher level of income in the coming years;

Conference therefore resolves:

- to establish a voluntary national pledge/subscription system;
- to base the system on automatic deductions; and
- to empower the incoming National Treasurer to draft a letter to all members asking them to participate in the system and providing all the necessary information on its workings.

Amendment (Moved: Riki Lane, Seconded: Janet Burstall)

To replace point 1 with the following:

"To establish a budget for the next year based on projected activities and to organise a fighting fund (or funds). Activities to raise the required money will include a national program of fundraisers and donations by automatic deductions;"

Amendment accepted by mover

Vote on motion as amended

Adopted by majority

The motion as amended now reads:

This Second National Conference of Socialist Alliance:

Notes that, although the Alliance has concluded the period from its Founding Conference free of debt (see report of National Treasurer), the projections contained in the various resolutions adopted at this conference will require the Alliance to have a much higher level of income in the coming years;

Conference therefore resolves:

- *to establish a budget for the next year based on projected activities and to organise a fighting fund (or funds). Activities to raise the required money will include a national program of fundraisers and donations by automatic deductions;*
- *to base the system on automatic deductions; and*
- *to empower the incoming National Treasurer to draft a letter to all members asking them to participate in the system and providing all the necessary information on its workings.*

Motion on socialist education (Moved: Marcel Cameron, Seconded: Raul Bassi)

Conference resolves:

In the light of the successful speaking tour of comrade Humphrey McQueen,

- To expand its policy of speaking tours, with a view to covering all states and territories and rural and regional Australia;
- To host a Marxist Summer School when conditions allow; and

- To empower the incoming National Executive to develop plans in both these areas of work.

Amendment (Moved: Robyn White, Seconded: David Scrimgeour)

To change dot point 2 to “To host a Socialist Summer School with a diverse practical and theoretical program, when conditions allow;”

To add to dot point 3 “incorporating suggestions from branches”.

Speaker

Marcel Cameron

Amendment acceptable to the mover

Voting on motion as amended

Adopted by majority

The motion as amended now reads:

Conference resolves:

In the light of the successful speaking tour of comrade Humphrey McQueen,

- *to expand its policy of speaking tours, with a view to covering all states and territories and rural and regional Australia;*
- *to host a Socialist Summer School with a diverse practical and theoretical program, when conditions allow; and*
- *to empower the incoming National Executive to develop plans in both these areas of work, incorporating suggestions from branches.*

Motion on refugees (Moved: Kamala Emanuel, Seconded: Dick Nichols)

- Socialist Alliance confirms its support for asylum-seekers in Australia, whether in detention centres, in the community on temporary protection visas (TPVs) or bridging visas, or whether in hiding.
- The Alliance condemns the Liberals’ crude racist lies and their attempts to divide workers in Australia by fomenting hatred against our brothers and sisters fleeing persecution and hardship. The Alliance deplores the ALP’s acceptance of much of the Liberal agenda.
- By contrast, the Alliance calls for the abolition of mandatory detention, the closure of the camps, permanency for refugees and the scrapping of TPVs, an amnesty for those who have escaped the camps, and the end to harassment of those refugees from East Timor, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan or elsewhere who face deportation to safe homelands.
- The Alliance pledges its continuing support for the refugee rights movement. In particular, Alliance branches will contribute to mobilising for the World Refugee Day rallies around the country on June 22.

Speaker

Kamala Emanuel

Amendment (Moved: David Glanz, Seconded: Riki Lane)

To delete point 3 and insert: “By contrast, the Alliance calls for the abolition of mandatory detention, the closure of the camps, permanent protection for all refugees and asylum seekers not just those who meet UN criteria, and the scrapping of TPVS, amnesty for those who have escaped the camps, and the end to harassment of those refugees from countries including East Timor, Iran Iraq, Afghanistan or elsewhere who face deportation to so-called safe homelands.”

