

confidential--for members only

MINUTES, N.Y.LOCAL.....21 October 1965

Present: Jim, Sam, Lynne, Al, Hugh, Helen, Danny, Shirley, Price, Harry, Roger, Peter, Dave, Lynn C. (late), Lyndon (late), Paul (late) Others: Bob S., Hammett, Carol, Morris
Absent: Shane, Tippy, Winnie

Meeting convened at 8:25 p.m.

- 1. Organization of Meeting: (a) Chairman - Dave
(b) Agenda adopted
(c) Minutes of 10/7/65 read and accepted as corrected

Motion by Jim: To refer to the Exec. reconsideration of procedure for admission of non-members to our meetings.
Disc: Shirley, Roger, Jim Passed

Motion: To admit Carol with voice. Passed

Motion: To admit Hammett and Bob S. with voice. Passed

Roger began a discussion on what constituted valid excuse for absence. It was moved and passed to refer this to the Exec. Committee.

- 2. Membership - Shirley
Morris has applied for membership and the Exec when it met made a favorable recommendation. It has since been learned that Morris, a petty bourgeois student, believes in "God".

Motion by Jim: To table Morris' application for the present.

Disc: Jim, Lynne, Roger, Morris, Jim, Dave

Vote: For, all but Peter and Price who abstained. Motion passed

- 3. General Information and Correspondence - Jim
 - (a) SPARTACIST 5: Will be ready in about a week. 50% already at printers. Appears to be a very good and useful issue.
 - (b) Money: Section on Finances and Press read from circular letter on 3 subjects which recently went out to the internal mailing list. We are moving toward meeting our financial obligations. The expanded editorial board meeting for this week end will cost \$200-\$300 (in addition to individuals paying their own expenses). SPARTACIST 5 will cost \$750. We no longer have our former cash reserve.
 - (c) Friends in the SWP: The National Caucus will discuss their desire to leave the SWP.
 - (d) National Caucus: Our first national gathering since the meeting of the SWP Convention Caucus in Summer 1963. The body is highly representative of the political currents in Spartacist, will be an authoritative body to discuss with the British. The total conduct of the Wohlforth group, culminating in their conduct around the Peace Parade, leads to the characterization of them as a Left Centrist grouping. Latest issue of Newsletter, in article entitled "Trotskyism in the U.S.", appears to attack Marcus. In Peace Parade ACFI subordinated itself to SANE who in turn is subordinated to Sen. Dodd. IC appears to be sincerely seeking to expand, is carrying on similar discussions with V.O. with whom we are in close correspondence.
 - (e) Recent Publicity: National Guardian has recent references. Jim had 20 minute interview with M.S. Handler of N.Y. Times for article on draft dodging and the New Left.

- (f) Letter from V.O.: Trotskyist intervention in Parades was on French press, radio, and TV; Spartacist mentioned once.
- (g) Letter from our friend in England: is working closely with YS and SLL.
- (h) Joint Spartacist-ACFI election leaflet: Peter and Roger feel this is "a rotten piece of centrist trash". Disc: Lynne, Jim, Harry, Sam, Roger, Dave, Lyndon, Al, Roger, Peter, Helen, Harry

Motion by Peter: That we don't support this leaflet and write another.

Substitute Motion by Lyndon: To authorize Exec. to consider issuing another leaflet if Roger and Peter write one or else use the leaflet we have.

Countermotion by Jim: To proceed with the distribution of this leaflet.

Discussion: Hugh, Jim, Lyndon, Shirley, Lynne, Al, Roger, Peter, Dave, Harry

Vote on Jim's motion: For, all but Peter, Roger, and Danny who were opposed
Motion passed

Vote on Peter's motion: For, Peter; Opposed all else but Hugh, Roger, and Danny who abstained
Motion Lost

Vote on Lyndon's motion: For, Peter, Roger, Hugh, Lyndon, Danny
Opposed, Helen, Al, Price, Lynne, Jim, Sam
Abst., Shirley, Paul, Harry, Peter
Motion Lost

4. Special report - Sam

In informal conversation George S., a personally friendly member of PL, said that Jeff of ACFI had left Spartacist-ACFI unity minutes at PL hdqs. in order to "kill" Spartacist intervention in PL. This may be merely a rumor, though G. claims to be an eye witness. This is to be kept internal.
Disc: Shirley, Lynne, Harry

5. Exec. Report - Shirley

Last meeting had two topics: (1) preparation for Parade intervention; (2) discussion of Danny's radio talk. A motion was passed preferring charges against Danny for breach of discipline and damage to the reputation and work of Spartacist. Local will constitute trial body.

Motion by Shirley: That trial take place meeting after this one and that Danny be given copy of the charges 15 days before.

