

confidential--for members only

MINUTES, N.Y.LOCAL.....2 December 1965

Present: Jim, Al, Shirley, Lynne, Hugh, Helen, Paul, Sam, Harry, Ron, Hammett, Dave, Danny, Roger(late), Winnie(late), Lyndon(late), Peter(late), Tippy(late)
Others: Carol, Warren, Ingi

Absent: Shane, Price Others: Stephanie

Meeting convened at 8:25 p.m.

- 1. Organization of Meeting: (a) Chairman - Hammett
(b) Agenda adopted
(c) Minutes of 18 November adopted

It was agreed to begin the report and discussion of D.C. Anti-war convention and march at 9:30 p.m.

Motion: To admit Carol and Warren to the meeting. Passed

Motion: To admit George and Ingi when they arrive. Passed

2. Personnel and Discipline:

Draft motion by Jim: That the requirement of members to attend meetings be given the following minimum interpretation: Any member who, without adequate excuse, misses two consecutive Spartacist meetings shall be subject to being dropped from membership after a warning.

Disc: Roger, Dave, Jim, Hugh, Sam, Dave, Lynne, Shirley, Helen, Ron, Al, Jim, Roger

Amendment by Dave: That vote on motion be tabled till the next meeting to give members time to consider. Amdt. accepted.

Motion by Jim: That we table the question of Tippy's leave of absence until she arrives.

Passed

3. General Information and Correspondence - Jim

(a) Berkeley: Our comrades attracted national publicity by calling for defense of the Vietnam Day march against the Hells Angels, semi-fascist motor cycle gang. Gang had announced it would attack march after leadership announced it would be pacifist. After Spartacist leaflet, City decided to defend the march. Doug H. will debate a pacifist on non-violence vs. self-defense for the movement. Leaflet calling for defense available. Letter from Mad. Murray demanding her property forwarded.

(b) Fissures in SWP: Steve Fox on behalf of his faction distributed a public statement at the D.C. Peace March contrary to the SWP line. Seattle branch is thinking of leaving SWP, may be willing to collaborate with us.

(c) 7th Negotiating Session: Draft minutes now ready.

(d) Tours: Al to Midwest and South on internal and public speaking tour, followed by external organizing tour to South by Paul.

(e) Seminar on Communist International: Several comrades attended organizing session. Fruitful discussion plus discussion of archival resources.

(f) PL attack on us in Nov.2 Challenge repeated and extended in new issue of PL Magazine, and PL having widespread discussion on this document in their various clubs. Document written by Milt Rosen.

Disc: Lyndon

4. Report on Washington, D.C., activities - Al

1,500 delegates attended, largest peace convention since WWII. Al was delegate, Roger alternate, to National Coordinating Committee Convention. We constituted caucus with those who agreed with concepts we were pushing, had 19 at maximum point including our members, 5 symps., and 2 from ACFI. We wanted to avoid the organizational power struggle and to intervene politically around the following points: (1) political non-exclusion; (2) the nature of the war; (3) support for the military struggle of the NLF; (4) intervention into SANE march; (5) opposition to liberal and Maoist witch hunts; (6) our anti-draft position; (7) opposition to negotiations. We decided to intervene into some of the political work shops; however, the fierce power play by the YSA-SWP against the NCC over the nature of the structure of the organization (with YSA-SWP intent on forming single-issue organization which they could control nationally) drew most people away from the political workshops and into those dealing with structure. The genuine issues to be decided, and even the question of single versus multi-issue, never came to the floor. SWP's tactic was organization of an additional workshop, supposedly independent but actually controlled by the YSA-SWP, and all political opponents were barred from participation in this "workshop" discussion (the account in the National Guardian is largely accurate). "Independent" committees affiliating with workshop group will form a separate national organizational structure. However, the efforts of the YSA-SWP failed, and the SWP is now feeling the effects of a major defeat. The Southern delegation almost walked out in disgust. This delegation brought to the floor of the Convention, and asked for endorsement of, the slogans "Bring the Troops Home", and "Self-Determination in the South and Vietnam", were ruled out of order. Motion passed instead that anyone could do what he wanted at SANE march. We distributed 1400 Campus Spartacists at Convention and sold 1,100 SPARTACIST #5 at March, also had lit table. Our intervention was most visible in the Anti-Draft workshop with our position that anti-draft proposals were subordinate and secondary to building anti-war movement. The arguments of our comrades were decisive in the carrying of this position. YAWF was very visible at the convention, raised issue "Bring the GI's Home", were ruled out of order. We supported them in this, attempted to form UF. They also refrained from org. fight. PL distributed CERGE literature. Conclusions: we were too loose in organization, but we did O.K. in what we had intended to do. We abstained on vote on org. questions as based on unprincipled fight. In the SANE march we had combined forces of 30-40 (with ACFI). Major mistake was that we did not coordinate our activities with Comm. to Aid NLF. They were focal point of march, needed and looked for our help against right-wing attacks, but we did not know in what position of the line they were marching.

Disc: Roger, Sam, Jim, Lynne, Dave, Lyndon, Helen, Al

Jim listed 6 shortcomings on our part:

- (1) Paul should have been a delegate so as to have made contact with the Mississippi and Southern delegations.
- (2) Should have coordinated with NLF people.
- (3) Should have advertized joint ACFI-Spartacist Forum on Wash. events of 1 December in our Campus Spartacist.
- (4) Should have made better use of literature table and mailing list.
- (5) We could have and should have taken public political initiative toward the SANE march; we should have been the ones to place ad in Nat'l Guardian as YAWF did.
- (6) Failed to sell subs.

Helen proposed that at the next meeting we have a discussion on the politics of the anti-war struggle.

Motion by Harry: That CORE and HOC reports be given priority at the next meeting.

Amdt. by Helen: That CORE and HOC reports follow regular meeting points at next meeting. (Amendment accepted.)

Amdt. by Roger: That we have a meeting next week to hear these reports.

Vote on Roger's amdt: For: Roger; Opposed: All others Amdt. lost

Motion Passed

5. Request for Leave - Tippy

Tippy is requesting 3 month leave of absence. Disc: Jim, Tippy

Motion: To grant Tippy 3 month leave of absence. Passed

6. Sales and Distribution:

- (a) Militant Labor Forum, on NCC Convention, Fri. Jim, Ron, Al
- (b) DeBois Club, Myerson, eyewitness in Vietnam, Fri. Woodstock Hotel
- (c) FSM speaker at Jewish Socialist Youth, 8:00 p.m., East Side
- (d) Sat., 8:30 Free University, Chica slides. Al
- (e) Sunday, F.U., Bunel film, 8:30. Helen, Winnie, Al
- (f) Thurs., 8:15, Free Bill Epton Rally, 100rd & Bwdy. Hugh, Dave, Al, Roger
- (g) Fri., LID forum, with Lynd, et al.
- (h) Sat, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., LEMPA public hearing on war. Harry
- (i) Wed., District 65. Hammett, Shirley, Sam
- (j) Distribution-- all old stands have been covered, ready now to begin on list of stands where Challenge sold.

7. Jerry E. of Comm. to Aid NLF is interested in Spartacist, suggests we send a couple of people into Committee as there are some in it interested in Spartacist. Meetings on Thurs. 8 p.m. Lyndon, Winnie, Price, and Dave could go. Thompkins Sq. Peace Committee also meets Thursdays.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 p.m.