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draft

MINUTES, N.Y. SPARTACIST COMMITTEE.....February 3, 1965

Present: Lynne, Jim, Shirley, Danny, Al, Paul, Roger, Peter, Lyndon, Harriet, Sam Other: Mark K.  
Absent: Shane, Edith, Price, Dave (Charlotte-1.o.a.) (Tippy and Harry at emergency CORE meeting)

Meeting convened at 8:20 p.m.

- 1. Organization of Meeting: a) Chairman - Peter  
 b) Agenda adopted  
 c) Minutes of 1/20 read and accepted;  
 BA minutes of 1/25 read.

Motion: To admit Mark with voice.

Passed unanimously

2. Membership:

Motion by Lynne: To drop Edith from membership.

For - 9; Opposed - 0; Abst. - 1; Not Voting - 1

Motion passed

3. REB Report - Jim

- a) Composition and Legal Status - REB has gone from 5 full members to 7 full and 5 alternates (only 4 filled): the original 5, plus Jack G. of Chicago, Lyndon H. (Texas and N.Y.); alternates Doug H. (Ithaca), Marion S. (B.A.), Dave K. and Al S. (N.Y.) (one from Houston to be filled). Legal basis of Spartacist being changed from a partnership to a corporation.
- b) Partisan Defense Fund (PDF) - a legal defense subsidiary of Spartacist. Chrm. - Shirley; others on board - Geoff and Price; Staff Atty. - Conrad Lynn. A revolving fund of money for bail bonds, available to the communist movement. Purpose: to keep as large a number of Reds out of jail for the longest time for the least amount of money.
- c) Epton Defense - The following motions adopted by the REB are binding on every member and every local organization of the Spartacist: (1) there are to be no organizational ties between the defense committees we set up and the Spartacist (e.g., no Spartacist copies on defense lit tables, etc); (2) blind carbon copies of all correspondence between our comrades and national CERGE must be sent to our National Office; (3) Receipts must be given out and received (with copies retained) for all monies collected and forwarded in connection with Epton defense. A very frank and good discussion between us and Epton defense attorneys Lynn and Condin was held. They agree the defense should be political, will arrange meeting with us and PL leaders to iron out disagreements.
- d) Buttons - REB will secure Spartacist buttons (to wear on demonstrations, etc.).
- e) Wohlforth - letter from Wohlforth of 25 Jan. rather definitively tables the question of unity. The letter was dishonest on every point of contention between us. He gave us only one copy of duplicated reply, then sent copies to all our locals to imply we were keeping things from them. We will respond in three ways: (1) Lyndon will inform Houston comrades of the

situation; (2) Dave will draft letter to Healy regarding the provocation; (3) We will press on with the second and last part of our general reply to Wohlforth.

Disc: Harriet, Al, Roger, Lynne, Harriet, Jim, Lyndon, Harriet, Al, Jim

Motion by Jim on Harriet's behalf: That we formally solicit participation of Wohlforth group in Epton Defense work.

passed unanimously

f) Chicago - One comrade was victimized, given 1/2 hr. to leave IBM plant after FBI visit. Comrades picketed FBI resulting in good publicity. Jack G. has been elected shop steward in his shop by a 90 per cent majority.

4. Welfare Strike - Lynne

The 4 week strike could be termed a partial victory on the basis of the atmosphere presently existing in the welfare centers, though the union did not win collective bargaining, and concrete details of salary, work-load, etc., will be worked out by a 'fact finding' committee after strikers are back on the job. Strike was longest ever conducted against the city, remained solid till end. We passed out leaflet, sold 150 Spartacists to strikers.

Disc: Roger, Peter, Sam, Lynne, Jim

5. Epton Defense - Discussion of our policy. Jim explained that by 'political defense' we mean we not only defend Epton's right to speak but also what he said, and his right to organize the people of Harlem (but defense of what Epton said and did is not a condition for membership in defense committees). Committees should raise money, seek sponsors, and carry out demonstrations, and other activities to dramatize the defense and attract attention.

Disc: Roger, Jim, Al, Roger, Peter, Lyndon, Harriet, Danny, Jim, Roger, Peter, Danny, Jim, Al, Peter, Shirley

6. Campus. Brief discussion. Jim raised the general criticism that our comrades allow insufficient time in advance to prepare on most everything we do, and that we often fail to follow through.

Disc: Al, Roger, Jim, Danny, Harriet, Al, Lynne, Sam, Al

7. New York CORE - Lynne

Organization is in a shambles, chairman is maneuvering to get \$24,000 salary for himself, \$16,000 for wife, and similar salaries for other officers of CORE through 'Urban Associates', an 'autonomous department of N.Y. CORE'. Emergency meeting is to deal with this tonight. [Tippy telephoned later to report that Harry was elected pro-temp chrm. of the CORE meeting and that CORE voted to dissociate itself from 'Urban Associates', the vote being unanimous, including Funnye!] Ballantine boycott continuing, only small group carrying out but effective.

Harry eager to get started on garment district work. School boycott organized by tiny group, not effective; failed to organize grass-root parent and student support.

Motion by Shirley: To find out if there is any center of real activity around the boycott, and if so to prepare leaflet.

Passed unanimously

8. Roger - Al reporting for Exec.  
CR fraction has requested Roger be transferred to another area of work, since the incident two Saturdays ago around the beer boycott (that was the final straw on a generally poor record of work with CR fraction). This constitutes a final warning to the comrade who assured the Exec. he would straighten out his personal and organizational life and try to integrate himself responsibly into work of the campus fraction. It was noted that Roger has political talent and could make a positive contribution. Disc. Jim

9. Wohlforth Class:  
Motion by Roger: That matter of attendance of Wohlforth class be handled by campus fraction (for division of labor, as YSA class also coming up).

Vote: for - 3; against - 0; abst - 6

Motion passed

10. Sales - Danny  
Sat. JOIN Panel Discussion - Paul and Danny.  
Saturday Harlem sale along 125th St. - Paul, Peter, Dave, Jim, Mark, Al, Shirley, Danny.

Al will speak before small group of misc. socialistoids, 'The Contemporary Forum', on Sunday.

11. Finances - Al  
On hand \$107.17. Owed in N.Y. - \$281 through Feb. Owed outside N.Y. - \$160. Total owed - \$440 (not including Ithaca or Houston). We have an urgent need for money.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m.