

Georgia Green Party 1999 Nominating Convention

Americus Georgia Saturday, April 17th, 1998

The Convention was convened at about 10:30 by Kerrie Dickson and Charles Sumblin.

Sean Michael of Clarke County presented a credentials report asking that the Convention seat six delegate. The report was adopted by unanimous consent. The delegates included: Peter Wright of Grady County, Kerrie Dickson and Hugh Esco of Towns County, Sean Michael of Clarke County, Charles Sumblin of Johnson County and Lew Lieberman of Muscogee County.

An hour or so into the meeting, we were joined by these additional people who were credentialled as delegates: Jane Waddington and Sarah Hatch of DeKalb County.

We named Kerrie Dickson the Convention Facilitator and Hugh Esco the Convention clerk.

Hugh Esco presented the proposed agenda for the Council. It was adopted.

Hugh Esco explained the decision making rules and procedures of the Party. Without objection, the Rules were adopted. Hugh Esco asked unanimous consent that the Rule requiring four weeks written notice of the Convention be suspended. Without objection, the Rule was suspended.

Kerrie Dickson, Charles Sumblin, Hugh Esco and Sean Michael of the 1998 Council were present to present the report of the Council to the Convention. The report was accepted.

Next the Convention heard a reading of proposed amendments to the Party Platform. In all, there were twenty-seven proposed revisions to the Platform, including:

- on Agriculture: genetically modified organisms, consumer right-to-know labeling laws, organic school lunches, local purchasing preferences, animal confinement operations,

- on Auto Insurance: Make Auto Insurance Optional,

- on Criminal Justice: Domestic Violence Strategies, Non-Violent Juvenile Offender Sentencing Reform, roll back 1999 increase in jail bonding fees,

- on Democracy: proportional representation, corporate charter review,

- on Economic Democracy: recognize a child's right to their parent's time,

- on Economic Development: a new plank,

- on Education: Community Classrooms and practical living skills, military recruiting and JROTC in schools, Honest Nutrition Education in Public Schools,

- on Environmental Justice: pollution victims compensation fund,

- on Foreign Policy: a new plank,

- on Health Care: Tobacco settlement can fund universal healthcare, comment on Governor Barnes' HMO legislation, oppose mandatory vaccinations,

- on Human Rights: Reparations, Racist Team Mascots,

- on Taxes: Federal Budget Priorities, Peace Tax Fund, Pollution and Extraction Taxes,

- on Vetrans: a new plank.

All of these proposed platform amendments were published in either Internal Discussion Bulletin #4, or #5 except for two amendments which were offered by Debbie McAdoo the night before.

There were no petitions presented to open a local race for Green Nominations.

We opened Nominations for the following offices and accepted the following nominees:

For 2000 Nominating Convention Convenors: Kerrie Dickson and Charles Sumblin.

For Presidential Electors: Kerrie Dickson, Hugh Esco, Tom Goodman, Sarah Hatch, Lew Lieberman, Hugh Lovel, Zack Lyde, Debbie McAdoo, Sean Michael, Deborah Valentine, Jane Waddington, Tom Wilson and Peter Wright.

Coordinating Council members: Debbie McAdoo, Sara Hatch, Jane Waddington and Peter Wright.

On Peter Wrights motion, with a second by Hugh Esco, the Convention agreed to empower the Council to fill empty seats on the Council.

Delegation on Green National Affairs: Sean Michael and Hugh Esco.

Candidates for Presidential Exploratory Committee: Ralph Nader, Angela Davis, Gary Scheider, John Robbins and Winona LaDuke.

On Escos motion, with a second by Peter Wright and without objection, the Convention agreed to endorse Charles Sumblin in his bid to be elected Mayor of Wrightsville.

A ballot was prepared and distributed across lunch. We enjoyed Mexican food prepared by Kerrie Dickson. After lunch we considered the proposed Platform amendments.

AG#1: Agriculture: Genetically Modified Organisms

Hugh Lovel (Union County) offers the following amendment:

Amend the Agriculture Plank of Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by renumbering the Agriculture Plank as appropriate and inserting after paragraph 2, the following:

"3. Support a Moratorium on Genetically Modified Organisms in Agriculture.

