



NEW RICHMOND REPUBLIC

CONGRESS OF PEOPLE'S COUNCILS

Minutes of the 1st Ordinary Session *9th of August 2021 (1 RY)*

Convocation and roll call

On the 9th of August 2021 (1 RY), the Congress of People's Councils of the New Richmond Republic held its first semiannual Ordinary Session at City Hall in the City of New Richmond, in accordance with the requirement of the Basic Law for an ordinary session in the summer. The session was presided over by Comrade Brooklyn Kennedy.

The presiding officer took roll. The session saw a full turnout, with all delegates attending. Those in attendance were:

- Comrade Brooklyn Kennedy, representing the City of New Richmond;
- Comrade Riley Kennedy, representing the City of New Richmond;
- Comrade Gaia Pacifice, representing New Reinhardt Commune; and
- Comrade Savannah Wellman, representing Cumberlandia Commune.

Opening remarks from the Party Secretary-General

Following roll call, Comrade Brooklyn Kennedy delivered remarks to the Congress:

Comrades, it is my great honor to welcome you to the first ordinary session of the Congress of People's Councils!

As the representatives of the New Richmonder working people, we are vested with the supreme authority of the state through this Congress. We must not lose sight of our responsibility to our fellow citizens and must strive to conduct ourselves with honor and compassion. Our first and foremost responsibility is to build a state which is dedicated primarily to the welfare of its people.

This session will go down in the history books as the beginning of something great. Though we are a nation born from strife, unrest, and struggle, we must now secure for ourselves a peace and unity we were not guaranteed in the mother country. We will work together under the banner of the Blair Mountain League to make our Republic a rewarding experience for all who reside within her borders.

Above all, we must live up to the foundational principles of our Republic – socialism, equality, protection for the disparaged, refuge for the marginalized, and fierce

opposition to reaction and bigotry of all sorts. As Secretary-General of the Party, I commit myself to these principles and I compel all party members to do the same. We are the representatives of the people, and we must be beholden to their wellbeing. We must live up to the spirit of the Blair Mountain revolt and the July Revolution.

Glory to the Republic! Glory to the enduring Revolution from which she was born! Glory to the New Richmonder people and their Blair Mountain League!

Election of the Central Executive Committee

The first order of business was the election of the Central Executive Committee. Comrade Brooklyn Kennedy rose to nominate the following individuals for election:

- Chair of the Central Executive Committee – Brooklyn Kennedy
- Minister for Culture and the Arts – Gaia Pacifice
- Minister for Economic Development and Fiscal Affairs – Brooklyn Kennedy
- Minister for Foreign and Military Affairs – Brooklyn Kennedy
- Minister for Home Affairs – Savannah Wellman

No alternative nominations were made. The Congress proceeded to vote on the nominees, and all were confirmed unanimously. Comrade Brooklyn Kennedy presided in her capacity as Chair of the Central Executive Committee from thereon.

Election of the People's Commissioner of the Republic

The second order of business was the election of the People's Commissioner of the Republic. Comrade Brooklyn Kennedy rose to nominate Comrade Riley Kennedy for election. No alternative nominations were made. The Congress then proceeded to vote on the nominee, and Comrade Riley Kennedy was confirmed unanimously. The People's Commissioner then deferred to the Chair of the Central Executive Committee and permitted her to continue in presiding over the session.

Discussion regarding the People's Tribunal

The third order of business was discussion regarding the People's Tribunal. The consensus of the Congress was that while the Basic Law mandates the election of the First Justice of the People's Tribunal by the Congress of People's Councils, the extreme unlikelihood of any sort of judicial proceedings in the future made the election of the People's Tribunal pointless at the current time. It was agreed by the Congress that the People's Tribunal should remain vacant for the time being and should be appointed in the event of its necessity.

Enactment of the Blair Mountain League's legislative program

The fourth order of business was the legislative program of the Blair Mountain League. Comrade Brooklyn Kennedy presented the program in her capacity as Secretary-General of the Party. The following bills were introduced by Comrade Kennedy:

- Economic Organization and Planning Bill
- National Symbols Bill
- Corps of Revolutionary Guards Bill
- National Holidays Bill
- State Awards Bill

Brief deliberation followed wherein the Secretary-General answered any questions poised by delegates regarding the legislation:

- Comrade Wellman questioned the morality behind the proclamation of Thanksgiving as a national holiday given the associated connotations of the exploitation of Native Americans. Comrade Brooklyn Kennedy responded by stating that Thanksgiving had evolved to become a uniquely New Richmonder holiday during the period of AustenAsian imperialism and had gone on to become a national holiday of the Commonwealth of New Virginia.
- Comrade Riley Kennedy questioned whether the Republic would formulate its own currency. Comrade Brooklyn Kennedy affirmed that it would be the policy of the Ministry of Economic Development and Fiscal Affairs to prioritize use of the United States Dollar until the Republic may feasibly create its own currency in line with socialist principles.

Following deliberation, the presiding officer moved each bill to a vote of the Congress:

- Economic Organization and Planning Bill
 - Four in support
 - None in opposition
 - None in abstention
- National Symbols Bill
 - Four in support
 - None in opposition
 - None in abstention
- Corps of Revolutionary Guards Bill
 - Four in support
 - None in opposition
 - None in abstention
- National Holidays Bill
 - Four in support
 - None in opposition
 - None in abstention
- State Holidays Bill
 - Four in support
 - None in opposition
 - None in abstention

All the bills presented as part of the Party's legislative program were therefore enacted by the Congress of People's Councils and have since been signed and promulgated by the People's Commissioner of the Republic.

Open floor for discussion and the presentation of additional legislation

Following elections for the other organs of the Central People's Government and the enactment of the Party's legislative program, the presiding officer opened the floor for discussion regarding any topic and for the presentation of any additional legislation. No additional legislation was proposed, but discussion regarding a variety of topics was held.

Comrade Riley Kennedy thanked the delegates of the Congress for their confidence in himself as demonstrated by his unanimous election as People's Commissioner of the Republic and stated his commitment to the development of the Republic's social life and culture. Comrade Gaia Pacifice likewise thanked the Congress for her election to the Central Executive Committee, joking that it was "a close one."

Comrade Brooklyn Kennedy discussed the goals of the Ministry of Foreign and Military Affairs regarding building the Republic's international presence. She stated her personal commitment to continuing to mend the wounds left by the fracturing of the Commonwealth of New Virginia following the July Revolution. She also informed the Congress of discussions between herself and the leaders of the Commonwealth of New Virginia, the State of Shoreline, and the Republic of Nordale regarding the creation of an alliance and heritage organization for the New Virginian states.

Comrade Brooklyn Kennedy continued to discuss her desire for the Republic to join the Borean Community and to ratify the Augusta Accord. She stated that these two goals are a necessity in living up to the Republic's fundamental principles, specifically those of anti-fascism, anti-bigotry, and anti-transphobia. Comrade Savannah Wellman – who was present when the Secretary-General signed the Augusta Accord as President of New Virginia and delivered her speech regarding the treaty last year – voiced her unequivocal support for these measures, and the other delegates concurred.

Comrade Brooklyn Kennedy thereafter stated her commitment to have at least one operational state cooperative entity by the New Year, and highlighted economic development as one of her primary goals for the Central Executive Committee for its present term.

Adjournment

The presiding officer then adjourned the Congress of People's Council's first Ordinary Session with the first ever playing of the new national anthem, "*Which Side Are You On?*".