

confidential--for members only

draft

MINUTES, N.Y. SPARTACIST COMMITTEE.....17. March 1965

Present: Paul, Shirley, Lynne, Lyndon, Peter, Jim, Al, Danny, Harry, Sam, Roger (late), Tippy (late) Other: Chuck

Absent: Harriet, Dave, Shane, Price, Mark, (Charlotte - l.o.a.)

Meeting convened at 8:40 p.m.

- 1. Organization of Meeting:
 - (a) Chairman - Al
 - (b) Agenda adopted
 - (c) Minutes of 3/3 read and accepted

Motion: To admit Chuck with voice. Passed

- 2. Membership:
Harriet has resigned, stating she remains sympathetic to the organization. She is questioning all her former convictions and appears to be leaving politics. Disc: Lynne, Jim, Danny

Motion: To terminate Harriet's candidate membership and reduce her to status of sympathizer. Passed

- 3. National Report - Jim

REB:

Relations with those outside the Spartacist group: On the basis of inquiries by Steve S, REB adopted the following motions at its meeting of 8 March:

- (1) To affirm as applicable to ourselves Article VIII, Section 8, of the SWP constitution which states: "Political collaboration with non-members of the [Party] must be formally authorized by the [Party] Committee having jurisdiction."
- (2) All members of the Spartacist group are required in such contacts to act as representatives of the organization (majority line), not as 'individuals' or as minority representatives.
- (3) [the REB tabled until its next meeting an attempt to formulate a third part qualifying the above by the use of 'good judgment' of loyal comrades, majority and minority.]

General Summary State of Spartacist: Negative- (1) New York, our key local, has a serious lack of effective forces relative to its size, (i) because of the preoccupation of some comrades with personal careers, and (ii) the 'other-worldliness' of others. These characteristics are disruptive to our local work and result in withdrawing members from N.O. work.

(2) Another negative trend nationally is a tendency toward de-politicalization, going into mass work for its own sake with a primitive political line. Positive- Previous extreme political spread, resulting from last Summer and Fall's doubling in Spartacist's effective forces, has begun to shrink; comrades are pulling in or pulling back--toward homogenization. We have a continued high growth rate. We tabled temporarily pending personal visit, an application for membership from New Orleans. Applicant is part of an independent group of about 10 radical youth. Received today application from 3 comrades in Austin who want to join and to form a Spartacist organizing committee. This came from work by Lyndon on the spot and through correspondence. Also a new recruit in Ithaca.

Epton Defense Work: McAdoo sent anti-Trotskyist diatribes to defense committees in Ithaca and Chicago. Our answer will be forthcoming shortly. CERGE sponsors would probably object to McAdoo's actions, and PL members outside hardcore in NY don't seem too happy with this sectarianism. Perhaps joint PL-Spartacist protest letter from Chicago. In new CERGE brochure on Grand Jury, Jim has become a 'non-person'--his name is not included on list of all those subpoenaed thus far by Jury!

Personnel: Two comrades in N.Y. are available for half-time work for the organization, Jim and Shirley, with primary responsibility nationally and locally respectively.

General Information:

- (a) Two good BA leaflets, on Malcolm X and on Selma.
- (b) RAM backing new publication Afro-World with headline 'Malcolm Lives'; claims CIA killed X.
- (c) We received letter from Havana representative of Viet Cong thanking us for our cablegram to Ho Chi Minh.
- (d) HDC- Paul reported both Douglas and Epton happy about CORE motion, and Epton wants Paul to meet with him to 'discuss motion.' Douglas says although Spartacist is 'counter-revolutionary, and that's a fact,' HOC should work with HDC.
- (e) An Austin Epton Defense Committee set up. Letter to CERGE with 4 signatures; workingclass Negro sympathizer with contacts in ghetto is interested. Our comrades scheduled to speak at Negro church on subject in near future.
- (f) Jan-Feb. '65 issue of PL has draft convention documents. Rosen's article denounces CP and Trotskyites as 'counter-revolutionary'. Factions or tendencies will not be permitted and decisions will be arrived at by 'consensus.'
- (g) SDS- Charlie called. SDS trying to move Apr.17 march far to the right, not present any demands, merely act as 'ad hoc committee to present the facts to the President.' On CCNY and Columbia campuses we should respond to the YSA's approach and try to set up ad Hoc groups of radicals to mobilize for a militant policy on Apr.17.