"We don't need these, and the risks of putting them to use are too enormous. Nature's wisdom in creating the existing divisions between species developed over the course of more than a billion years. It is astonishingly presumptuous for profit-minded corporations and investors to imagine that in a few short decades we can make deep, radical changes in these boundaries without serious repercussions, and it is politically contemptuous to visit these repercussions on everyone without their universal consent. Shades of the slime mold that ate Georgia."

Hugh Esco moved the adoption of the proposal with an Amendment to strike the last sentence of the Lovel draft. Without objection the amendment to the amendment was adopted and the amended amendment was adopted.

AG#2: Agriculture: Consumer-Right-to-Know Labeling Laws

Hugh Lovel (Union County) offers the following amendment:

Amend the Agriculture Plank of Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by renumbering the Agriculture Plank as appropriate and inserting after paragraph 2, the following:

"4. Develop Consumer-Right-to-Know Labeling Laws.

"It is unfair that all manner of pesticides, hormones, radiation and genetic engineering are used on food and fiber crops and the results sold without labeling what was used--while organic growers are required to pay for intricate certification procedures in order to prove they are not using any of the above. Political decency requires that all the insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, hormones, radiation and genetic modification used to produce or process food crops be listed on labels when they are sold."

Without objection the amendment was adopted.

AG#3: Agriculture: Organic School Lunches

Hugh Lovel (Union County) offers the following amendment:

Amend the Agriculture Plank of Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by renumbering the Agriculture Plank as appropriate and inserting after paragraph 2, the following:

"5. Healthy School Lunches

"Prohibit the use of BGH-treated dairy products, irradiated meats and produce and the products of genetic engineering in the preparation of school lunches. Phase-out over seven years all non-organic meats and produce from school lunches. Establish a unit of the Cooperative Extension Agency, Board of Regents to cooperate with the Gorgia Organic Growers Association to assist farmers in the transition from the use of chemical inputs to operating practices that will allow for Organic Certification."

Without objection the amendment was adopted.

AG#4: Agriculture: Local Purchasing Preferences

Hugh Esco (Towns County) offers the following amendment:

Amend the Agriculture Plank of Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green

Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by renumbering the Agriculture Plank as appropriate and inserting after paragraph 2, the following:

"6. Support Local Famers

"We will require that government institutional buyers give purchasing preference to products of Georgia's Farmers. We would make local purchasing a critereon in the award of government contracts."

On Peter Wright's motion, we struck the word "Georgia" and inserted the word "local." Without objection, the Wright amendment was adopted. Without objection the amended amendment was adopted.

AG#4: Agriculture: Animal Confinement Operations

Hugh Lovel (Union County) offers the following amendment:

Amend the Agriculture Plank of Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by inserting after paragraph 7, the following:

"8. Develop Requirements for Composting Animal Confinement Wastes.

"Presently the concentration, holding and disposal of urine, manure and carcasses in animal confinement operations pollutes our air, surface water and ground water. Composting these materials for use as fertility inputs would transform them from pollutive wastes into valuable assets."

Without objection the amendment was adopted.

CJ#1: Domestic Violence Strategies

Hugh Esco (Towns County) offers the following Platform amendment:

To amend Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by striking paragraph #5 and inserting a new paragraph to read:

"5. Prevent Domestic Violence. Increase resources to prevent and respond t domestic violence. Commit funding, resources and personnel to build a coordinated community based response to domestic violence in our homes, that emphasizes the accountability of the perpetrator and the protection of those victimized by abuse. Implement the recommendations of the Commission on Gender Bias in the Judicial System in their June 1992 Report to the Supreme Court of Georgia. Train police and court personnel to do their part to end domestic violence. We urge Greens and Georgians to challenge the sexist assumptions of our culture which are used to justify family violence.

Without objection the amendment was adopted.

CJ#2: Criminal Justice: Non-Violent Juvenile Offender Sentencing Reform

Charles Sumblin (Johnson County) offers the following amendment:

Amend the Criminal Justice Plank of Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by renumbering the Criminal Justice Plank as appropriate and inserting after paragraph 1, the following:

"2. Non-Violent Juvenile Offender Sentencing Reform

"No youth accused or convicted of a non-violent crime shall be incarcerated. Communities, courts, local and state government should fund alternatives to incarceration and the elements of a restorative justice system."

Without objection the amendment was adopted.

