

confidential--for members only

draft

MINUTES, N.Y.LOCAL.....30 December 1965

Present: Jim, Al, Shirley, Lynne, Ron, Sam, Hugh, Jim M., Winnie, Lyndon, Danny (late), Paul (exc. late) Others: Chris, Dee, Mark, Liz, Shelly, Phil
Absent: Dave, Roger, Price, Harry (exc.), Helen (exc.), Shane, Peter, Hammett, Tippy (l.o.a.)

Meeting convened at 8:25 p.m.

- 1. Organization of Meeting: (a) Chairman - Jim M.
(b) Agenda adopted
(c) Minutes of 16 Dec. read and accepted.

Motion: That Chris, Dee, Liz, and Mark be admitted with voice and consultative vote. Passed

Motion: That Shelly and Phil be admitted with voice. Passed

- 2. Membership:
Phil S. has been recommended by the Exec. for candidate membership, has begun working for Spartacist in Tompkins Square Peace Committee.
Disc: Al, Jim, Lyndon, Ron, Shirley, Lynne, Jim, Ron
Motion: To accept Phil as a candidate member. Passed

- 3. REB Report - Jim
 - (a) Meeting of 27 Dec: ACFI-IC unity and SWP shake-out discussed. Those shaken out coming either to us or PL if they are intending to remain in politics. On the Foxites, our L.A. comrade and one of their supporters have had reprinted and circulated to YSA branches and within peace movement 500 copies of Steve Fox's article on SWP-YSA action in D.C. and expulsion from YSA. SWP has recently expelled Miller and wife. Henes went to Detroit to talk with Fox. Seattle group: Fraser has written a devastating attack on SWP, says SWP now tail-ending reformist YSA, demands Plenum to discuss D.C. action, states Spartacist-ACFI only Trotskyists acting correctly. Also a layer of miscellaneous sour types are orienting to future united organization. We need process of differentiation, internal antagonism and polarization among all these elements; we want to lose poor elements before any mergers rather than take them all in and then sloughing them out. These people represent an opportunity and a challenge. If we can bring in Philips, Fraser, and other cadre elements on a sound political basis, it will be a big step forward. However, they must come in on our basis.
 - (b) Letter from Healy very briefly stating that IC has endorsed decisions of Northern Conference. Also he does not believe the Fox group should be included in any unification at this stage. This concurs with our own strong opinion.
 - (c) National Guardian: Shows photo of two of our signs used at Dec. 23 demonstration, says these are the controversial signs causing some pacifists to withdraw from line. (1 Jan. 66 issue.)
 - (d) New America, 18 Dec. Has very full, good, though cynical, account of D.C. convention. These are the main reference articles on NCC Convention: (1) Jack Smith article in Guardian; (2) 11 Dec. New Yorker; (3) Fox article; (4) New America article; (5) Bulletin articles; (6) Fraser memo (not yet available publicly).
 - (e) PL demonstration to Free Bill Epton at Criminal Court Bldg. drew 200-300 people. We participated as did YAWF and NLF Committee. Not a single SWPer or YSAer on line.

- (f) Spartacist given steel shelving by Helen from her first paycheck.
 (g) Discussion with Adolfo, Posadasite. Soft and opportunist, not too different from a radical Maoist. Nothing new learned.
 Disc: Lynne, Al (NCC Newsletter and full and critical report of NCC Convention)
 Shelly, Shirley, Lyndon, Ron, Jim

4. Ithaca Report - Chris

YSL was collecting money for NLF, university officials closed down table threatening them indirectly with Logan Act (acting as agents of foreign power). Our comrades then handed out leaflet with NLF address. Now they must go before various school bodies and face suspension and expulsion from the county. Have gotten much national publicity. If suspended, will go to courts. Our comrades will make a political fight over this, showing University acting as tool of pentagon to squelch opposition to government policy.

Disc: Liz, Dee, Mark, Chris, Al, Liz, Shelly, Chris, Liz

5. Tompkins Square Committee - Al and Phil

ACFI has requested support for their work in this committee. At this point they have elected 2 to the Exec. committee. 5 of our comrades on Lower East Side could participate, Phil already participating. Sam stated that a left-winger in Trade Unionists for Peace, a group of 300, wants strong Spartacist participation. Disc: Jim, Dee, Phil, Sam

6. Open House - Lynne

Spartacist having open House from 4 p.m. on, on Saturday, 1 Jan. Refreshments, music, talk.