Amendment accepted by the mover

Motion adopted unanimously

The motion as amended now reads:

- *Socialist Alliance confirms its support for asylum-seekers in Australia, whether in detention centres, in the community on temporary protection visas (TPVs) or bridging visas, or whether in hiding.*
- *The Alliance condemns the Liberals’ crude racist lies and their attempts to divide workers in Australia by fomenting hatred against our brothers and sisters fleeing persecution and hardship. The Alliance deplores the ALP’s acceptance of much of the Liberal agenda.*

- *By contrast, the Alliance calls for the abolition of mandatory detention, the closure of the camps, permanent protection for all refugees and asylum seekers not just those who meet UN criteria, and the scrapping of TPVS, amnesty for those who have escaped the camps, and the end to harassment of those refugees from countries including East Timor, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan or elsewhere who face deportation to so-called safe homelands.*
- *The Alliance pledges its continuing support for the refugee rights movement. In particular, Alliance branches will contribute to mobilising for the World Refugee Day rallies around the country on June 22.*

Motion on membership system (Moved: Dick Nichols, Seconded: Rikki Lane)

Conference resolves to adopt the following membership system:

1. Members must belong to one of the four categories (high-waged, low-waged, un-waged and secondary student);
2. Membership dues for financial year 2003-2004 shall be high-waged \$60, low-waged \$24, unwaged \$12 and secondary student \$6;
3. Members must pay their membership dues for the full year in advance;
4. One quarter of all membership dues paid to branches shall be paid to the Socialist Alliance national office;
5. Regions and states/territories may make arrangements with branches in their area to pay a percentage of membership dues to sustain regional and state/territorial Alliance operations;
6. All branches shall keep membership records which as a minimum record the name, surname, membership category, address, phone number and email address of each member, as well as the date on which they paid their membership dues (became financial);
7. Branches will advise all members two months in advance of the date on which they are due to renew their financial membership;
8. Branches shall report changes in membership numbers (new members, renewals, transfers in and out) to the Socialist Alliance national office every quarter, using the report form provided by the national office;
9. On the basis of the information contained in the report form the Socialist Alliance national office will bill branches quarterly for the 25 per cent of membership dues owed to the national office.

(i) Amendment (Moved: John O'Brien, Seconded: Tim Gooden)

Conference resolves:

That membership dues be paid by or on May Day each year and that any new member joined during the year pay their dues on a pro rata basis, i.e., that their first dues upon joining is divided by 12 months and they only pay the amount equivalent to the remaining months.

Speakers

Dick Nichols, John O'Brien

(ii) Amendment (Moved: Simon Millar, Seconded: Lucy Beaton)

To add union affiliation to the minimum membership records

Amendment (ii) accepted by mover

Voting on amendment (i)

Defeated by majority

Voting on motion as amended

Adopted by majority

NOTE: The motion as amended is the same as the original motion but includes the word "union" in paragraph six.

Motion the Alliance logo (Moved: Tim Gooden, Seconded: John O'Brien)

Amendment (Moved: Tim Gooden, Seconded: John O'Brien)

To delete the last sentence

Accepted by the mover

Speaker

Tim Gooden.

Adopted by majority

Motion on affiliation policy (Moved: Riki Lane, Seconded: Dick Nichols)

1. Organisations wishing to affiliate to Socialist Alliance will submit an application to the National Conveners. The National Conveners will consider the application and make a recommendation to the National Executive. The National Executive shall decide on affiliation, effective immediately. The next National Conference will consider all National Executive decisions on affiliations.

2. Organisations which are eligible for affiliation are those which generally agree with the aims of the Alliance, including: socialist political tendencies; working class solidarity and community organisations; trade union branches.

3. The criteria to be used in assessing applications are that the organisation applying for affiliation:

- Has aims and policies generally compatible with those of the Alliance;
- Agrees to abide by the constitution;
- Agrees to support, promote and cooperate with Socialist Alliance campaigns and election candidates;
- Has at least ten members who are financial Socialist Alliance members or are willing to join and who are not members of other affiliates.

A large affiliate is defined as one with more than 100 members. New affiliates shall have one representative on the NE, or two if they are large affiliates.

Speaker

Riki Lane

Amendment (Moved: Peter Murray, Seconded: Brigitte Ellery)

To delete “at least ten” from paragraph three, dot point four

Speakers

Peter Murray, David Glanz

Voting on the amendment

Defeated by majority

Voting on the motion

Adopted by majority

Motion on Howard’s war budget (Moved: Juliet Edeson, Seconded: Tim Kirschler)

Socialist Alliance branches around the country have begun to campaign against Howard and Costello’s war budget on May 13. The government has already announced sickening cuts to Medicare. These cuts are a direct attack on working people who rely on Medicare to receive basic medical treatment and advice for themselves and their family.

