

confidential--for members only

MINUTES, N.Y. LOCAL.....9 September 1965

Present: Lyndon, Jim, Dee, Helen, Dave R., Lynne, Hugh, Paul, Shirley, Chris, Al, Dave K. (late)  
Roger (late), Peter (late); Others: Winnie, Hammett, Helene, Liz, Danny  
Absent: Shane, Tippy (l.o.a.), Harry (sick), Sam (excused), Price

Meeting convened at 8:15 p.m.

1. Organization of Meeting: (a) Chairman - Al  
(b) Agenda adopted  
(c) Minutes of 8/18 and 8/25 accepted as corrected

Motion by Lynne: To admit Hammett, Helene, Liz, & Danny to the meeting with voice  
Passed

2. Membership:

(a) Motion: To transfer from N.Y. local (to Ithaca) Chris, Dee, & Dave R.  
(These comrades have contributed greatly this summer. In Ithaca there  
will be six qualified cadre even without Hainline.)  
Passed

(b) Pending REB action, Danny will be transferring into N.Y. local from  
Chicago. Disc. Jim, Danny

(c) Motion by Lynne: To accept Dave S's resignation with prejudice.  
Disc: Jim, Helen  
Passed

(d) Motion by Dave R: To accept Liz into full membership in Spartacist.  
Passed

(e) Motion: To transfer Liz from N.Y. (to Ithaca). Passed

(f) Motion by Dave R: To request Larry I. to join the N.Y. local and that  
copies of this motion be made available to Larry and  
to the REB.

Extended discussion.

Revision of Dave's motion: To ask Larry to transfer into N.Y. local.

Counteraction by Jim: To ask Larry to continue to help with the work of the  
N.Y. local, especially on weekends.

Restatement of Jim's motion: The policy of the N.Y. local is to seek to  
encourage Larry to continue to help with the work of  
the N.Y. local, especially on weekends.

Dave withdrew his motion. It was reintroduced by Lynne.

Vote on Jim's motion: For: Jim, Dee, Helen, Dave R., Hugh, Dave K.  
Opposed: None  
Abstaining: Lynne, Roger, Paul  
Motion Passed

Vote on Lynne's motion: For: Lynne, Roger  
Opposed: Jim, Dee, Helen, Dave R., Hugh, Dave K., Shirley, Chris,  
Al, Lyndon  
Abstaining: Paul

Motion Defeated

3. (a) International Report - Jim

Warm letter received from Voix Ouvriere, wishes fraternal collaboration. Letter from Healy: SLL rep wants to meet with Spartacist representatives this fall. Arrangements being made.

Report from Liz on her return from European trip: Healy opposed to unity outside the Conference, stressed the key importance of the SLL. In France met with IC people who have the Healy line on unity. Also met V.O. rep and helped them with their work, has encouraging impression of group. V.O. differs from French IC group in that they orient more toward politically independent workers rather than youth. Their people are all young, some working class, activist, and not necessarily theoretical. Unity between French groups appears distant. Both groups more open than SLL membership to our opinions. In Italy met with left split group from Nenni socialists; splitting issue was over joining coalition government. Disc: Dave, Helen, Jim