7. CORE - Hugh

N.Y. CORE getting smaller, active membership now only 25-30. Harry and Hugh have 5 contacts, 2 of which have attended Spartacist meetings and are considering membership. Have also made good contact with Jim Horton of Harlem Unemployment Committee, a working-class org., and have prospects of continuing work with this group. The Labor-Civil Rights Committee formed by our comrades' work in Garment District, is small but continuing. CORE Employment Committee will also be beginning project starting rank-and-file movement with plasterers, has also had past small projects with restaurant and taxi workers. The Harlem Unemployment Committee wants CORE Employment Committee help in setting up rank-and-file movement among cement masons. CORE as a whole involved in Schenley campaign. Harry has raised Vietnam question in CORE which was discussed several weeks with strong polarization. Final vote 14-11 against us.

Disc: Shirley, Lyndon, Lynne, Shirley

8. HOC (Harlem Organizing Committee) - Paul

HOC has primarily concentrated on organizing tenants' councils and block committees, to the neglect of contacting the most conscious elements. HOC has succeeded in creating a small block organization, but HOC itself has not yet been consolidated. It has had 6-9 active members, now has 5. HOC has propagandized for several ideas widely, and now leadership elements from the block are coming forward. In the last couple of months have been working with Friends of Deacons, coming into contact with militant, cadre-type elements. At this point more opportunities have opened up for HOC than they have forces to exploit, will organize series of discussions with the 10-15 most conscious militants and will seek to get commitment from them.

Shirley: HOC has lost several active members for personal, not political, reasons. Our consistent work has sown many seeds now maturing that we don't have the time and human energy to harvest. HOC, while weak and unstable, has a real base of support and is now leaning heavily on people from the block for organizing. HAR-YOU was in the block during the summer and has exposed itself.

Block is now organization-conscious. All other "militant" organizations, HDC, OAAU, etc., have become defunct, and we are in a position to recruit some of their old members. Disc: Hugh, Lynne, Al, Jim

9. Campus Report - Danny

CCNY: Recent teach-in, at which Jim Spoke, was a flop. Had United Front sponsorship and was therefore sabotaged by liberals and pacifists when pro-exclusion policy was defeated. Fight over exclusion was more important than teach-in itself which only 75 attended. PL as well as DuBois club sided with liberals and pacifists in order to exclude Trotskyists. Lack of forces at CCNY our main weakness. We have a few potential contacts. PL has 2 people working solely in M2M. YSA has been hiding its politics. ACFI has one on campus. We need a campus coordinator. Disc: Al suggested Cornell defense work.

10. Social Service Employees Union (SSEU) - Lyndon

Elections coming up. Mage slate is "left wing" and the official slate. It faces 2 right-wing slates led by Tepidino, the current president, and Noe, extreme right. We have attended one "open" caucus meeting of left-wing after being excluded from the earlier 'private' caucus meetings. This slate stands on more militant, though reformist, program. We will probably give critical endorsement while attacking its programmatic inadequacies. J. Mage terribly afraid of being linked to Vietnam Committee or to her "past", says union should take no position on foreign policy matters, while right-wing slates attacking Mage slate on sole grounds that it favors union involvement in anti-Vietnamese war activities.

Welfare Workers Viet Nam Committee: Took a turn to the left after Oct. 16 march and now favors withdrawal. We are in a good position to make gains, are hitting hard for developing working class program linking Vietnam struggle with working-class struggle at home, and calling for union debate of foreign policy. SWPers have discredited themselves, and PL in weaker position. Mage has requested Vietnam committee cease public activities during her campaign, has refused to speak with delegation from committee though committee composed of her most active supporters.

Motion by Jim: All Spartacist trade union members should meet before the next meeting and bring back report on feasibility of TU newsletter. Passed

11. Announcements:

- (a) Open House Saturday. All members should be prepared to act as hosts.
- (b) Members should be preparing for Ithaca defense work.

Meeting adjourned about 11:30 p.m.