

confidential--for members only

MINUTES, N.Y. LOCAL.....23 September 1965

Present: Peter, Jim, Harry, Hugh, Lyndon, Shirley, Helen, Lynne, Al, Dave, Danny, Sam (late), Shane (late), Roger (late), Paul (late) Others: Winnie, Lynn C., Morris

Absent: Tippy (l.o.a.), Price (sick)

Meeting Convened at 8:15 p.m.

- 1. Organization of Meeting: (a) Chairman - Peter  
(b) Agenda adopted  
(c) Minutes of 9/9 accepted

Motion: That Lynn C. be admitted with voice and that Morris be admitted. Passed

- 2. Membership: Winnie is applying for membership.

Motion: To accept Winnie as a candidate member. Passed unanimously

Motion by Jim: That our good friend in Harlem working with HOC be given a standing invitation to our meetings. Passed unanimously

This friend has been a Trotskyist for many years and has a long background of trade union experience. He has been weighing the question of whether to help us or the SWP for the last year, and was convinced by the SWP convention.

- 3. Special Report - Shirley

HOC is an entirely independent organization that Spartacist members work in openly. HOC is not a front group and is not subordinate to Spartacist. Only Spartacist members are subordinate to Spartacist. Two HOC contacts have been told that HOC and Spartacist are the same, one by a non-identifiable person apparently passing himself off as a Spartacist member, the other by a misinformed contact. This misinformation created confusion in the minds of these HOC contacts who are not ready to join Spartacist. Comrades should be careful not to in any way give the idea that HOC is subject to control by Spartacist. A public Spartacist leaflet almost went out organizationally linking Spartacist and HOC.

Motion by Shirley: That any leaflet, public statement in any form, published or made verbally by any fraction or by the organization as a whole which relates to a fraction or fractions be first approved by the fraction(s) concerned.

Passed unanimously

In addition comrades need to develop the habit of close-mouthedness, especially in relationships with other radical groups with whom we are in competition. Be careful not to disclose any internal information, even conversationally (we also expect our close sympathizers to accept this responsibility). Innocent appearing information about one's plans may help our opponents prepare against us in arenas where we work or are preparing to enter. A directive to this effect should be sent to all our branches. Disc: Jim, Helen, Sam, Lynn C.

- 4. National Report - Jim

- (a) Trial of Chicago comrades: Charges were reduced to disorderly conduct and our comrades were convicted and fined \$200 each which they can meet from personal resources--a very favorable outcome.
- (b) Trial of Paul: Won a dismissal on interfering with arrest charge. Paul's friends who did not appear for trial face arrest. Paul continues with a clean record.

- (c) Call from Geoff(B.A.): Will try to make conference with British. B.A. has worries on 2 points (1) SLL line on Vietnam, Cuba, and Negro questions; (2) organizational. B.A. possibly prefers federated structure, which may reflect their attitude toward the national organization as well.
- (d) The Berkeley Student Revolt, ed. Seymour Lipset, printed our leaflet on p.231.
- (e) La Verite: new book-issue contains comprehensive statement on issues before International at this point (in French).

Disc: Lynn C, Lyndon, Peter

- (f) Student Committee for Travel to Cuba (SCTC): Al reports committee is reviving with Boudin willing to represent all who went to Cuba. Al has sent letter authorizing Boudin to represent him.
- (g) National Guardian: latest issue mentions us twice on article in New Left.

4. Class on Leninism: At Free University. Will be expanded version of this summer's class. \$24 for 10 lectures, starting next week. We will mail 100 brochures to selected names on N.Y. mailing list. Names of contacts should be given Al after meeting. Disc: Lynne, Al

5. Tompkins Square Rally - Al  
Price volunteered Spartacist to supply 5-10 defense guards for Saturday's demonstration at 3:00 p.m. Volunteers for Guard: Lynn C., Danny, Lyndon, Winnie, Al  
Sellers: Sam, Dave, Morris

6. Friday Night Events: We need a division of labor on the several events.

- (a) Wohlforth negotiation session: Nelson, Mage, Harper, Robertson, and Watts. 7th session will be on American question. We also need 8th session on 1962 split prior to conference with British.
- (b) Sale at Militant Forum: Danny, Sam
- (c) Carnegie Hall Sing-In for Peace: Lynn C., Winnie, Morris, Roger
- (d) HOC Public forum: On the Chicago and LA riots at OAAU headquarters. Paul will chair, Shirley will speak for HOC; other speakers include Selma Sparks of Challenge and OAAU rep. 3,500 leaflets distributed. Topic: "Riots or Real Struggle--LA and Chicago Show Need to Organize." Other comrades attending will be Harry, Hugh, and Helen. White comrades should not attempt to play a role at this meeting.