DM#1: Democracy: Proportional Representation

Hugh Esco (Towns County) offers the following amendment:

Amend the Democracy Plank of Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by renumbering the Democracy Plank as appropriate and inserting after paragraph 3, the following:

"4. Proportional Representation

"Georgia's elections laws provide for a system of winner-take-all, majority election rules. The right to govern belongs to the majority. But the right of representation belongs to everyone. As Greens, we advocate the use of proportional representation rules in the counting of ballots. These will allow voters to vote their convictions instead of their fears. We propose that the Electoral College, the Georgia's Congressional delegation, the state House and local Councils and Commissions be elected by a system of multi-member proportional representation and that single member races be filled by single transferable voting or preference voting."

Without objection the amendment was adopted.

DM#2: Democracy: Corporate Charter Review

Hugh Esco (Towns County) offers the following amendment:

Amend the Democracy Plank of Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by striking paragraph 8, and inserting in its place, the following:

"8. Hold Corporations Accountable

"Eliminate corporate influence and interference in the community development decision-making process. Establish and enforce strict regulations that prohibit real estate and banking policies and practices that are hostile to the interests of the community. Establish a Corporate Charter Review Commission to consider challenges to a Corporation's Charter to operate in Georgia. Provide that a Corporate Charter may be revoked on a finding that a preponderance of the evidence shows that the activities of the Corporation willfully or recklessly threatens the health and welfare of the people of Georgia."

Without objection the amendment was adopted.

ED#1: Education: Community Classrooms and Practical Living Skills

Kerrie Dickson (Towns County) offers the following Platform amendment:

To amend Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by renumbering the plank as appropriate and inserting a new numbered paragraph to read:

3. Community Classrooms. Our community can play a dynamic role in educating young people in practical living skills. We encourage students to get out from behind their desks and to find teachers and mentors among their community as part of an organized volunteer program funded by state and local schools boards. Students can find skills such as gardening, cooking, construction (carpentry, electrical and plumbing), sewing, writing, music, art, auto mechanics, etc. Senior citizens and young people need opportunities to get to know one another again. By sharing on a practical level we can all benefit and gain a greater understanding for each other.

Without objection the amendment was adopted.

ED#2: Education: Military Recruiting and JROTC in Public Schools

Kerrie Dickson (Towns County) offers the following amendment:

Amend the Education Plank of Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by renumbering the Education Plank as appropriate and inserting after paragraph 2, the following:

"3. Protect Our Young From Manipulative Military Recruiting Practices

"We are committed to a future without war. We expect our schools to prepare young people for meaningful employment in a peace economy. While we appreciate the role that JROTC programs have played in providing structure, discipline and self-confidence among some students, we oppose these programs's militaristic propaganda and their role as recruiting programs for the armed services. We insist that if military recruiters are invited

to schools, that others are also invited who can tell the truth about the military and its enlistment promises and offer young people viable alternatives to enlistment. We oppose the practice of public schools using school hours for ASVAB testing and their providing lists of the student body to military recruiters."

After some debate, and without objection, this amendment was withdrawn by the author.

ED#3: Education: PCRM Model Food Guide

Hugh Esco (Towns County) offers the following amendment:

Amend the Education Plank of Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by renumbering the Education Plank as appropriate and inserting after paragraph 7, the following:

"8. Honest Nutrition Education in Public Schools

"Georgians suffer greatly from an inordinate amount of heart disease, strokes and cancer. There is sufficient evidence in the medical community to advise the public that these and other debilitating and fatal diseases are preventable through diet changes as advocated by the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (P.O. Box 6322, Washington, D.C., 20015). Our economy is burdened by disease care costs that are a direct consequence of the meat, egg and dairy diet. Our landscape has been denuded for grazing and our water systems are degraded by fecal pollutants which runoff our farms or are discharged from rendering plants. We urge the State School Board to produce a Food Guide based on the recommendations of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. We urge that schools promote in a gentle, encouraging fashion as an ideal, a Food Guide recommending four, totally vegetarian food groups, i.e. (1) vegetables, (2) whole grains, (3) fruits and (4) legumes - with other items (e.g. meat, dairy, eggs, sweets, fats) mentioned in a sidebar, but not actually recommended for health."

Without objection the amendment was adopted.