Disc: (around criticism of N.Y. local): Sam, Jim, Lynne, Roger, Al, Jim, Lynne, Harry, Tippy, Al

4. FBI Picket Line:

Friday, 12 noon. Leaflet ready, Danny will handle distribution at CCNY, Tippy at Columbia. Press releases.

Disc: Peter, Jim, Roger, Danny, Sam, Shirley

5. Evaluation of Harlem Selma March - Harry.

Felt we underestimated size and importance of march. Turnout was of mixed quality, reformists of all kinds, but also large numbers of Negroes. Sidewalk observers perhaps best elements present. We distributed 1000 HOC leaflets. Harry felt we also needed Spartacist 'presence' and all comrades should have been mobilized. Disc: Al, Jim

6. Evaluation of Ellie Goldstein Picket - Lyndon

Only 3 Spartacists present out of line of 200, 100 new people. We need more identifiable Spartacists to make an impact this Saturday.

(Motion: to extend meeting to 11:30 p.m.

passed)

7. HOC - Shirley.
HOC has had two organizing meetings, 6 besides Paul and Shirley at first, 4 decided to join. At 2nd meeting only 2 returned, plus two new. Basic program explained and discussed at first. At 2nd meeting two teams were organized to go into new buildings Saturday on 143rd St.
8. Harlem Parents and Harlem Youth Committees - Peter
Nothing happening. Leaflet written by Peter and liked by several youths was rejected by adults. Peter was told HPC determines political line of youth group. Disc. Chuck, Shirley
9. Campus Report
a) CCNY - Only 4 bona-fide contacts present at meeting at which Jim spoke. N.Y. Times reporter present, interviewed Jim for 3 hrs. afterwards for projected article on 'New Left' in Times Sunday magazine supplement.
b) Boycott at CCNY - had been called for Tues. over tuition question, then cancelled.
Motion by Jim: That it be a condition for membership in Spartacist to abide by any such school boycott.
Vote: All for but Roger, abst.(objected to wording)
10. T.U. Reports
a) 1199 (Drug and Hospital) - Sam. Meeting Thurs. At least one other in full support of Epton defense, 2 sympathizing. Also made important contact from District 65 who gives full support to defense.
b) SSEU (Welfare)- Lyndon. 150-200 present at Tues. meeting. Membership voted to support 8 points, all good reforms to humanize welfare (e.g., funds for birthcontrol regardless of marital status). All passed with large majorities but sizeable opposition consisting of older workers incl. Negro members.
11. Baltimore Report - Shirley.
Shirley and Al spoke Thurs. at Howard Univ. in D.C. (very middle class, low political level); Friday at Goucher (upper class girls college) to 30-40, some good people. Morgan State fell through. Fri. on radio show for two hours answering questions from phoners. Sat. spoke at Freedom Forum (Kaufman's outfit) to 75-100. First church meeting hall cancelled because our comrades were atheists. Sunday discussion with contacts. Charlie involved in starting up Kaufmann's Marxist class for contacts, and getting Spartacist P.O. Box.
12. Class - On Leninism in about 2 1/2 months, probably taught by Jim.
13. Sales - Out of Spartacist No. 3.
14. Finances - Balance on hand \$387.70. N.Y. owes \$219, Nationally (outside N.Y.) \$140. No pledges yet from Houston, Charle, Larry I. or Phil L. Ithaca pledged \$35/mo; Chicago \$30; BA \$25; Henes \$15. 16-page issue coming up, will take all on hand. Al's trip for consultation and public talks in Baltimore, Cincinnati, Louisville, New Orleans, then several months in Houston, and finally Chicago will take money.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 p.m. after announcements.