Diverting funds away from public education, childcare, health and welfare is old news with the Howard government. Costello has already said, however, that this budget will be even tougher than usual because they have had to spend so much of our money invading Iraq, and will also need more for future military adventures. The Liberals are also committed to maintaining a surplus at any social cost.

The conference resolves:

- That the Socialist Alliance should continue to campaign vigorously on the question of the budget. This provides us with an opportunity to make arguments about government priorities, the war on Iraq, military spending more generally, and questions of class—who benefits and who loses.
- Each branch, if it has not already done so, should undertake to host a broad public meeting about the budget. These meetings should feature unionists, doctors to talk about Medicare, speakers from Greens and Labor, as appropriate, Council of Social Service speakers etc.

- In the event of bodies such as the ACTU or state union bodies calling rallies or other protests, Alliance branches are urged to build these, with Alliance contingents, banners and posters as appropriate.
- To build on the initiatives already taken by branches campaigning around the budget, the incoming National Executive should provide examples of the types of meetings, rallies, stall etc. already initiated by branches to inform the work across the Alliance.

Speaker

Juliet Edeson

Amendment (Moved: Russell Miles, Seconded: Linda Waldron)

In dot point 2 to insert after “each branch” the words “or district”.

Speaker

Russell Miles

Amendment accepted by mover

Voting on motion

Adopted unanimously

NOTE: The motion as amended is the same as the original motion but includes the words “or district” after the words “each branch” in dot point two.

Motion on the invasion of Iraq (moved: Ruth Ratcliffe, Seconded: Dick Nichols)

That at this Second National Conference the Socialist Alliance recommits itself to the struggle against imperialist war and against the growing militarism of the Australian government:

Socialist Alliance demands:

- End the occupation of Iraq;
- Troops out now;
- That the peoples of Iraq, including the Kurds and other minorities, be free to determine their own future.

As an immediate step against Australian militarism we call on the Senate opposition parties to block the military provisions of the 2003 federal budget. We also restate our commitment to building the anti-war movement with a view to opposing imperialism’s next aggression from a higher level of awareness and preparedness.

We also commit to contribute in whatever way it can to the rebuilding of the workers’ movement in Iraq.

In this way the Socialist Alliance will make as big a contribution as it can to making the imperialists pay the highest possible price for their coming wars, to strengthening solidarity among the world’s peoples, and to advancing humanity towards the precious goal of a world without war.

Speaker

Ruth Ratcliffe

Amendment (Moved: Toma Hamid, Seconded: Suma Hamid, Seconded Pro Forma: Mark Lockett)

To add to the motion:

1. Immediate withdrawal of the USA troops and substitute them with UN forces for a provisional period.
2. At the end of this provisional period an election must be held.
3. A referendum on self determination must be held in Iraqi Kurdistan

Speakers

Tomah Hamid, Brian Webb

Point 3 accepted by the mover.

Amendment to amendment (Moved: Ian Bolas, Seconded: Daniel Watson)

To insert: “drawn from countries not involved in the invading coalition” between “UN forces” and “for a provisional period”

Speakers

Ian Bolas, Kieran Latty, Janet Burstall, Tom Orsag

Voting on the amendment to the amendment

Defeated by majority

Voting on the amendment

Defeated by majority

Voting on the resolution

Adopted by majority

The motion as adopted now reads:

At this Second National Conference the Socialist Alliance recommits itself to the struggle against imperialist war and against the growing militarism of the Australian government:

Socialist Alliance demands:

- ***End the occupation of Iraq;***
- ***Troops out now;***
- ***That the peoples of Iraq, including the Kurds and other minorities, be free to determine their own future;***
- ***That a referendum on self-determination be held in Iraqi Kurdistan.***

As an immediate step against Australian militarism we call on the Senate opposition parties to block the military provisions of the 2003 federal budget. We also restate our commitment to building the anti-war movement with a view to opposing imperialism's next aggression from a higher level of awareness and preparedness.

We also commit to contribute in whatever way it can to the rebuilding of the workers' movement in Iraq.

