

confidential--for members only

draft

MINUTES, N.Y. SPARTACIST COMMITTEE.....31 ~~April~~ <sup>March</sup> 1965

- Present: New York) Harry, Price, Paul, Al, Lyndon, Shirley, Danny, Peter,  
 Jim, Lynne, Dave K. (late), Tippy (late), Mark T. (late)  
 Other: Chuck, Charity, Ralph, Vivian  
Ithaca) Chris, Dee, Helene, Doug, Dave R.  
 Other (YSAers): Mark K., Liz, Mike
- Absent: New York) Sam, Shane, Roger, Charlotte (l.o.a.)  
Ithaca) Helen Other (YSAers): Bill, Jan

Meeting convened at 8:20 p.m.

1. Organization of Meeting: (a) Chairman - Shirley  
 (b) Agenda adopted  
 (c) Minutes of 3/17 read and accepted

Motion: To admit Dave R., Chris, Dee, Helene, also Liz, Mike and Mark K., all of Ithaca in town over Spring Vacation, to the meeting with voice. passed

Motion: To admit Ralph, Charity, and Chuck to the meeting with voice. passed

2. REB Report, National and General Information - Jim  
 (a) REB: Meeting of 5 April hopefully will complete formulation of part 3 of motion on relations with other groups. REB intends a discussion later on Wohlforth's Structural Assimilation document as part of Conference preparation. Spartacist No.4 arriving at state of approximate completion; only one major article (welfare strike) not yet in.

(Motion: To admit Vivan to the meeting. passed.)

- (b) Wohlforth Social: We made a heavy, effective turnout at the first public party of Wohlforth group. They appear to have made no new recruits, seem to have 2-3 good contacts, in general have poor social composition and high creep index.
- (c) Progressive Labor: March issue PL contains pre-convention discussion material, largely on Negro question. Phil Luce, briefly editor of PL, has written expose article on PL for forthcoming Sat. Evening Post. PL claims Luce became dope addict, stole \$800 from them, and became police agent and provocateur. Jim doubts if this will have much effect on the organization.
- (d) MR - latest issue is memorial to Paul Baran.
- (e) FBI Picket Line - 11 people, no participation from other groups. Good TV and radio coverage.
- (f) Correspondence - Circular report from Henes. BA minutes of 3/11 and 3/16. Clippings on Shirley's successful Ithaca trip.

3. Epton Defense - Shirley  
 (a) Trial-Challenge stated Epton trial scheduled for 9 April. [Later learned selection of jury starts 4/9, actual trial probably not till May.] Jim and Shirley will cover trial.

- (b) Sat. Demonstrations- Not clear whether Vivian Anderson is still at Women's House of Detention.
- (c) Columbia- Since McAdoo has been in jail CERGE has discontinued wrecking tactics on Columbia defense committee and accepts our participation. Organizing meeting for Committee will be next week. Cooperation probably temporary.
- (d) Factional Situation- PL more interested in exploiting the case for organizational gain, getting martyrs, and side-tracking political issues involved, then in defending Epton. First five charged with Criminal Contempt convicted, in jail awaiting sentence. When PL found Partisan Defense Fund only source of bail money, they discontinued efforts to get the 5 out! Disc: Lynne, Ralph, Mike, Lyndon, Al, Jim

4. CORE - Lynne

We have become isolated and vulnerable. Negro members of employment committee left CORE when beer boycott cancelled, leaving only the white Reds whom Funnye wants to get. Employment Comm. has become scapegoat; suspension of chapter blamed on Committee's actions rather than on National's sell-out. Employment Comm. dissolved at last meeting by fiat of chairman with no protest by membership. We have been invited to Sunday caucus to seek ways to oust Funnye. Most involved are personally motivated, but we will seek to raise programmatic issues. Lynne feels there are not enough potential gains left to justify our previous high level of activity in CORE. Disc.: Al, Jim

Motion: To refer to the CR fraction the question of perspectives for CORE work in light of report. passed

5. HOC - Paul

At last meeting 8 others besides Paul and Shirley present. 4 to 6 will go out Sat. to consolidate 2 buildings. Good response from tenants talked to about our program. We need more forces. Problem: We aren't contacting younger people, but mainly people with heavy family responsibilities and not much time.

6. April 17th Demonstration - Dave K.

YSA is opportunistically building SDS demonstration 'as is', even encouraging SDS monopoly on buses. M2M not too interested, probably wouldn't fight over signs. Youth Against War and Fascism (YAWF) chartering buses but unwilling to give out info of signs (Dave will see chairman on Monday). Columbia meeting Tues. of committee to support demonstration.

Disc: Al, Danny, Mark T., Al, Doug, Jim, Mike, Mark, Dave, Al, Jim, Harry, Al, Jim, Mike, Mark

In light of the discussion it was decided our primary concern was to push 'Get American Troops Out'. If SDS has such signs we will carry them, if not we will attempt to force our way on line with our own signs which we will have ready and in car. In either case, we will also have our own literature present.

Motion: That our participation in the demonstration be coordinated by the REB (since Baltimore and Ithaca also participating) in consultation with the N.Y. local based on further info. obtained this weekend. passed

(Motion: To table finances and proceed to Cornell report.  
Motion withdrawn)

7. Finances - Al.  
 On hand \$387.39. N.Y. owes \$202 arrears, N.Y. total monthly pledge \$139. National arrears \$50. Still no pledges from Houston and Charlie S. \$500 needed for Spartacist No. 4. Several in N.Y. should raise their pledges, and other members urged to raise theirs if possible. Need money badly within a short period.
8. Cornell Perspectives - Doug  
 Cornell Univ. has 10,000 students, located in town of 20,000 with little industry, about 250 Negro families. Little opportunity for engaging in social struggles there. Spartacist has 6 members, YSL has 11 total and is very close to Spartacist. Half of activities consist of education, other half of participating in actions like Viet-Nam and Selma demonstrations. We are beginning to gain reputation as THE 'left-wing extremists. This year Jim, Bob S., and Shirley visited. Shirley's recent visit extremely successful. Epton Defense work going slowly, Epton will be invited to speak by a larger organization. Perspectives: To serve as 'Red mill', recruiting students to Marxism and shipping them to major urban areas of struggle. Continued education on theory and issues. Since we will have a larger and more solid group next year, activities can be expanded into town. Hope to be able to start youth CR group. Possible trail-blazing into other areas. Disc: Shirley, Jim, Doug, Jim
9. General discussion on personal activities possibly detrimental to the organization. Report by Doug.  
Disc: Dave, Doug, Dee, Al, Mike, Lynne, Dee, Jim, Dave, Doug, Jim, Al, Lynne, Mark T., Doug, Jim, Mike, Dave, Doug

Announcements: May 2nd Movement (M2M) party Saturday night.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m.