

confidential--for members only

draft

MINUTES, N.Y. Spartacist Committee.....20 January 1965

Present: Lynne, Jim, Dave, Shirley, Harry, Danny, Sam, Al, Paul, Roger, Peter(late). Other: Lyndon, one other.

Absent: Edith, Tippy, Shane, Price, (Charlotte-l.o.a.).

Meeting convened at 8:40 p.m.

- 1. Organization of Meeting: (a) Chairman - Paul
 (b) Agenda adopted
 (c) Minutes of 1/6 read and accepted

2. Membership:

Motion by Lynne: To admit a sympathizer of long standing as a candidate member.

Countermotion by Roger: To admit as a full member.

Disc: Jim, Roger, Dave, Roger, Jim

Vote: one for countermotion, all others for original motion.

Motion passed

Motion: To admit Lyndon into N.Y. local.

Motion passed unanimously

3. General Information and Correspondence - Jim

(a) Posadas--Jack G.(Chicago) has drawn our attention to a regrettable characterization of the SLL by J.Posadas in the Oct. Red Flag: 'We repeat to this Congress our judgment on the Healy group. In a direct or indirect fashion, these are people in the service of British Imperialism whose task is to obstruct, sabotage and impede the development of the IV International.' And, 'The reason which impells us to give this judgment is the disproportion between the political insignificance, the lack of revolutionary intentions, and objectives, and the material means of which they make use in a completely disproportionate publishing activity.' Such a slanderous characterization reveals a profound political disorientation and dishonors the accuser. We have received a comradely letter from the British Posadas party thanking us for our defense of the Cuban comrades.

(b) 'Police Terror in Harlem' pamphlet reproduced as leaflet by our BA comrades.

(c) Steve S. in jail awaiting trial for Chicago School Board sit in.

(d) Desai articles in Newsletter: Poor formulation in Desai article on Congo led to dishonest full-scale attack on SLL by World Outlook(Germain), reprinted by Militant as attack on us. Desai apologized for article after criticism by SLL leader W. Hunter, and Newsletter launched expose of Germain.

(e) Shirley reported she and Paul will meet Thurs with about 6 contacts from Spartacists sales at Malcolm X meetings.

(f) Sam reported Fri. meeting of JOIN featuring CR militant, Arnold Goldwag.

4. Lincoln University Meeting - Dave

Paul, Shirley, Dave and Al went, with Shirley and Al speaking on

Cuba. About 60-75 attended, exceedingly well received. About 20 very serious remained for long full discussion after meeting. Will set up an Epton Defense Committee. Jim invited to speak there early next semester. Left Spartacists for them to sell. They will arrange talks for us at Howard Univ. and Morgan State. At next meeting we will suggest they set up Spartacist Club. Several may visit New York over intersession. Good chance for recruits. Disc: Paul

5. Tour Report - Jim

From dissident Seattle SWP people learned Cannon made public attack on Black Nationalism at 2 large meetings, but probably Cannon's criticisms aiding coalescence to right ('Triple Revolution,' more welfare rather than fight for jobs). Lively PL chapter in BA. In Vancouver Malcolm Bruce promised to write signed article for next Spartacist, may get him expelled from ISA and give us entre into Canada. G expelled from SLA, do not constitute an organized group. Our proposals to them: (1) to organize themselves; (2) orient toward PWM; (3) have fraternal relations with Spartacist. All are workers. PWM differs from, is better than PL. We met with 2 of their leaders and another prominent activist who considers himself a Trotskyist; meeting ended with noting basis for bloc existed. Vancouver Trotskyists have been in contact with Wohlforth, will write asking unity between Wohlforth and us.

In our own group 'era of good feeling' fading, differences will be discussed and resolved at Conference in Sept. Proposed documents: Statement of Principles; Organizational Rules; Stalinism--esp. in Post-War Period; Negro Question.

6. Ed Board Motion on Co-option - Shirley

EB expanding by co-option to make more representative of tendencies and areas. New York can recommend two alternates.

Motion by Roger: that we recommend Lynne be added.

Motion by Harry: that Al and Dave be added.

Vote on Roger's motion: For - Roger; abstaining - all else

Vote on Harry's motion: For - All but Roger and Lyndon who abstained.

Al and Dave recommended

7. Welfare Strike - Dave

EB took up leaflet draft. SSEU very solid - 90 % out first day, 89 % still out; extremely militant. At mass rally, call for general strike received one-minute ovation.

Disc: Al, Dave, Jim, Peter, Jim

Motion: To approve leaflet

Amendment by Jim: If leaflet not used in next few days, Exec. should revise and amend

Amendment by Roger: Exec. should be instructed to draw up a revised leaflet as soon as possible (interpreted as meaning to prepare a second leaflet).

Vote on Roger's amendment: For - 6; Against - 4, Abst - 5*

* Statement by Jim: Whether to have a second leaflet depends on course of strike; motion is unnecessarily binding on Exec.

Amendment passed

Vote on amended motion:

Passed unanimously

(Motion: To extend meeting till 11:30.

Passed)

8. Sales

Motion by Dave: To elect Danny press and lit agent.

Disc: Jim, Harry, Lynne

(It was unanimously decided not to have secret ballots as there was only one nominee and he had already left meeting.)

Motion passed

It was recommended that Exec. take responsibility for sales over the next two weeks and for the instruction of Danny. 14th St. and Library stands to be serviced immediately.

9. Finances - A1

On hand nationally - \$3.96. \$240 owed in N.Y. back sustaining pledges (three comrades owe \$180 of this (Shirley \$53 and Al \$40 as a result of travel expenses last summer; Peter \$67 due to medical expenses. All have made arrangements to catch up as soon as possible. Remaining figure of \$80 is reasonable amt. for area size of N.Y.) Arrangements being made to regularize the finances of new locals and members with no pledges prior to preparation of national financial statement.

Attention to all local committees and members-at-large:

Our financial structure has been designed to provide the highest, most regular, flow of money into the organization with the least complicated system, avoiding several levels of payment and periodic fund drives, allowing, however, a bit of slack for emergencies. Such an emergency has arisen. Over \$800 was spent last month (Spartacist 3, travel expenses, pamphlet and resulting costs, etc.). With Spartacist 4 due to go to press in March, there is an immediate need to build up the National treasury. Therefore, ALL COMRADES ARE URGENTLY REQUESTED: (1) to pay up existing sustainer pledges owed; (2) in consultation with their locals, to raise their monthly sustaining pledges (the Chicago Committee is exempted from this request; with a total monthly pledge of \$60 they are in a genuine sense a financial vanguard local); (3) to seek to make an immediate lump sum donation in addition to the monthly pledge payment. (A1 S.)

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.