EJ#1: Environmental Justice: Pollution Victims Compensation Fund

Zack Lyde (Glynn County) offers the following amendment:

Amend the Environmental Justice Plank of Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by striking paragraph 4, and inserting in its place, the following:

"4. Compensate Victims of Pollution

"Protect the rights of victims of environmental pollution to receive full compensation for damages and quality health care. Create a Pollution Victim's Compensation Fund to receive dedicated revenue from a pollution tax on all releases reportable in the Toxic Release Inventory. The Fund is to be divided into separate accounts and disbursed to pay a) the health-care costs of Pollution Victims; b) providing technical assistance to

community groups in holding responsible corporations accountable for containing and cleaning up uncontrolled toxic sites; c) funding grants for technical assistance by the Office of Pollution Prevention to be matched by and to assist polluting industries to retool production processes to reduce reportable discharges; and d) for retraining, job placement and worker transition costs associated with displacement created by production process changes motivated by pollution prevention efforts."

Without objection the amendment was adopted.

FP#1: Foreign Policy Plank

Hugh Esco offers the following Platform amendment:

To amend Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by providing for a new plank addressing Foreign Policy issues:

Foreign policy

"There is no way to peace, peace is the way."

We oppose U.S. military adventurism. We are not isolationists. We are committed to both personal and global responsibility. Our government does have a role in international affairs. However, we do not support the federal government assuming responsibility as world policeman. We are wary of the motives of U.S. foreign policy that uses military force to selectively protect human rights for some but not all. We recognize that frequently US foreign and military policy have been driven by corporate interests instead of the country's interests.

As Greens we call for:

1. **End Human Rights Violations** both here and abroad. The key to long lasting peace is economic and environmental justice and reparations to those who have suffered. Generations of war and genocide can only be stopped by ending the violence with peaceful negotiations and reparations, not with bombing, sanctions and economic devastation. We do not support the use of depleted uranium in weapons used by the NATO and U.S. military. Poisoning water supplies, the Earth and air leads to more death and mounting health travesties that can be seen in not only this generation, but future generations well.
2. **Forgive International Debt** -- Restructure the World Bank and the IMF. We oppose the manner in which the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have been administered to manipulate access to investment capital to attack the rights of working people to safe jobs paying livable wages and air, water and food safe for consumption. We call for an end to the "Structural Adjustment Programs" and forgiveness of international debt. Investments and loans must be targeted to achieve self-sufficiency and ecological sustainability.
3. **Democratize the United Nations** – We urge the United States to lead a movement for UN Charter Reform to eliminate the privileged position of Security

- Council members and to work to build the UN into a tool for international peace making, reconciliation and environmental protection.
4. **Create a Peace Force**; committed to non-violent strategies. We believe that non-violence is the path to peace. While affirming the right of self-defense, we are committed to creating a future without war. The military serves a role we feel can be replaced by the organization and funding at both the national and international level of a Peace Force which utilizes non-violent strategies and tactics to pursue Foreign Policy objectives outlined here.
 5. **Halt arms sales to Human Rights Abusers.** Pass Congresswoman McKinney's bill.
 6. End the War of Economic Sanctions against the people of **Iraq**. The suffering has gone on too long. Thousands of children are dying every week in Iraq from preventable health problems and mal-nourishment as a direct result of the 1991 bombing and sanctions. Clinton ought to be held responsible for the 1998 bombing justified as retaliation for Hussein's refusal to cooperate with an UNSCOM inspection team staffed with U.S. spies. We ask the World Court to rule on the illegality of the use of Depleted Uranium weapons. We call on the U.S. government to commit to gathering and containing the radioactive waste left across the desert by its military actions.
 7. Develop an effective strategy to create meaningful and lasting peace in the **Balkans**. Such a strategy must be based on an immediate end to the bombing and any other steps being proposed to escalate the violence. We call for the UN to intercede and protect the people of Serbia, Albania and Kosovo from both NATO aggression and from war crimes by Milosevic and others. We urge the OSCE to continue its reconciliation work interrupted by the bombing. We call on Congress to act to achieve these purposes.
 8. Stop the War in **Chiapas**. We call for an immediate halt to all arms sales (usually funded as drug interdiction activities) to the Mexican government. We recognize the rights of the indigenous Mayan people to autonomy and self-government in their homeland in the Mexican state of Chiapas. We urge the Zedillo administration to withdraw troops from their war in Chiapas and to restore the Constitutional protections afforded indigenous peoples prior to NAFTA's enactment.

On Lew Lieberman's motion, considered the following amendment to this proposal:

1. End the economic blockade against Cuba. Adopt a policy of reconciliation toward our neighbor to the South. We call for the repeal of the Helms-Burton Act.

Without objection, the Lieberman amendment was adopted. Without objection the amended amendment was adopted.

