

Present: Full: Turner, Stoute, Robertson, Nelson
 Alts: Janacek, Ellens Staff: Cunningham, Gordon
Absent: Full: Henry Alt: Small Staff: Martin
Meeting convened 8:40 p.m.

- Agenda:
1. Minutes
 2. General Information and Correspondence
 3. Personnel and Organization
 4. National SDS Convention
 5. Press

1. Minutes:

Motion: To accept the minutes of 4 March with the correction that Espartaco and Turner had different positions on some points and this is unclear in the minutes. Passed

2. General Information and Correspondence:

- a. Socialist Current: Has reprinted our "Theses on Guerilla Struggle" from SPARTACIST #11 as a separate special pamphlet.
- b. Class Struggle: Issue #15, May 1968 has presented a substantial critique of the theses, presented in a serious, responsible and comradely manner. Their critique does the best possible job for the general VO-IC position on Cuba, which VO holds consistently for East Europe and China as well, whereas the IC has an inconsistent (but correct) position on the nature of these states aside from Cuba. The general fallacy involved in the theory that these states, including Cuba, are still capitalist states is that, starting from the correct premise that if these states are not workers states they must be something else, is that to call them "deformed workers states" opens the door to calling them "socialist" and is too great a concession. While VO has a solid class instinct and would probably try to find reasons to support these states in the event of imperialist attack, their formal theory would dictate that they should be neutral regarding, for example, a war between East and West Germany.
- c. SWP: The SWP has brought out as an educational bulletin a reprint of Hansen's material from 1961-3 on Cuba. He did an effective job and succeeds in demolishing the IC line on Cuba which claims the bourgeoisie still runs the country; he is able to do this because he does not deal at all with our position on Cuba which incorporates a recognition of the fact of the expropriation of the Cuban bourgeoisie, which the Healyites refuse to acknowledge, with a revolutionary Trotskyist line.
- d. PL: June 1968 issue of PL magazine has an editorial statement which identifies the leaderships of Poland and Czechoslovakia as "fascist", which are, however, at the head of "workers states". Meanwhile, the USSR is characterized as "capitalist" and "imperialist". This leaves them unable to explain any source for the current friction between the Poles and the Czechs. PL is completely at sea over the East European events since their only criterion is whether a force is pro- or anti-Mao and since all these are anti-Mao PL cannot understand any basis for disagreement on anything else. At the same time

- PL's current line on Vietnam is closer to us than any other tendency seems to be--they condemn the Indonesia betrayal, criticize the NLF program as opening the door to imperialism, raise the possibility of a sell-out by the North Vietnamese leadership. PLP plans a convention 31 May through 2 June. We should cover it if we can find out where it is to be held.
- e. PFP: New York Peace and Freedom is in factional crisis, which is grossly and overtly manifested. We have received the statement of the PL caucus ("the Left-Democratic Majority Coalition") which consists of organizational gripes including that "the secret caucus in PFP" (i.e., the ISC group) has denounced PL in its minutes. Most of the remnants of West Side CIPA are solidly with the PL caucus, which is probably coming on as the left wing, although the overt issues are entirely organizational. Situation will come to a head at the PFP state convention to be held this weekend at NYU--most likely prognosis is a split. Both sides have approached us more or less directly to try to enlist our assistance. Comrade Mark T. has written a general critique of the PFP which we will distribute at the convention along with relevant issues of Spartacist-West. We might also request observer status.
Disc: Nelson, Ellens, Nelson
- f. Columbia Univ. strike: Comrade Manuela is an alternate on the Strike Steering Committee. The strike appears to be dissipating itself for no very good reason, as the moderates have utopian dreams and the radicals are full of rhetoric and rather sectarian, are not oriented to a struggle with the trustees, as they still have the mentality of a minority protest demonstration rather than a strike. A group of moderates has split from the SDS-dominated Steering Committee. Manuela is bringing out a statement directed towards the militants--its orientation is to seek actions which can force the trustees to bargain with the students.
- g. Philadelphia trip: Robertson's trip was good in that he talked with comrades. But our closest contacts are not very good and the public meeting was not a success. It was originally intended to be a debate between Robertson and Sy Landy, NYC head of the ISC. Apparently Landy was distressed at the idea of a debate, turned up an hour before on campus and, with the connivance of most of the local SDS there, took off everybody he could find to another private meeting.
3. Personnel and Organization:
- a. Midwest: We have received an application from Bill O'C., an important local trade union leader. We should defer this until the next meeting, as before that time we will have the opportunity for two of our leading comrades of the PB to meet with the applicant personally. While in the area they will also have a meeting with interested local subscribers and contacts; a mailing announcing this will be sent out from NYC. Bill has sent us suggestions for the location of this meeting. The comrades who will be meeting with him should familiarize themselves with the local trade union situation in advance and also collect some educational material for him.
Disc: Janacek, Nelson, Turner, Nelson

- b. NYC: Two motions regarding allocation of forces in the NYC local have been presented: one by Robertson on 24 April, the other by Turner on 8 May. Discussion will continue at the next local meeting where the positions are finally to be voted. Disc: Ellens, Robertson, Turner, Janacek, Robertson
4. National SDS Convention: We are planning an intervention, largely on the initiative of Charlotte and Joel of Philadelphia, in the Convention, to be held 9-13 June in East Lansing, Mich. We will have at least two position papers: a general critique of the New Left to be written by Cunningham and some practical working proposals by Joel. We very much want another person from New York as well as the involvement of the Midwest comrades.
5. Press: We have been all set up to produce a June supplement consisting of articles on: New Orleans, SSEU, Glen R. The New Orleans copy has been received on time. There are, however, two other crucially important issues which we should cover: the Columbia strike, in which we are actually involved, and the French situation. The French students are very radical and are being very brave, and the working class is showing signs of being aware of its own strength, and the CGT is being hard pressed to avoid being outflanked on the left. What is lacking, of course, is a revolutionary party which is sufficiently pervasive to take the lead over from the CP and carry the situation to its conclusion. We will send an urgent request for copy to VO, who are evidentially quite heavily involved in these events. This projection means an 8-page printed issue, which means we must raise \$240 in the next month. Disc: Stoute, Nelson, Janacek, Ellens

Meeting adjourned 10:25 p.m.