Amdt. by Jim: That we tentatively set trial for 3 weeks from tonight, and that if written charges are not presented at least 15 days before hand the charges will be dismissed with prejudice.

Disc: Jim, Roger, Jim, Harry, Shirley, Roger, Lyndon, Jim, Harry, Al, Harry, Jim, Harry, Sam, Roger, Shirley, Harry, Shirley

Vote on amended motion: For, Lynne, Al, Roger, Peter, Dave, Sam, Price, Lyndon, Danny, Shirley, Jim, Paul
Opposed, Hugh, Helen, Harry Abst, None

Motion passed

(Copy of written charges attached)

6. Assessment of our Intervention into Vietnam Day Parade - Al

We were largely successful in all that we attempted to do. Our 50 signs (slogans "Withdraw All American Troops Now", "Victory for the Vietnamese Revolution--No Negotiations", "Vietnam, Watts--It's the Same Struggle") made a significant impact. Our signs were distributed to and carried by others around us, were cheered and applauded as we passed and were good publicity. We distributed several thousand of our leaflet, did not participate in the Rally which dissipated shortly anyhow. Our line and approach were vindicated. At the Conference the following day of most participants they questioned the concept of only one slogan and agreed this was a mistake. The lack of defense guard allowed the 25,000 marchers to be attacked by a hundred ultra-rightists. ACFI defended and abided by the terms of the Parade, refusing to carry our signs, and supported the Pop Front dominated by SANE. At the conference the SWP defended its role, but M2M, Tompkins Sq. Peace Committee, and Workers World objected to liberal domination. SANE is calling a completely right-wing march in Mash. on Nov.27. Al spoke strongly for a break with SANE. SDS feels it cannot endorse SANE march. SWP called on all to come out strong and enter SANE line. M2M is having a conference to decide their anti-draft policy; we will attempt to enter. Disc: Roger, Jim, Lynne, Bob, Hugh, Al, Price, Hugh, Jim, Shirley, Al, Shirley, Lynne, Al, Roger, Bob, Sam, Hammett

Our BA comrades distributed leaflet at mass march. Our Ithaca comrades intervened in Congress of Unrepresented People in Toronto. Our Columbus, O., comrades were arrested for leading demonstration. Chicago demonstration had 500-600 on withdrawal demand; we worked with ASOC on this.

(It was decided to extend the meeting and table the HOC, CORE, and SSEU reports.)

7. Finances: We have a deceptively good amt. on hand but have \$750 expense coming up for paper. Those not paid through Sept. are Al, Paul, Harry, Dave, Sam, Lyndon, Hugh, Peter

3. Deacons: Friends of the Deacons consists of one guy, Rick Laseur, who has set up office on 125th St. Paul has been helping him publicize forthcoming Sims meeting. Deacons are being harrassed by FBI, their mail screened. Rick and Paul will accompany Sims while he is in NY. The Marcyites are sponsoring Sims, organizing his meetings in a way to build themselves, not help get Sims maximum support. Paul will try to arrange meetings of Sims, himself, and Shirley. Disc: Lyndon, Paul, Al, Shirley, Jim, Bob, Paul, Roger, Jim, Al, Shirley

Announcements:

- (a) Iranian students picketing UN 4:30-6 pm Friday, Oct. 22.
- (b) Sims' meetings Monday and Fri. nights. Fund raising dinner Sun. at the Harlem Unemployment Center.
- (c) Wohlforth class Wednesdays, has been heavily advertized.
- (d) SP function Sunday at Union Theological. We will distribute leaflet.
- (e) OAAU function 31 Oct.
- (f) SWP --all day series of functions 30 Oct.
- (g) Fund raising party in Bklyn. for Statue of Liberty Case, 30 Oct.
- (h) Party, Worker Action Committee (PL), Oct. 23.
- (i) 1199 Annual Rally Tuesday at Hotel Diplomat, distr. of joint election leaflet.
- (j) M2M party Sat.; M2M Conference Sunday.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 a.m.

October 26, 1965

TO: Com. Danny

The N.Y. exec charges that you violated discipline and damaged the work and reputation of the organization as follows:

1. In a radio talk on WBAI on October 8, you
 - (a) made statements contradictory to the policy of the organization in relation to work of Harlem fraction and also in violation of motion outlining the procedures for the handling of public discussion concerning the work of fractions.
 - (b) Stated that PL would rather take orders from Peking than build independent working class movement. This statement was provocative and politically damaging to the work of the organization.
 - (c) Indicated the no. and location of members of the organization in a particular fraction potentially endangering the means of livelihood of almost the entire local and exposing the comrades in the particular fraction.

The New York local will try you on charges of violating discipline and damaging the work and reputation of the organization as outlined above at a special meeting to be held on Thursday, November 11, at 8 p.m.