

The Cultural Environment Movement
MINUTES OF THE PLENARY AND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS
SUNDAY MARCH 17, 1996

Art Silverblatt, Chair, called the plenary session to order and introduced the CEM Board of Directors.

Silverblatt then called attention to the proposed Organizational Structure that had been distributed previously. That Structure sets up the terms of the CEM as a coalition of affiliated and supporting organizations, determines voting rights, establishes a Coordinating Council with a Steering Committee to carry on the work mandated by the Convention, and provides for representation on the Board of Directors.

All delegates at the Convention were nominated for the Coordinating Council. The Chair opened the floor for nominations for the Steering Committee. Some nominations had been recorded previously in a book provided to the group the day before. Other nominations were made from the floor. By unanimous vote, the delegates approved the Organizational Structure, reconstituting themselves as the Coordinating Council, and elected those nominated for the Steering Committee who were present at the Convention or whose names and addresses were provided by the nominators. The following 57 persons were elected:

Donna Allen, Karimu W. Asante, Edward Baker, Linda Billings, Wally Bowen, Christine Castaneda, Liane Casten, John W. Cones, Lynn Curtis, Shawn D'Abreu, Philip Deitch, Rose Dyson, Gail Dines, Riane Eisler, William Fore, Thierry Fortune, Dorothy Butler Gilliam, Patricia Hayot, Cheryl Hirschman, Selina Khan, Sumi Sevilla Haru, Linda Holtzman, David Honig, Sue Curry Jansen, Larry Johnson, Ivan Juzang, Judith Lalchock, Jerry Landay, Tish Lefthand, Diane Levin, Madeleine Levine, Kitty Lunn, Bob McCannon, Robert McChesney, Daniel Mayeda, Mark Crispin Miller, Vincent Mosco, Alex Nogales, Kathleen O'Relly, Lilian Papin, Ruth Pflager, Marc Raboy, Raul Romero, Paul Rosenberg, Juliet Schor, Greg Searle, Joan Sekler, Jack Shaheen, Barbara Shaw, Art Silverblatt, Jacquelyn Smith-Crooks, Elizabeth Thoman, Aleticia Tijerine-Jim, Keyan Tomaselli, Paula Underwood, Elaine Wynne, Joni Yamaguchi.

Reports were received from the Task Forces: 15 reports, in writing, one page of action recommendations from each. George Gerbner reminded the group that regarding these and other recommendations, there is no "them"; whatever is recommended is something the members as individuals and organizations have to accomplish. Actions by CEM will in fact require actions by member groups. CEM will engage primarily in matters of structure and systems, and this will

require time and broad consensus. CEM itself will do mostly those things its member groups cannot do.

All action recommendations were then referred to the Steering Committee for prioritizing and further distribution to the Coordinating Council. Members of the Council will be asked to support and fund the programs. Gerbner commended the group for its remarkable unity within diversity, and urged that they continue to avoid provocative and divisive statements and actions.

Cees Hamelink (Netherlands) spoke about The People's Communication Charter, a draft of which had been distributed in advance. The drafting began in 1992, and drafts have been sent to a large number of organizations such as Amnesty International, Greenpeace, etc.; it is now in its fifth draft. He urged CEM comments, participation and support for the Charter.

George Gerbner described the Viewers' Declaration of Independence, also distributed in advance. He also solicited comments and suggestions for improvement. In the understanding that all comments and suggestions submitted will be referred to the Steering Committee for further work and eventual circulation to the Coordinating Council, the Council unanimously voted to support the principles embodied in the Charter and the Declaration.

The group recessed for lunch.

The Steering Committee of about 30 persons still available assembled at 2:30 p.m. George Gerbner opened the meeting with a request that a small committee be elected to expedite the process of digesting and synthesizing the statements referred by the Convention so that CEM can begin to function quickly in a representative fashion. After some discussion about both procedure and substance, and at times heated debate about qualifications for the drafting committee, a five-member Editorial Board was nominated and elected. Members of the Board are Linda Holtzman, Jacquelyn Smith-Crooks, Shawn D'Abreu, William Fore and Joni Yamaguchi. As most members of the group had to leave to catch flights, the meeting adjourned at about 3:30.

In view of the insufficient time for full deliberation and instruction by the Steering Committee, a revised draft of the basic documents will be considered at a meeting of the Editorial Board to which the entire Steering Committee will be invited. The resulting documents will then be circulated to the full Committee and eventually to the Coordinating Council.

William F. Fore and George Gerbner

THE CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT MOVEMENT FOUNDING CONVENTION

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