

Present: Full: Robertson, Turner, Nelson Alts: Glenn, Janacek
Staff: Gordon

Absent: Full: Stoute(exc.), Henry Alt: Small Staff: Martin(exc.)
Meeting convened 9:05 p.m.

- Agenda:
1. Minutes
 2. Personnel and Organization
 3. General Information and Correspondence
 4. Central Committee Plenum
 5. British Marxist Situation
 6. Press

1. Minutes: Minutes of 19 and 26 December are still in draft. Note that there has been a delay of several weeks in PB meetings due to illness.

2. Personnel and Organization:

- a. Ron B.: Letter from Roger P. reports visit to Los Angeles. He met with Ron B., who despite his prolonged inactivity and non-communication with the center considers himself unchanged politically and wants to remain a member. He has kept the Spartacist, Los Angeles P.O. box open.
- b. Iowa City: Through our inactivity the candidacies of Dave C. and Nick D. have been unnecessarily prolonged. There was no reason for this except oversight on our part.

Motion: To accept Dave C. and Nick D. as full members retroactively, effective from the dates that they had been candidate members for three months respectively. Passed

Disc: Glenn, Janacek

- c. Philadelphia: Letter received last week from Charlotte G. stating her readiness to leave Phila. in mid-July and willingness to move to any area deemed important by the N.O. The optimum recommendation would be 3-4 months in NYC and then New Orleans, but this needs to be discussed with the comrade to determine specific needs and preferences of her personal situation. In general, we should have a policy of routing comrades through the national center for testing and political education before sending them into new local situations. Disc: Nelson, Glenn, Janacek, Robertson

3. General Information and Correspondence:

- a. U.S. Committee to Aid NLF of South VN: Letter received from Walter Teague reporting what seems to be a gross frame-up against him and another member of his group.
- b. Anti-war: The cops have come down hard on a small, orderly anti-war demonstration in San Francisco. This seems to be part of a general trend toward premeditated aggressiveness on the part of the cops in dealing with demonstrations.
- c. Calif. Grand Jury: Comrade Syrek has been subpoenaed along with another printer by the Alameda County Grand Jury in connection with the recent "Stop the Draft Week". His testimony will involve his having printed two leaflets for the ISC. In consultation with the N.O., Comrade Syrek has decided to take an aggressive and uncompromising attitude toward the hearings. Rather than taking a blanket 5th Amendment, he will answer any

questions except those designed to elicit names of others involved, making clear that he is willing to print leaflets for radical groups because of his communist ideas, and will also make clear the Spartacist position on the draft.

- d. Epton: Bill Epton's 1964 Harlem riot conviction has been confirmed by the Supreme Court, which refused to hear the case. This places us and any other communist organizations in jeopardy, as other utterances could be construed as violations of these reactionary and unconstitutional laws.
- e. Canadian Maoists: We have heard that the Progressive Workers Movement was associated with the Seattle PL break-away. We conclude that the Canadian Maoist movement is more simply Stalinist and hesitant about going out on an extreme Maoist limb in criticizing almost all other Stalinist states. We can use this information to argue with PL about their super-Maoism but recognize that it shows PL to better advantage. Disc: Turner
- f. Israeli Repression: Voix Ouvriere has sent us a statement from the Israeli Socialist Organization on the arrest of one of the I.S.O. members, one Khalil Touema, by the Israeli government. He is an Arab resident of Israel and an opponent of the recent war, as a revolutionary socialist and anti-nationalist.
- g. 5th Avenue Peace Parade Committee: Mark T. reports the Committee has called a big meeting with an SDSer and two "independent" critics of the Committee to thrash out various criticisms. They are probably responding not to our criticisms and our perspective of a mass, working-class orientation for the movement, but to more conservative criticisms of the "extreme" tactics of violent confrontations and disruption. We should send a delegation. Disc: Turner
- n. Student Mobilization Committee: Is holding a conference in Chicago, 27-29 January. Large attendance is expected. Disc: Nelson
- i. PPF: The California Peace and Freedom Party has made the ballot, got about as many signatures as the Wallace party (over 100,000). This means there will be the possibility of serious struggle in the PFP.
- j. Militant of 22 January: Prints letter from Dave C. attacking Barry Sheppard's article on Debray, raising Guevarism and accommodationism as tactics which will lead to defeat. Disc: Turner, Janacek, Robertson, Nelson, Robertson, Turner, Janacek, Nelson, Robertson, Glenn, Turner, Gordon, Nelson, Glenn, Turner, Glenn, Robertson, Gordon, Nelson, Turner, Glenn, Robertson, Gordon, Nelson

Motion by Robertson: To accept Espartaco's critique (attached to PB minutes of 8 October 1967) of the Cannon article in the ISR of Sept.-Oct. 1967 as an extension of the SL's position on Pabloism. Disc: Robertson, Turner, Robertson, Nelson, Janacek, Robertson, Turner, Nelson, Robertson, Nelson, Turner, Janacek, Robertson

VOTE: For: Nelson, Turner, Robertson (Glenn, Janacek; Gordon)
Opposed: none Abstaining: none

Comrades should recognize that there is a difference between the right to do something and the proper procedure. A comrade has the right to do many things which are not necessarily syn-

onymous with the most correct and responsible behavior. Any PB member has the right at any time to attach a statement to the minutes, but the responsible procedure is to raise inquiry, criticisms and discussion in the PB first, and to carry the discussion further if satisfaction is not obtained there. Comrades should recognize that the minutes are not an internal discussion bulletin in which the majority makes sure that its view on a contested question is clear by making a reply; thus, the circulation by the PB of appended materials, with or without a reply by the majority, does not constitute any implicit endorsement.

4. Central Committee Plenum (Implementation):

- a. General: In addition to taking up questions formally, a number of meetings relating to local and regional problems were held. Press: Dave C. intends to arrive in NYC at the beginning of March, possibly in advance of Janet; will need housing. He will assume the editorship of SPARTACIST beginning with #12. South: Meeting of Southern Regional Bureau transferred production of Spartacist South to New Orleans. Midwest: Agreed on perspective of temporary evacuation of the Chicago regional center. There are only 2 comrades there now and the local is not functioning or effective. We will have to recolonize with 4-6 people with a balance of complementary skills. In the meantime, comrades should drive hard to recruit from the area before leaving. The Iowa City comrades all have a perspective of coming to NYC. Military Rights: The Bond is now discontinued. It got a real response despite much expressed fundamental disagreement with its provocative content. Some friends have suggested that they would consider putting out a journal directed to soldiers, consisting of correspondence, gripes and discussion on the war.
- b. Labor-Civil Rights: The NYC Industrial/Service caucus has begun to take on concrete form with work in hospital workers' union 1199. The first leaflet is mostly written, will be in English and Spanish, estimated 2000 copies. A meeting of an 1199 Militant Labor Civil Rights Committee is projected. We are also in contact with other rank and file caucuses, have discussed with Jim Haughton. He and Joe Carnegie (TWU) seem to be seeking a broad, multi-class orientation. We will broaden our subscriptions to union publications. Disc: Janacek, Gordon, Nelson, Turner, Robertson, Janacek, Turner, Glenn
- c. Plenum Minutes: Harper was secretary for most of the sessions and has worked up a draft for about half, will send rest soon.

Motion: To have a special meeting next week on 30 January at 9:00 p.m. to complete the balance of this agenda. Passed

Meeting adjourned 12:00 midnight