In this way the Socialist Alliance will make as big a contribution as it can to making the imperialists pay the highest possible price for their coming wars, to strengthening solidarity among the world's peoples, and to advancing humanity towards the precious goal of a world without war.

Motion on US threats to Cuba (Moved: Karen Fletcher, Seconded: Alejandro Rodriguez)

In the face of rising threats from the US government against Cuba the Socialist Alliance Second National Conference:

1. Supports the solidarity call with Cuba made in a recent statement by Nobel Laureates and other prominent intellectuals for "policy makers to uphold the universal principles of national sovereignty, respect of territorial integrity and self-determination, essential to just and peaceful co-existence among nations";
2. Calls upon the United States to cease all operations towards Cuba that encourage and fund the overthrow of the Cuban government;
3. Demands that the United States immediately lift its economic and tourism blockade of Cuba;
4. Calls on the left and progressive movement in Australia to show its opposition to the renewed attacks by the United States towards Cuba and support solidarity actions that oppose U.S imperialism's attacks on Cuba.

Speaker

Karen Fletcher

(i) Amendment (Moved: Luke Weyland, Seconded: Angela Luvera)

To add a second point to read: "Calls upon the USA to recognize the complete integrity of Cuba, a Cuba that includes Guantanamo Bay and hereby calls upon the USA to close their base there."

(ii) Amendment (Moved: Bryan Sketchley, Seconded: Janet Burstall)

To add a last point to read: "Calls upon the Cuban government to recognize and respect the right of the Cuban working class to dissent."

Speakers

Bryan Sketchley, Raul Bassi, Mark Lockett, David Glanz

Amendment (i) accepted by mover

Voting on amendment (ii)

	Affiliate Representatives	Affiliate Organisation
12	David Glanz	ISO
13	Brian Webb	ISO
14	Greg Adler	Workers' League
15	Ken Davis	Socialist Democracy
16	Alison Thorne	FSP
17	Riki Lane	Workers' Liberty
18	Carlene Wilson	Workers' Power
19	(Worker Communist Party of Iraq)	WCPI
20	Peter Boyle	DSP
21	Lisa Maconald	DSP

SLATE A:

Moved: Juliette Edeson

Seconded: Brian Webb

	Non-Affiliated	State / Territory
1	John van der Velden	ACT
2	Chris Cain	WA
3	Edith Leonard	WA
4	Michael Morphett	NSW
5	Maureen Murphy	Vic
6	Simon Millar	Vic
7	Sean Vickery	Qld
8	Ray Hayes	NT
9	Raul Bassi	NSW
10	Linda Seaborn	Tas
11	David Scrimgour	SA
	Affiliate Representatives	Affiliate Organisation
12	David Glanz	ISO
13	Brian Webb	ISO
14	Greg Adler	Workers' League
15	Ken Davis	Socialist Democracy
16	Alison Thorne	FSP
17	Riki Lane	Workers' Liberty
18	Carlene Wilson	Workers' Power
19	(Worker Communist Party of Iraq)	WCPI
20	Peter Boyle	DSP
21	Lisa Macdonald	DSP

Speakers

Juliette Edeson , Michael Morphett, Angela Budai, Raul Bassi

Procedural Motion (Moved: Peter Murray)

That the candidates stand up in place to identify themselves

Speaker

Russell Pickering

Carried by majority

The candidates present stood up in place in turn

Voting on slates

Slate B adopted by majority

Procedural motion (Moved: Dick Nichols)

That there be a five minute recess to allow nomination of slates for the National Conveners.

Adopted unanimously

During the recess the Conference raffle was drawn, and the Credentialling report was presented by Justin Randell.

Motion of thanks to the conference organisers (Moved: Tom Flanagan)

Carried by acclamation

5. Election of National Conveners

The following was the only slate received:

1	Lisa Macdonald	
2	David Glanz	
3	Riki Lane	
4	Michael Morphett	
5	John van der Velden	

Riki Lane spoke to clarify that his role as convener could only last for three months.

Slate elected unanimously

Procedural motion (Moved: Dick Nichols)

To cancel the second round of workshops.

Amendment (Moved: Tom Flanagan)

That the workshops meet for 10 minutes to organize e-lists.

Amendment accepted by mover

Motion carried by majority

6. Singing of “The Internationale” ■