HC#1: Governor Barnes' HMO Legislation
Kerrie Dickson offers the following Platform amendment:

To amend Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by inserting a new paragraph at an appropriate place in the preamble to the Health care plank:

The new Governor spent his political capital and honeymoon session enacting an HMO package that offers little relief to the problems faced by both healthcare consumers and practitioners. Further, his bill exempts from the scrutiny of the new insurance advocate the Columbus based AFLAC, a major campaign contributor. The current trend is to restrict choice of both practitioner and modality of care. We oppose the limited window for exercising one's choice for out-of-network practitioners and the 17% monetary penalty for exercising this choice, imposed by Governor Barnes's new laws. We urge the Georgia Assembly to look at existing proven models that will provide universal access to healthcare for less money than the insurance industry charges now, serving only a fraction of the population.

Without objection the amendment was adopted.

HC#2: Health Care: Tobacco Settlement Can Fund Universal Care

Kerrie Dickson (Towns County) offers the following amendment:

Amend the Health Care Plank of Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by renumbering the Health Care Plank as appropriate and inserting after paragraph 1, the following:

"2. Tobacco Settlement Can Fund Universal Care

"Create a Georgia Health Care Corporation to receive the tobacco settlement funds and to use them to provide universal access to health care in a system that includes all providers, and assures consumer choice and freedom, including proven "alternative" and "complementary" health care disciplines and practices, and with emphasis and priority given to health measures and education designed to prevent the need for curative health measures."

Without objection the amendment was adopted.

HR#1: Human Rights: Reparations

Hugh Esco (Towns County) offers the following amendment:

Amend the Human Rights Plank of Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by striking paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 in their entirety, and inserting in their place, the following:

"As Greens, we will:

"3. ~~Acknowledge Wrongful Treatment of~~ Make Reparations to African Americans

"Officially acknowledge Georgia's and the United States' historic wrongdoing in the enslavement of Africans. Initiate substantive and practical dialogue on what Georgians can do today to ~~return the~~ make reparations to the African-American community to social and economic vitality for the past four hundred plus years of genocide, slavery, land-loss, destruction of culture and the present-day conditions which have evolved from this history.

"4. ~~Acknowledge Wrongful Treatment of~~ Make Reparations Native Americans

"Officially acknowledge Georgia's and the United States' historic wrongdoing in removing Native Nations, and violating treaties with them, for the settlement of Georgia. Initiate substantive and practical dialogue on what Georgians can do today to ~~return the Native American community to social and economic vitality~~ make reparations for the past five hundred plus years of genocide, land-theft, treaty violations, destruction of culture and the present-day conditions which have evolved from this history.

"5. Stop Violence and ~~Prejudice~~ Discrimination

"Against women, people of color, lesbians, gays, the poor, the homeless, children, elders, immigrants, the differently-abled, and the imprisoned."

Without objection the amendment was adopted.

HR#2: Human Rights: Racist Team Mascots

Hugh Esco (Towns County) offers the following amendment:

Amend the Human Rights Plank of Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

"6. We support the American Indian Movement who has since 1975 urged sports teams to stop the offensive use of mascots which refer to racial or ethnic groups. We urge the Commissioner of Major League Baseball and Ted Turner, the owner of the Atlanta baseball franchise to honor the requests of the Native community for respect. We support legislation which would prohibit the use of public funds to support professional, community or school teams which use offensive mascots and prohibit those teams from playing at publicly funded facilities. We urge the media to refrain from referring in their sports reports by name to teams which use offensive mascots."

Without objection the amendment was adopted.

TX#1: Taxes: Federal Budget Priorities

Hugh Esco and Kerrie Dickson offers the following Platform amendment:

To amend Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by renumbering the Taxes plank as appropriate and inserting new paragraphs #1 and #2, to read:

1. Federal Budget Priorities. It is time our tax dollars were spent on the general welfare, instead of the welfare of generals. We call for an immediate 50% or greater cut in U.S. military spending. We urge the investment of the peace dividend in 1) the creation of a Peace Force committed to non-violent strategies, 2) retraining and job placement of workers displaced by changing federal spending priorities, 3) the containment and restoration of the Department of Defense's nuclear and hazardous waste sites, 4) the retirement of national debts incurred to prosecute wars, 5) grants for assisting impacted communities in making the transition to participation in a peace economy, 6) programs to foster food, water and environmental security. We urge comprehensive cuts in corporate welfare and subsidies which undermine worker and environmental protection. We recommend the following programs as priorities for cuts: nuclear weapons development. Testing, manufacture and deployment, including depleted uranium weapons.

