

R.U. Confrontation

Aug. 24, 1975

MON. AUG. 11 6:30-7:45 AM. Rob T. & I were at South Postal Annex (the largest P.O. in Boston, employing 4,000) at 6:30 this morning to hand out "Vote No" leaflets. The branch had been here 3 other times and ^{had} had no trouble and ^{we} weren't expecting any. I leafletted at the entrance to South Station, while Rob went up to the main entrance. Once there he met 2 people handing out leaflets ("Fight for a good contract", enclosed) who claimed to be members of a rank & file postal workers group with people in 20 cities (!). They refused Rob a leaflet, but grabbed one of his, seeming to recognize it right away. They said they didn't like outsiders, that our stuff, including the P.O. Workers Fight Back pamphlet, was being read inside, & getting "confused" with their stuff. They told Rob not to leaflet and to "screw out of here"; Rob went up a little ways from them & continued leafletting. In a little while both people came up to Rob & told him to move on & not leaflet today. They said they'd be at the General Post Office the next day so come back tomorrow. Rob again walked away from them and continued leafletting a bit further up. Again after a little while both people came up to him again and told him to "screw out of here" and "we're not kidding". The confrontation was taking place on a bridge and there was a comment about people having to "fish your leaflets out of the river". One stood in front of Rob, one behind. This time Rob came back to me at S. Station entrance & leafletted there while I went up to the main entrance and went on in pretending to be a worker ~~and~~ and got a leaflet. The style and address for "Outlaw", the R.U. N.Y. based P.O. group confirmed my suspicion that they were RU'ers & not some Boston-based P.O. workers group we'd not heard of. We continued leafletting at South Station entrance 'til the morning shift had gone in & the night shift had gotten off. We didn't have more trouble that morning. We reported this through

to the N.O. Glen suggested going back, as we had planned, to hit the swing shift that afternoon, with as many people as possible, but not to provoke a confrontation, or try to run them off. We were to inform the N.O. of what occurred.

SAME DAY, MON. AUG. 11 2:20 - 3:40 P.M. After calling all our contacts, I was only able to get a tentative commitment from 4 people, none of whom showed. Bob P, a prospective member, had been scheduled for both this morning & afternoon but showed neither time. (A letter concerning B-P is on its way ~~to~~ to the E.C., concerning our feeling that B-P should not be a member of I.S. at this time.) Bob T & I arrived at S. Postal Annex prepared to leaflet. Checking it out we found one or possibly 2 R.U.'s again at the main gate. We leafleted at S. station entrance (South Station is a railroad station many P.O. workers cross through to get to S. Postal Annex). Soon 2 R.U.'s (different ones) were moving toward our entrance from inside the R.R. station (a cop was kicking them out for leafletting inside the station itself (R.R. property)). We slipped away to another S. station entrance. After discussion we decided to circle around to the main parking lot, noticing that 2 R.U.'s were then posted at the spot where we'd been. (Not a very busy one in terms of P.O. workers.) We made the parking lot by 3:25 P.M., noticed R.U. was gone from the main gate & apparently from S. station as well. Our aim was to hit the day shift coming out, which happens at 5:30 P.M. We decided against this because we had already missed most workers that afternoon & decided to re-do S. Postal Annex on another day with "Vote No". I informed the N.O. of this. Cal suggests we find out what the attitude toward R.U. is around town & see if we can't get independent leaflets friendly to us & perhaps groups to defend our right to pass out leaflets.

R.U. confrontation (cont.)
AUG. 14

Sept. 1, 1975

POSTAL DEMO, GEN'L POST OFFICE @ 3:00 - 4:00 P.M. - We were spotted by R.U.'ers and told we'd better "quit fucking around inside the Post Office!"

UPDATE - Mike & Ann will be back today, giving us two more people we can count on. Mike, Ann, & Bill ^{+ Peter} were all away. Bob P. was inconsistent. The Boston left that supported us (NAM said they weren't sure if they'd support RU or IS & would have to meet about it) could not be mobilized on short notice. As we get more contacts that work with us consistently and when our people are back we should be in better shape. We have not seen R.U. at any station since & we have been selling W.P. at 3 P.O.'s for a few weeks now.

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