7. SSEU:

- (a) A rally of several hundred clients and workers was held at East End Welfare Center for better welfare benefits and to protest the arbitrary firing of Iris Asher, an exemplary worker who was too sympathetic to her clients. A city-wide membership meeting is being called for Wed. to decide on action.
- (b) Lynne ran for delegate alternate at her Center. 9 were running for 3 openings with Lynne receiving 12 votes solely on the basis of her platform (out of 50 voting for this office). The election for delegate was a contest between someone known as a radical and Vietnam Committee member and a conservative running essentially on a red-baiting platform, with the radical winning 33 to 24 indicating existing polarization. Lynne's platform, in addition to taking stands on issues in dispute within the union, also called for a year-round 30 hr. work week in Welfare, a 30 hour work-week in general as the answer to automation, and for the organization of clients as a union affiliate around a program whose major point would be the shorter work week rather than increased welfare benefits. The platform also called for the union to adopt a position in favor of a labor party and against support to Democratic or Rep. candidates. The ensuing discussion was on these points.

Disc: Shane, Roger, Helen, Lyndon, Jim, Shane, Al, Roger, Lyndon, Peter, Lynne, Jim, Shane, Sam, Lyndon, Jim, Lynne, Shane, Al, Jim, Roger, Helen, Lyndon

(Motion: To extend meeting till 11:30 p.m.

Passed)

Motion by Roger: To endorse the line the fraction has taken.

Amendment by Lyndon: To endorse the active presentation of the 30 hr. work week and Labor Party lines within the union.

Motion by Jim: To table Roger's motion till the meeting after next to give our comrades more experience.

Final Formulation of Roger's Motion: (1) to endorse the work the fraction has done.

(2) To in particular endorse raising the Labor Party and 30 hr. work week slogans within the union.

(3) To request the fraction to submit a report on its activities and program at the meeting after next.

Vote: (1) All for but Shane, abstaining.

Passed

(2) On motion to table point (2):

For- Al, Jim, Dave, Hugh, Sam, Shane Consultative- Lynn C, Danny

Opposed- Helen, Lyndon, Lynne, Roger, Peter

Abstaining- Paul, Winnie

Motion tabled

(3) All for but Helen opposed and Dave and Lynne abstaining

Passed

8. Campus - Dave. The fraction will consist of Dave, Peter, Roger and Tippy and will work for the regular production of a leaflet or bulletin to take up major issues on campus, since our fraction is only large enough to play a propaganda role. At CCNY no one showed up for Spartacist organizing meeting which was held in competition with Vietnam Committee meeting which attracted over 100 people. We will participate in Vietnam Committee.

9. Vietnam Day Parade Committee: We were not invited to first meeting. Committee is dominated by pacifists and their lawyers (SWP). All ORO's, including PL, SWP and WW, voted to have one slogan "Stop the War Now". Speakers at the Rally will consist of speakers for areas, e.g., 1 speaker for Women, 1 for the Arts, 1 for Negroes, 1 for the "Marxists-anti-imperialists" (Russ Nixon), etc. The SWP agreed to this. We tried to split meeting, presented policy of having all groups that wanted have speakers. We were supported in this by MPI, WW, and ACFI. We made contact from MPI and from YAWF. Disc: Roger, Lyndon, Jim, Shane, Al, Roger, Peter, Helen, Jim, Hugh, Al, Peter

Motion by Jim: That we participate in the Parade at least nominally.

Motion by Roger: That name of no Spartacist spokesman be on the Call for the Rally; that we work to intervene into the March with our own slogans; that the exec. be empowered to authorize the use of our name on the leaflet should the line be acceptable.

Motion by Peter: To issue a leaflet explaining our split with the Committee.

Final Motion: (1) That at the next meeting our delegates be authorized to call for a break with the Committee and to walk out if the line of the leaflet is unsupportable.

(2) To put out a leaflet explaining why we broke with the Committee.

(3) To enter the demonstration with our own slogans.

Passed unanimously

10. Finances - Al

By virtue of a loan from Robertson we have a \$362.62 cash credit. Al is awaiting statements of income, dependents, etc., and explanatory statement of why any comrade is unable to pledge 15% of his income.

Election of Treasurer: Helen was nominated and elected by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 a.m.