2. Peace Tax Fund. We urge the creation of a Peace Tax Fund to receive and disburse for non-military purposes, the tax payments of those who hold a conscientious objection to the payment of war taxes.

On Lew Lieberman's motion, we split the question. There were concerns with ¶ 1. On a test of whether the concern was a blocking concern, the vote was 2-4. A third of the delegates agreed the concern was a blocking concern and ¶ 1. Was blocked. ¶ 2. Passed without objection.

TX#3: Taxes: Pollution and Extraction Taxes

Hugh Esco (Towns County) offers the following amendment:

Amend the Taxes Plank of Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by renumbering the plank as appropriate and inserting a new paragraph to read:

"#. We must give the appropriate economic signals to the marketplace by imposing taxes on raw materials extraction, waste generation and the discharge of pollutants into the environment. As Greens we will review the tax code for subsidies to wastful or polluting industries and repeal these tax incentives so that our tax policy conforms with our public policy."

Without objection the amendment was adopted.

VET#1: Vetrans Plank

Hugh Esco (Towns County) offers the following amendment:

To amend Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by providing for a New Plank addressing Vetran Issues:

Veterans

"We owe military veterans a future where our children no longer face war."

"We recognize the tremendous sacrifice our country has asked of its citizens who have served in the military in the conduct of war. While we frequently find ourselves and our commitment to non-violence at odds with the military adventurism of the U.S. federal policies, we stand with the Georgians who have served in these wars and insist that they and their families not be abandoned.

"1. Our Commitment to a Future Beyond Wars

"Our first priority in foreign policy considerations is to creating a future without war -- and consequently without war veterans. We are committed that future generations not face the separations and sacrifices of war.

2. Vietnam War Vetrans

"3. Gulf War Syndrome

"Many of those U.S. Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen who served during Operation Desert Storm in the Arab East have been exposed to nuclear, chemical and possibly biological warfare agents. We insist that the Veterans Administration not ignore the suffering they have experienced since coming home from the war. The Congress should fund and the VA should implement a comprehensive program to survey Gulf Vets and the impacts of Gulf War Syndrome on them and their families and to provide the best possible medical treatment available to minimize the suffering of these men and women and their families. We insist that the Federal Government withdraw from deployment Depleted Uranium, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. We insist that the military halt the practice of testing experimental medicines and inoculations on servicemembers without their consent."

Hugh Esco offered the following amendment to this platform amendment:

VET#2: Vetrans

Hugh Esco (Towns County) offers the following amendment to Platform amendment VET#1:

To amend the proposed Platform Amendment VET#1 dealing with Vetrans, published in the Internal Discussion Bulletin #98-4:70, by striking paragraph #2 and inserting a new paragraph in its place to read:

2. Honor our Commitment to Veterans. We insist that the cuts to Veterans Administration funding be halted and that past cuts be restored. We must honor the promises we've made to veterans in the past.

Without objection, the amendment to the amendment was adopted and the amended amendment was adopted.

AI#1: Make Auto Insurance Optional

Charles Sumblin (Johnson County) offers the following Platform amendment:

To amend Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by amending the Auto Insurance plank to strike the quote at the beginning of the preamble and inserting a new quote in its place to read as follows:

"If ~~we have~~ need to buy it, make the prices fair."

Further amend the Plank by striking the second paragraph and inserting new language, to read:

"Legislators have made auto insurance mandatory in the state of Georgia (and nearly every other state). We ~~don't~~ question the wisdom justice of that law. We wonder if a state mandate for auto insurance would have passed in an environment of publicly funded elections. We view this as another example of corporate welfare. But we do maintain that if we are required to purchase insurance, (or anything else for that matter), the sellers of this commodity shouldn't be getting rich off us."

Further amend the Plank by renumbering the rest of the plank as appropriate and by inserting a new paragraph #1, to read:

1. "Make Auto Insurance Optional. While we understand that it can be prudent to carry insurance and do not intend to impair any contracts by lenders which require insurance, we oppose the state laws which prohibit operating an uninsured vehicle. This creates a class barrier to jobs and other necessary travel and serves to criminalize poor people for their poverty."

Without objection the amendment was adopted.

