

confidential--for members only

MINUTES, N.Y.LOCAL.....4 November 1965

Present: Jim, Price, Sam, Al, Shirley, Lynne, Danny, Peter, Hugh, Winnie, Lyndon, Harry, Helen, Dave, Paul Others: Ron C.

Absent: Shane, Tippy, Lynn C., Roger Others absent: Hammett, Stephanie

Meeting convened at 8:10 p.m.

- 1. Organization of Meeting: (a) Chairman - Hugh  
 (b) Agenda adopted  
 (c) Minutes of 10/21/65 read and accepted

Motion: To admit Ronald with voice. Passed

2. General Information and Correspondence - Jim

- (a) Important application for membership- Negro CR militant in Deep South.
- (b) Publicity- (i) N.Y. Times article by M.S.Handler on draft-dodging and the New Left, a softened version of interviews designed to stop the developing witch hunt; we got lead space. This was reprinted in S.F.Chronicle.  
 (ii) National Guardian- a portion of our letter-to-editor reprinted.  
 (iii) Sideways reference in Nation- article on New Left. Some SDSers are so politically backward"they can't tell a Spartacist from a narcissist."  
 (iv) Johns Hopkins Alumnae Mag- issue on New Radicals containing biogs of three radicals. One of 3 is Ron B, our L.A. member, with his photograph.  
 (v) Challenge- PLP "Statement on the Peace Movement." Second half devoted to us, distorts or invents views it claims we hold, implies we are agents of the bourgeoisie. In one place 3 little dots encompasses 1,200 words; their quotes from our material also contain unmarked deletions and transposed words. Since no external reason for attack on Trotskyism at this time, must stem from internal reason, softness of some sections of PL towards portions of our ideas or program.
- (c) Berkeley Vietnam Dry Leaflet "Appeal to All Military Personnel", available.
- (d) 3 important informational reports- (i) Hainline on B.A. and Chicago;  
 (ii) New Orleans, reporting scope of work and opportunities and asking for Southern organizer to intervene into ripening situation; (iii) Ithaca.
- (e) ASOC- national conference will be held in NYC this weekend; appear to be developing differences among leadership over Vietnam.
- (f) Sam reported N.Y. Times ad endorsing DeBerry for mayor on basis of his opposition to Vietnam war; Jim was listed as Editor of Spartacist.
- (g) Deacons- Paul reported he saw Sims Thurs., discussed with him and tried to arrange meeting with Spartacist. Anyone interested in forming CADs should send application to Sims who will make final decision. Many now interested in forming northern Deacons chapters. Meeting tomorrow night to form Friends of Deacons in NYC.

Disc: Al, Peter, Harry, Dave, Al, Jim, Peter, Dave, Lynne, Shirley, Al, Shirley, Helen, Dave, Peter

4. National Caucus and Northern Meeting - Jim (skeleton report)

REB meeting of 10/26 characterized ACFI as left centrist, an evaluation of their 3 year development culminating in their action around Peace Parade. In action they blunt the edge of their written politics. This left-centrism will be further accentuated by the leading position of Marcus in Wohlforth tendency. We had 13 comrades--a representative, authoritative delegation--representing the various political currents in Spartacist, though not entirely geographically representative as South unrepresented and West under-represented. Nat'l Caucus (NC) and negotiation meetings were a tremendous political experience, raised

the consciousness of all involved, showed things from a wider vantage point. An expanded editorial board was convened which voted to bind itself and the organization to the decisions of the National Caucus which was then convened. The NC meetings took up both tactical points relating to the negotiations and our own business. NC agenda included ACFI-IC and tactics, Friends in the SWP, Anti-Draft line, and state of the Spartacist. Meetings with comrades H. and J. took up (1) International Report by cmd. H.; (2) American perspectives report by cmd. Robertson; (3) Discussion of unity proposals; (4) Joint negotiations with ACFI. Our caucus had decided there were presently 3 obstacles to unity (1) 1962 characterization of us as a petty-bourgeois tendency rapidly leaving revolutionary politics; (2) IC departure from democratic centralism in dealing with us in 1962; (3) present left-centrism of ACFI. An acceptable unity agreement was worked out. IC intervention came at critical moment, as both sides had been moving away from unity. H. seemed to support our approach in U.S., also termed SWP as our heritage. Newsletter article on Trotskyism was a denunciation of Marcus' Bulletin article. Our NC agreed to the perspective of our friends in the SWP leaving and publically joining Spartacist on the West Coast (one will remain in). Caucus discussed and adopted line on the anti-draft movement by 11-2 vote:

"That our main emphasis on the war question is on the imperialist nature of the U.S. war and on our reasons for supporting victory of the other side, not on the apparatus of militarism (draft, etc.). We oppose seeking the confrontation between U.S. sovereignty and a thin layer of impatient petty-bourgeois anti-war youth, e.g., "we won't go." Instead, we must counterpose the necessity of class struggle in the U.S., and fraternal identity and solidarity with the liberation struggle in Vietnam."

The NC made the decision to concentrate our work in the South around New Orleans. A ripe situation now exists in part of the Deep South, and we are considering Bob S. or Paul G. as temporary organizer. A motion was passed on finances giving the REB the right to review pledges and make recommendations to locals and/or individuals. If all our present pledges were paid we would have a monthly income of \$400, but our income is actually \$300. We need a minimum actual income of \$500.

The unity agreement will cover our work in the next period. There will be two stages: (1) first, till the resolution on the American Question has been written and agreed to by both sides, i.e., till we have arrived at a common reference point to resolve differences; (2) thereafter pooling of the two organizations into a tightly working bloc till formal unity. Unity enthusiasm is now called for; but the mechanics whereby unity arrived at are strictly internal.

Disc: Sam, Helen, Al, Shirley, Lyndon, Harry, Peter, Lynne, Shirley, Al, Jim, Shirley

(It was decided to take up only action points remaining on the agenda and announcements, and to table informational reports. Comrades should remain until the end of the meeting as there are still assignments to be made.)

4. 1199 and Workers Action \* Sam

Freddy Mazelis now wants more action in 1199. After failing to fight at the time, M. now after the fact wants to wage a big fight against the union leadership over 1199 position on the peace parade and their support to Lindsay. Workers Action, a PL front, is expanding rapidly, has nearly 50. Sam remains on the Edit. Bd. as they do not know he is a Spartacist. The question is raised what course should be followed since the Challenge attack on us. Freddy and Danny of ACFI are seeking entrance into Workers Action. It was agreed that Sam does not have a long-term perspective and will soon come under attack.

Disc: Shirley, Al, Dave, Peter, Jim, Shirley, Lynne, Dave, Shirley, Sam

Announcements

- (1) Spartacist party to celebrate unity and our Peace Parade intervention, at Dave's Saturday night, 11/13.
- (2) District 65 Teach-In Nov. 13; we need sale.
- (3) Sat. party at Nancy and Joe's.
- (4) Article on PL will be written for Spartacist 5, which is nearly ready for paste-up.
- (5) Special trial meeting of Danny next Thursday.
- (6) 3 teach-ins to which we have been invited:
  - (i) Hunter College
  - (ii) Bronx Community College
  - (iii) New Orleans, in January.
- (7) Someone should attend Wohlforth class Wednesday nights. Lyndon will
- (8) Workers World having Union Square protest meeting next Thurs. Pop front approach. A veteran of the "war against fascism" will speak for WW. Sam, Lyndon, Al, Jim, Shirley will hand out our Vietnam leaflet.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.