

MINUTES, N.Y.SPARTACIST COMMITTEE.....19 May 1965

Present: Jim, Lynne, Mark, Sam, Shirley, Harry, Danny, Roger, Tippy, Paul (late), Dave (late), Lyndon (late) Other: Winnie  
Absent: Shane, Peter, Price, Al (on assign.), Charlotte (l.o.a.)

Meeting convened at 8:45 p.m.

- 1. Organization of Meeting: (a) Chairman - Roger  
(b) Agenda adopted  
(c) minutes of 5 May read and accepted

2. Membership:  
Charlotte's non-renewable leave-of-absence has expired, and she has requested to be dropped to status of sympathizer. She has indicated she would like to contribute money and might become active again sometime in the future.  
Motion: to accept Charlotte's resignation.

passed unanimously

Motion: That Sam be accepted as a full member, retroactive to the date of the completion of his three-month candidature (i.e., 6 April).

passed unanimously

- 3. General Information and REB Report - Jim
  - (a) Report of REB Meeting of 8 May- motion passed by the REB on the Chicago proposal was read and further action referred to 4.below. Letter has been received from Geoff explaining BA objections to proposal.
  - (b) Letter from Wohlforth read. Requests that his group be permitted to participate in our pre-conference discussion and Conference. Letter has been forwarded to the field and will be discussed by REB at 24 May meeting. Wohlforth has recruited two members--one in N.Y. and one in Antioch.
  - (c) Cornell Anti-ROTC Demonstration- Our comrades were involved in action by about 75 people, later were threatened by 4,000 egg-throwing, pro-militarist students (see N.Y.Times, 5/18, p.19).
  - (d) 'Baltimore Caper'- We are actively pursuing measures toward clearing it up. See Appendix for press coverage.
  - (e) Letter and leaflet received from Japan Revolutionary Communist League- stresses importance of working class actions against the war, especially in U.S. and Japan (latter is staging and supply center for U.S. Vietnam war actions). Japanese workers are refusing to load military supplies to be used in Vietnam, and there has been a build-up of actions involving many thousands against the war, including a sit-down protest by anti-Stalinist leftists of 50,000 around U.S. embassy.
  - (f) Detroit Stop the War in Vietnam Committee- requested supply of our Vietnam leaflet for their lit. tables.
  - (g) Articles on 'New Left' and Far-Left- a friend of a friend in France is writing an article on American Left for one of the two biggest French radical papers; we immediately sent info and sample copies. A leading Chicago paper had article on left; quoted Jack Barnes as saying YSA now had under a

- a thousand members, while Spartacist had 15 people.
- (h) Finances- All who have not spoken to Jim regarding their finances should do so before trying to leave the meeting.
- Disc: Mark, Harry, Jim, Tippy, Dave, Jim, Sam, Lynne, Mark

[Motion: To admit Winnie and extend to her a standing invitation to attend the meetings. passed.]

4. Implementation of REB motion on Chicago Proposal- Letter from REB read. We will have a turn towards M2M this summer. Recent events on Columbia (see Point 7) have distracted attention from Viet Nam temporarily. Danny has raised idea with Paul Spenser of CCNY M2M who is opposed. Tippy will discuss with Steve Neuman head of Columbia M2M, then bring it up at meeting. Dave will talk with Mike Brown, head of N.Y. M2M.
5. SPARTACIST Distribution.
- (a) National (Jim)- We need one or two more work sessions to complete mailing. Dave, Danny, and Lynne volunteered.
- (b) N.Y. Newsstands (Sam)- Has made a survey of stands in Upper West Side, Lower East Side and Village, got SPARTACIST on some, others to be revisited. Regular servicing of stands is ESSENTIAL once we have gotten on. Assignments made.
- (c) N.Y.C. Sales- Fri. Militant Forum - Danny  
Fri. Shachtman meeting- Lynne, Jim, Roger  
Fri. Newark Labor Forum (SWP)- Sam, Mark  
Weds. Malcolm X Memorial Meeting- Shirley, Tippy  
 Sales will be held at the 'intellectual' high schools in near future.
6. Executive Report- Shirley
- (a) Assignments- Will continue the same. Roger, Mark, Dave and Tippy should concentrate on M2M over the summer.
- (b) Class and Forums- Class by Jim on Leninism should start in 4 weeks. We will have one forum per month over summer.
- (c) Supporters group- Sam proposed the formation of a group of close supporters who for one reason or another don't want to take on the responsibilities of full membership, would meet once a month and take certain actions of aid to us, would give us a certain base and organized periphery.
- Disc: Dave, Lynne, Tippy, Roger, Sam, Jim, Harry

Motion by Lynne: That we see what basis exists for the formatin of such a group. For-6 Against-3 Abst.-3

motion passed

[Motion: to extend meeting to 11:15. passed.]

7. Campus

- (a) Columbia - Roger  
 On May 7 about 100 students linked arms and prevented NROTC from entering Low Library where annual awards ceremony was to take place. Ceremony was cancelled. 15 students face disciplinary action. General approach by students involved has been that the action was unwise and regretable. After issuance of Spartacist leaflet there has been a swing towards a more militant mood. Leniency by officials anticipated.  
 Disc. Tippy.

[A motion was passed extending the meeting 15 more minutes.]

(b) CCNY- Danny reported there will be an anti-ROTC demonstration tomorrow.

8. CORE

Lynne reported for Harry, who had to leave, that he had meetings with Fred Halstead of the SWP and Milt Rosen of PLP on situation in garment center. Both very cooperative, wanted to be kept informed, furnished valuable information and contacts.

9. HOC - Shirley

HOC now has 6 hard-core members, organizational structure. Charity elected treasurer, Shirley - public relations director, secretary also was elected. Planning to break out into larger scale activity. Mass distribution on block of yellow brochure on Sat. by 4 teams of 2 each, will contact one or more good people in each building, coordinate their organization of their buildings. One new member is an experienced trade-unionist, did extensive organizing during the '40's, ran for office on American Labor Party ticket in '40's.

Announcements:

Marcyite demonstration Sat. was small--300 people--but not attacked by cops, hence a major victory. They got 2 trivial summonses.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

appendix, N.Y.-SC minutes of 19 May 1965:

From the front page of the Omaha World-Herald, Friday, 30 April

TRUCK HAULS 'RED' PAPER

North Platte Police Hold Marylanders

North Platte, Neb.-(UPI)- North Platte police Thursday were holding two Baltimore residents after a check of their panel truck revealed a printing press, folder, radio transmitter and receiver and what was described as Communist literature.

Arrested were David L. Brown, 16, and Ronald Keith Burkholder, 22.

Police said they became suspicious of the truck when they noticed it had Maryland license plates, yet the advertising on its side was for a Biloxi, Miss., television repair business.

Baltimore authorities confirmed the two were wanted in Baltimore, Burkholder for burglary and Brown for parole violation. They requested that the two be held for Md. authorities.

Police Chief Lloyd Muirhead described the printed matter found in the truck as of 'an extreme fanatical nature concerned with Marxism and racial integration.'

He also said he found correspondence between the two and Madeline Murray, formerly of Baltimore, who took her case of 'no prayers in public schools' to the United States Supreme Court.

The woman formerly headed the publication 'Spartacus' now being edited and published by Burkholder, Chief Muirhead said.