CJ#1: Roll Back Bonding Fee Increase

Charles Sumblin (Johnson County) offers the following Platform amendment:

To amend Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by renumbering as appropriate and inserting a new paragraph 4 to read as follows:

4. Protect the Rights of the Accused. Fully fund indigent defense and roll back the 1999 increase in jail bonding fees.

Without objection the amendment was adopted.

EC#1: Economic Development

Hugh Esco (Towns County) offers the following Platform amendment:

To amend Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, inserting in alphabetical order, a new plank to read:

Economic Development

"Local self-reliance is the key to economic security"

We understand that economic democracy is a human right. We also know it will not be granted to us by the Corporations who benefit from the current economic insecurity. We intend to Re-Create the economy from the community out to foster sustainable practices, humane working conditions and lives of abundance.

As Greens we recommend:

1. **Local currencies.** Local governments and non-governmental organizations can create new currencies by it to workers and vendors who commit to accept the currency. Local currencies recycle wealth in the community and multiply job creation opportunities. Time Dollars, LETS and Hours systems of local currency encourage livable wages and build a community base for widespread economic security.
2. **Broad-based Ownership.** We favor policies including purchasing and contracting preferences that award and encourage companies that share meaningful ownership with their workers and community. This ownership would include participation in both the profits and in shareholder decision-making. We would urge state accounts and annuities be invested in business enterprises which foster and create broad-based ownership, an equitable distribution of wealth and income and the principles of economic democracy.
3. **Creating Accurate Measures.** We urge state legislation to give preference in state economic development grant making to local governments which participate in programs to measure and report relevant economic data to the public. These measures would include data on human and community needs (especially energy and food) either unmet or filled with imports which could be provided for locally.
4. **Public Support for Lifelong Education.** An investment in life long education universally available will reap dividends in a culture of learning for our children and facilitate the ongoing development of the human capital of our economy.
5. **Energy self-reliance.** The Public Service Commission can require that new investments by power utilities be made in energy conservation and new renewable generating capacity, especially photo-voltaic and wind. Plugging the leaks in our energy budget saves our money for local spending and local job creation.
6. **Zoning for Home-based Businesses.** We urge local governments to amend their zoning codes to encourage mix-used development and home-based businesses.

Without objection the amendment was adopted.

EC#1: Economic Democracy

Debbie McAdoo (Stephens County) offers the following Platform amendment:

To amend the Economic Democracy plank of the Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by renumbering the plank as appropriate and inserting a new paragraph to read:

2. We recognize that children are entitled to housing, food, healthcare, education and the care of their parents. We oppose Workfare and the punitive sanctions created by the 1996 Congressional welfare reform act and the 1997 Georgia Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Act. We commit to restructuring the public welfare program so that children have the benefit of their parent's time and energy; and that respects the autonomy of single parents.

After some discussion, the paper was tabled.

EC#1: Economic Democracy

Debbie McAdoo (Stephens County) offers the following Platform amendment:

To amend the Health Care plank of the Platform-1998 adopted by the Georgia Green Party's Wrightsville Convention on June 6th, 1998, as ratified by the Coordinating Council on August 13th, 1998, by renumbering the plank as appropriate and inserting a new paragraph to read:

4. No consensus exists for the use of vaccines. In fact there exists no definitive studies which demonstrate the efficacy of vaccination as a means of preventing disease. Evidence continues to surface suggesting that vaccinations – intended to produce immunity from disease – are actually contributing to diminished health and increased susceptibility to health problems. Many parents who are committed to healthy diet and wholistic healthcare are opposed to the use of pharmaceutical vaccinations. We oppose policies which would force these taxpayers to compromise their healthcare choices in exchange for access to public education for their children.

Without objection the amendment was adopted.

We next considered the following bylaws amendments:

GGP:CC Proposal #98-4:59

Offered by Hugh Esco

Conform the By-laws on Conventions to
The Amendments adopted by the 1998 Wrightsville Convention

Amend the by-laws of the Georgia Green Party, Article IV., dealing with Decision Making, by striking Section A. dealing with Meetings, paragraph 1., dealing with the Annual Convention in its entirety and inserting in its place, the following:

1. Annual Convention

The Annual Convention shall be the highest decision making body for the Georgia Green Party. All affiliated locals in good standing are eligible to send voting delegates to an