(b) National Report - Jim

Riots' aftermath: We had N.Y. meeting with 75 people. Peking Review quoted our Chicago leaflet (without source) for two weeks running. Time Magazine did not print our letter identifying Spartacist as source of leaflet. SPARTACIST No. 5: first part of copy can go to printers by Monday. Houston: Excellent letter received from Ramon indicating that that area which has been on the verge of disintegration promises to have minimum stability for next period, and comrades there have rational and workable perspective for next period and should be encouraged. L.A.: Ron is doing quite well all alone, selling Spartacists, working with other radical groups, has gotten P.O. box, and is contacting people in area. RAM: quotations read from their "underground" publication--a perfect example of what not to say. Deacons, Austin, etc.: Our comrades have been working in support of Deacons. Hainline and Mark had their pictures on front page of Austin paper after sponsoring pro-Deacons meeting. SWP Convention: Our expulsions were confirmed, and we were denied the constitutional right to appeal. At convention itself nothing much happened. Seattle delegation dominated convention. Organizational resolution banning factions was passed, of which Warde was the author. Phillips-Miller document on American question moved from the floor by Seattle group, received approximately 8 out of 55 votes. We sold over \$20 worth of literature and passed out Preface to M.B.#2. Wohlforth also passed out a written appeal. This week end was an in-gathering of our own, had Open House Sunday. Six comrades and contacts from Hartford, 4 comrades and contacts from Columbus, Ohio, 1 comrade from Calif., 1 from New Orleans, Helene returning from Texas, Phil from South, plus Seattle delegates, all visited. Memos needed: (1) considerations in work in student and anti-war orgs. (2) Differing estimates of various OSO's (ostensibly revolutionary orgs, i.e., ASOC and WWP; PIP and SWP; ACFI). Modified Chicago Proposal: Jack's article was published in Arnoni's Minority of One. SWP Orientation: Comrades want to leave SWP. They should not just leave on a subjective impulse without arguing their reasons. No local nor the REB by itself can alter the course of the entire organization like that. They should make a written argument. The stampede to leave must stop, and if there is to be an exodus, it must be considered, orderly, and not total.

Disc: Dave K., Liz, Lyndon, Jim, Dave R.

(c) Area Reports:

Austin, Louisiana, and Deacons - Helene. Two meetings held in Austin on Deacons. The meeting in ghetto very successful; 15 Negroes and 8 whites came, 10 formed Deacons Aid Committee, will set up group in East Austin. Meeting on U. of Texas campus was small but more successful than expected since publicity leaflets had been torn down. Good responses to national publicity and press releases. Aid To Deacons an excellent way to enter

Negro community, much better than CR groups. Much police harassment in Austin, so caution needed. We got 2 good contacts from this work. Our 2 comrades in Austin having a hard time personally. We also directed a leaflet on Viet Nam to the ghetto.

Chicago - Al

Danny and Sharon out on \$1,000 bail each, hearing on 14 Sept; cops expected to give false testimony. Not much witch hunt blow up. Article in press appeared on Jack's background. Had meeting on 3 Sept. on riots. Leaflets distributed mainly in ghettos and at factories, but disappointing turnout, only 25-30 at meeting, no response from 5,000 leaflets distributed in ghetto. Our 2 Negro comrades are dropping away from the organization. All Chicago Spartacist comrades will be off-campus this year. Ray, forced out of YSA and not yet a Spartacist, will set up Spartacist Club at the University of Chicago and is putting us in touch with people at Roosevelt. Also possibilities in IBEW (Int'l Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) where we are forming a fraction. Local is getting a structure. Our comrades in Chicago are good, but new. Hope to recruit Negro construction worker, ex-SWPer. IWW and PL supported our meeting; ASOC refused. YSA and SDS are indistinguishable in Chicago. Disc: Helen, Jim, Shirley

(Motion: To extend meeting till 11:30 p.m. Passed)

4. Finances - Al.

Books not up to date. Received overdraft notice from bank. Comrades should submit statements of gross incomes, noting dependents and any extraordinary expenses, to Al. Pledges should be hopefully 15 per cent. Comrades should contribute a large chunk of their incomes so that we can move ahead. We have a system of only one donation rather than twice yearly fund drives and constant fund raising activities. Disc: Roger, Shirley, Jim

Helen was nominated for N.Y. treasurer to fill vacancy. Disc: Roger, Al, Shirley

5. Socialist Scholars Conference - Dave.

This is Sat.-Sun. at McMillan Theater, Columbia University; is not an effort to organize militants and students. We have one important point our fraction should raise; need for a revolutionary party--and this can be precisely what can be expected to be underplayed at the conference.

Motion by Jim: That Spartacist comrades function as a fraction and that we proceed tonight to establish fraction even though there will also be a contingent of 3 from Baltimore plus Larry and possibly Hammett. We will act as a disciplined group at Conference. Fraction will be organized at lunch meeting. Disc: Dave

Passed unanimously

Motion: To approve general approach of leaflet drafted by Dave. Passed

The fraction will consist of Dave, Al, Danny, Helen, and Helene from N.Y.

6. Resignation of Assistant Organizer: Chris is resigning to return to Ithaca, feels an assistant organizer is still needed.

Announcement: There will be a party at Helen's Sat. night.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.