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N.Y. SPARTACIST COMMITTEE, Minutes.....21 July 1965

Present: Chris, Dee, Mark, Lyndon, Roger, Jim, Lynne, Al, Shirley (late), Peter (late)
Paul (late), Sam (late), Helen (late) Others: Winnie, Hugh

Absent: Tippy, Shane, Price, Harry (on assign), Dave (on assign.)

Meeting convened at 8:12 p.m.

- 1. Organization of Meeting: (a) Chairman - Dee
(b) Agenda adopted
(c) Minutes of June 30 read and accepted

2. Meetings:

Motion by Al: To reconsider Roger's motion from last meeting on marking people late who arrive after 8:00 p.m. regardless of whether or not the meeting has actually started.
Disc: Al, Roger

Motion by Jim on procedure: That there be only one more speaker on the question on each side, then vote. If vote passes, proceed then to substantive discussion.

Motion to table by Al: To table till next meeting.

All for, but Jim opposed.

Motion tabled

3. National Report - Jim

- (a) REB meeting, 7/12 - Now that secretary has a new job, minutes will be more slow in coming out. 12 new members have been taken in in various parts of the country. C. Smith was expelled (bulletin being prepared). 4th meeting with Wohlforthites will be 7/23 on IC International document.
- (b) Arnoni's Minority of One - will reprint Glenn's comments on Arnoni's call for volunteers (Modified Chicago Proposal).
- (c) Workers World - WW and YAWF have come out in support of Jesse Gray who is running for mayor in the Democratic primary (running with Hal Kopper-smith on "People's Progressive Slate").
- (d) Deacons - Copies of Hainline letter offering defense support to Deacons available. Farmer now in Bogalusa cooling things off. A representative of the Deacons was in N.Y., said they are not looking for publicity or controversial support, need money.
- (e) Baltimore and Chicago - Some comrades and contacts coming for a weekend; suggest we ask them to come same weekend.
- (f) Documents - 3 have been rec'd in connection with SWP convention: (i) PC draft on Negro question; (ii) Kerry's PC document on organizational question; (iii) draft platform of Frazer group (subsidiary parts excellent, but overall right-wing orientation, class line blurred).

Disc: Helen, Lyndon, Dee, Lyndon, Hugh, Jim, Al, Mark, Sam, Lyndon

4. SDS-M2M - Roger

In SDS garment district committee our comrades succeeded in reversing motion not inviting Epton as one of a series of public speakers (however, Epton finally failed to show up for rally). Another rally planned next week. Our comrades pushing hard to (a) call for independent labor party and (b) support SWP and PL candidates, gotten motion on (b) through. However, at City-wide meeting held at 116 University Pl. G.Schreiber and other SWPers stated it was

the SWP's position that none of the anti-war in Viet Nam groups should support any candidate, including SWP candidates, because this would be divisive. Since all struggle on the committee has been around this issue, means SWP's position is to embrace the right wing. M2M members in committee not eager to support PL or SWP candidates. No one attended last M2M meeting.
Disc: Lyndon, Al, Roger, Sam, Roger, Mark, Roger

5. CORE

- (a) General - Lynne. Roy I. phoned, said CORE national convention was entirely different than in previous years, probably because of presence of a Deacon. N.Y. CORE, which had previously been a 'vanguard' chapter now by-passed and is in rear-guard. 4-200 vote to table motion in support of Deacons was, according to Roy, at the request of Deacon to avoid publicity, and the 4 votes represented the right wing who wanted motion defeated.
- (b) Employment Committee - Hugh. Final meeting with Valentin on leaflet will be held, hope to start street meetings shortly. Some victimized taxi drivers have approached N.Y. CORE.

6. Election Campaign - Jim

Lorna, activist in Upper West Side PL Club, has requested our help in distributing Epton campaign literature door-to-door from 90-95th streets, from RSD to CPW, and to intervene with Wohlforth to get him to give neighborhood party for Epton.

Disc: Al, Hugh, Jim, Al, Sam

Motion by Jim: To do this.

Passed unanimously

Motion by Jim: To have a mobilization on Saturday, 10 a.m., and to involve our supporters.

Vote: All for, but Roger opposed

Motion passed

Volunteers: Lyndon, Winnie, Jim, Al, Helen, Dee, Chris, Dave R.

7. Executive Committee Report

- (a) Leaflet on WW endorsement of Gray - Exec endorsed leaflet with criticism that it gave the false impression that PL did not endorse Jesse Gray, and that this be corrected before the leaflet is distributed again. On Jim's suggestion, Lyndon called Linder, Challenge editor, who said that PL does not support Gray; therefore Exec's motion moot.
- (b) Local functioning - Jim suggested that a point on the agenda of the next meeting be discussion of the functioning of the N.Y. local.

Motion by Al: To have such a discussion,

Motion passed

- (c) Boutelle - Exec's response to SWP letter reported. Jim's draft letter read. Since the position of the union leadership is ambiguous, we won't make an issue of Boutelle's strike chiseling,

Motion by Lyndon: To endorse Jim's draft letter

Disc: Chris, Al, Shirley, Roger, Mark, Sam, Helen, Jim

Passed

8. Sales Report - Sam

Comrades have been given reminders to cover their stands every two weeks. District 65 union saturated with Spartacist at present. Sam will distribute

class brochures at 116 Thurs., Helen will sell Friday at Militant Forum.

9. Mobilization for Peace March - We know nothing about this group. Will hold march Thurs. from Lower East Side to 14th St. armory at 6 p.m. We will hand out Viet Nam leaflet, try to get Bill and Jan to help.

10. HOC - Shirley

- (a) Jim suggested that since two groups of our comrades and sympathizers, largely black, will be coming into town that if we can get housing for them we encourage them to come on the same weekend and have HOC forum with speakers from Chicago, Baltimore and New York. HOC having fund raising party Saturday. It is also a contacting party, and a number of people from the block are expected.

Motion by Jim: That we seek to get two projected visits on the same weekend and perhaps have a public forum.

Passed unanimously

- (b) Paul reported that on July 1 he and some other Harlem radicals witnessed a police false arrest of a guy for breaking grocery store window. A crowd of 200 gathered, Paul and others went to police station (28th Precinct-- where 'riots' of last year began) to give evidence that the guy arrested was the wrong person. At precinct they were told to get out, and when they didn't move quickly enough they were attacked by several cops and 2 were clubbed. They were arrested, held overnight, and charged with interfering with an arrest and being loud and boisterous. Trial has been postponed till August 6. Disc.

11. Leninism Class - Jim

There was a good turn out to the first session, but not high quality contacts. People should personally notify their contacts. Disc: Al, Chris

12. Finances - Al

The situation is that we have been running on other money than our own. This has blurred over the really severe difficulty we are having financially. The money we have been using has given us a false sense of security. Jim's money is now almost gone. Disc: Dee

13. Buffalo Teach-in

A radical teach-in, called 'solve-in', has gotten much publicity in Buffalo. Dave has gone up to scout out the situation, get lit around, contact. Jim will follow in a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.