Annual Convention. Unaffiliated individual members in attendance at an Annual Convention may caucus to select voting delegates to participate in the business of the Convention. The Coordinating Council shall convene the Annual Convention. The Convention may establish organizational policy; amend or, by unanimous consent, suspend its Rules; adopt and amend and repeal platform planks and position statements; elect Coordinating Council members and a Delegation on National Green Party Affairs to fulfill the duties outlined in VI.B.~~Party delegates to the Annual Green Congress~~ and establish program guidelines on behalf of the Georgia Green Party. If, in the call for the Convention, notice is given of a Nominating Convention, then the Convention shall also have all the powers and responsibilities provided in O.C.G.A. 21-2-170 relative to nominating candidates for publicly elected office; and the power to open or close any race in Georgia to Green candidates. The Coordinating Council shall provide at least four weeks' notice to all members, with the exception that two weeks notice shall be sufficient for the first Annual Convention. The Coordinating Council shall prepare a proposed agenda for each Annual Convention which shall include a report of the decisions and actions of the Coordinating Council and the Quick Decision Council, including an accounting of funds received and disbursed from organizational accounts.

Further amend the By-laws of the Georgia Green Party, Article VI., dealing with Affiliations, by striking Sections A. and B. dealing with national Green Party affiliations in their entirety and inserting in their place, the following:

A. Region 9 - Deep South Greens

The Georgia Green Party shall be affiliated with Region 9 of the ~~national Greens confederation~~ the Greens/ Green Party (usa).

B. Association of State Green Parties andThe Greens/ Green Party (usa)

The Georgia Green Party shall be affiliated with the Association of State Green Parties and with the Greens/ Green party (usa), until the adjournment of the Green Nominating Convention in 2000. The Georgia Green Party shall provide for the annual election of a Delegation on National Green Party Affairs ~~delegation~~ to represent the views and concerns of its membership at the Annual Gathering and Congress of the Greens/ Green Party (usa) and with the Association of State Green Parties. The Georgia Green Party shall provide for the bi-annual staggered election of four delegates to represent the views and concerns of its membership in national matters. By agreement of and from among the four delegates elected, two delegates and two alternates shall be designated to each national Green Organization, including the Green National Committee of the Greens/ Green Party (usa), the Coordinating Committee of the Association of State Green Parties and any other national Green Party formation that may develop out of the Unity process.

Without objection the amendment was adopted.

GGP:CC Proposal #98-4:61

Offered by Hugh Esco

Provide for a Committee on a National Green Party Platform.

Amend amend the By-laws of the Georgia Green Party, Article VI., dealing with Affiliations, by striking Sections A. and B. dealing with national Green Party affiliations in their entirety and inserting in their place, the following:

A. Region 9 - Deep South Greens

The Georgia Green Party shall be affiliated with Region 9 of the ~~national Greens confederation~~ the Greens/ Green Party (usa).

B. Association of State Green Parties andThe Greens/ Green Party (usa)

The Georgia Green Party shall be affiliated with the Association of State Green Parties and with the Greens/ Green party (usa), until the adjournment of the Green Nominating Convention in 2000. The Georgia Green Party shall provide for the annual election of a Delegation on National Green Party Affairs ~~delegation~~ to represent the views and concerns of its membership at the Annual Gathering and Congress of the Greens/ Green Party (usa) and with the Association of State Green Parties. The Georgia Green Party shall provide for the bi-annual staggered election of four delegates to represent the views and concerns of its membership in national matters. By agreement of and from among the four delegates elected, two delegates and two alternates shall be designated to each national Green Organization, including the Green National Committee of the Greens/ Green Party (usa), the Coordinating Committee of the Association of State Green Parties and any other national Green Party formation that may develop out of the Unity process. By agreement of and from among the four delegates elected, two co-chairs shall be named to the Georgia Green Party Committee on a National Green Party Platform. These co-chairs shall facilitate the participation of the Georgia Greens in deliberations on any proposed national Green Party Platform and shall lead the Partys delegation at any National Nominating Convention in deliberations on the amendment and adoption of such a Platform.

Without objection the amendment was adopted.

We amended the agenda to consider the proposed budget. On Kerrie Dicksons motion, and without objection, we struck the line item for the Presidential Nominating Convention and adopted the amended budget.

We suspended the rules requiring a count of the ballots and after checking to see that no one had voted for *none-of-the-above* we agreed to seat all nominees in the office for which they had been nominated.

We adjourned at 4:00 pm, cleaned up and departed.