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draft

MINUTES, N.Y. SPARTACIST COMMITTEE.....4 August 1965

Present: Shirley, Dave R., Mark, Lynne, Sam, Paul, Lyndon, Jim, Dee, Chris, Al, Peter
Others: Winnie, Hugh, Dave S.

Absent: Roger, Tippy, Shane, Price (on assign.), Harry (excused), Helen

Meeting convened at 8:20 p.m.

- 1. Organization of Meeting: (a) Chairman - Dave R.
(b) Agenda adopted
(c) Minutes of 21 August 1965 adopted as corrected.

2. Membership:

Motion by Exec: That Hugh be accepted as a candidate member.

passed unanimously

Motion by Exec: To accept transfer of Dave S. from Chicago to N.Y. local.

passed unanimously

3. National Report - Jim

- (a) Smith case - bulletin ready. Smith was in Balto., tried to induce our comrades to quit. In Austin he explained to SDS how bad Spartacist is. Smith is now a "Maoist". Bob K. endorses Al's document.
- (b) REB meeting of 2 Aug. - National Conference postponed because documents not ready; will be rescheduled when documents ready. Greetings and/or fraternal observers will be invited from several international organizations and individuals who are close to us. A short document will be prepared for SWP National Convention, endorsing Philips-Miller document and stating our criticisms of it, endorsing Miller's amendment on democratic-centralism, and calling for readmission of the expelled Spartacist comrades. Joint leaflet of Spartacist-ACFI had serious flaws as we did not have final draft prior to meeting. Fifth Negotiation session with ACFI: under pressure Wohlforth admitted unity with us was "politically principled and desirable," but declared original split in '62 was necessary, correct and principled. (Following this split they had stated in writing that collaboration with us was impossible because we differed on the most important questions of all--party and class.) They admitted they had had no intention in '62 of abiding by democratic centralism in our tendency, indicates they are quite prepared to repeat the '62 split. They demanded as an ultimatum increased common work and tabling till end of discussion past differences and not bring them up for a full year after unity if unity results. But this is actually the only difference between us--that they walked out of a common faction for small, tactical difference and now give no indication that they think they might have been wrong. We have many new members--that is the reason they are interested now. To their ultimatum we will point out that the common work we are engaged in is from our initiative, will agree to common blocs, not fractions. On question of postponing discussion of differences for a year, we will consider that after we have the final discussion on the subject in the Negot. Committee, and in view of their concession that unity is politically principled and desirable, will urge quickest possible conclusion of the present series in order to get down to concrete steps in process of unifying. Also make clear to Wohlforth that unity in the U.S. means unity with the IC.

- (c) Correspondence: Our new comrades in Hartford are functioning well and responsibly. In Austin Mark was jailed in a sit-in in a small town on the La. border, is forming Committee to Aid the Deacons. Letter from John J. in New Orleans indicates Deacons are truly functioning. The South is ripe for revolutionary organization and at present in the major center of New Orleans we have the edge.
- (d) Letter from rep. of S. Vn. National Liberation Front in Algiers to Mark T., secretary of CCNY Comm. to Aid the NLF, saluting group, indicated doesn't think volunteers a practical idea for South Vietnam at this time.
- (e) Buffalo Solve-In - Extremely successful for Spartacist. Spoke to 500-600. (100 in Buffalo SDS.) Jim's talk very well received, YAWF suffered in this one of their major opportunities. Bob S. followed up with brief visit.
- (f) Militant, 1928-64 - microfilms on hand.
- Disc: Dee

Motion by Dee: To follow up on either of two suggestions: if negotiations continue, suggest revisions to Spartacist-ACFI election leaflet, if negotiations break off, revise leaflet ourselves.

passed unanimously

Discussion: Chris, Jim, Peter, Sam, Jim, Shirley, Al, Jim, Lynne

On Vietnam, comrades' attention should be drawn to anticipated government crack-down on growing anti-war movement, warned to avoid illegal formulations.

4. Finances - Al

We have a debit balance of \$395.33. In N.Y. \$454 back dues owed. National arrears outside N.Y. \$323, but really more as some have never made a pledge. Money needed now for 5th issue of SPARTACIST. Must get from each comrade statement of income and try and pledge 15% of gross income.

Disc: Mark, Lyndon, Hugh, Mark

Motion by Lynne: Everyone should submit a statement of his gross income and Al will figure out what his pledge should be.

Substitute Motion by Al: Each person submit statement of his income and an estimate of how much he can pay based on his income and that this be as near 15% as possible.

Disc: Hugh, Winnie, Shirley

substitute motion passed unanimously

5. Assistant Organizer's Report - Chris

- (a) On last week end's mobilization, only half legal turned out, while other half made excuses--or couldn't even be reached. We missed one important activity entirely while others were largely understaffed. People are being irresponsible about carrying out assignments they have accepted--3 missed Sat. mobilization and 1 missed Sun. sale. Want to see more dependability and responsibility, want phone numbers, including work phones, where people can be reached and schedule, and by next meeting list of contacts and their phone numbers.

Discussion: Sam submitted a list of 12 suggestions for improving our work. Other discussion: Dee, Al, Peter, Dee, Shirley, Sam, Jim, Lynne, Hugh, Jim, Dee, Lyndon, Al, Sam, Peter, Jim, Dee, Jim, Shirley, Lyndon

(Motion: To grant Vivian a standing invitation to attend our meetings.
passed unanimously)

Reaffirmation by concensus: Fraction work is only part of a comrade's standing work. But other general work such as selling, doing misc. local work, etc., is by no means over and above a comrade's obligation.

(b) Meetings

Motion: Comrades will be marked late if they arrive after the meeting begins.

passed unanimously (Lyndon not voting)

6. SDS Report - Lyndon

Jim and Lyndon spoke at Garment Center Rally to 200-300; also PL, SWP. Violent, organized fascist contingent, cut sound system and tried to take over the platform. In SDS Vietnam committees, SWP always blocs with right wing; SWP made motion that no leaflet issued for Washington Action mention SWP or PL candidates. The member of ACFI who was involved on our initiative in this work voted with them. But our position prevailed. Action in Washington 4 days, includes Miss. Freedom Democratic Party; suggest someone enter Washington Heights Vietnam Committee as it has a number of radicals. Welfare Workers Vietnam Committee leadership presented petition with patriotic line, calling for negotiations and UN intervention. Price called to report "the button people" ("Support the N.L.F.") button distributors have requested our help in Washington, D.C. in distributing their leaflet for medical supplies to NLF and defending their lit table.

Motion by Jim: To help the button people. passed unanimously

Disc: Peter, Paul, Dee, Al

Peter suggested that our Harlem fraction form a Harlem committee in Vietnam. The question was referred to the exec.

(Motion to adjourn by 12:30 and to eliminate election and CORE reports)

7. Leninism Class - Jim

Motion: Propose party weekend following final session.

Chairman ruled motion passed by common consent.

Leaflet will be prepared by NO staff, sent to selected mailing next week. Possible recruit(s) from class.

8. Sales and Announcements:

One more mobilization needed to complete distribution of Epton leaflet. 16 page Sept.-Oct. issue of Spartacist planned, 10,000 copies. CORE benefit at McMillan Hall of Columbia. Dave, Shirley and Paul will cover for Spartacist and HOC. Paul's lawyer is Covington of HARYOU.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.