

MINUTES, N.Y. SPARTACIST COMMITTEE.....17 February 1965

Present: Danny, Shirley, Lynne, Paul, Sam, Lyndon, Peter, Jim, Al, Harry, Harriet, Roger-late, Dave-late Other: Ralph, Linda, Mark T.
Absent: Shane, Price, Tippy (Charlotte-l.o.a.)

Meeting convened at 8:30 p.m.

- 1. Organization of meeting: a) Chairman- Harry
- b) Agenda adopted
- c) Minutes of 2/3 read and accepted

Motion: To admit Ralph, Mark and Linda with voice. Passed

2. REB Report - Jim
General

- a) SLL- Newsletter of 1/23 (article on 41 years after Lenin's death) shows evidence of a fight within SLL, both ranks and leadership.
- b) Swabeckites- Pro-Chinese tendency in SWP has split into a group around Swabeck and other group of which Milwaukee is a part. Latter may leave SWP soon.
- c) Wohlforth Group- Jack Arnold left group amid hard feelings by group.
- d) Pablo Pabloites- Letter from G. Vereeken of Belgium enclosing copies of 'Sous les Drapeaux du Socialisme' and mimeo'd material requesting exchange of documents. Letter noted our views were non-sectarian toward discussion among declared Trotskyists.
- e) Hammer and Steel- Jan. issue very important, had assessment of all pro-Maoist groups, accuses PL of associating with Trotskyites.
- f) SWP- We have heard Plenum spent half of its time on 'Robertson-Wohlforth Groups'.
- g) SPARTACIST buttons available.
- h) 'La Verite'- French IC publication sent us.
- i) Berkeley CORE- militant 'Campus Correlator' available.

Area Reports- minutes and reports in from all areas.
Bay Area- running candidate for City Council. SWP also running, and we have good chance of getting more votes than they. Election program stresses right of Negro self-defense, opposition to war in Viet-Nam. Roger P. left SWP to act as election campaign manager. We are continuing with Epton defense. BA leaflet on Viet-Nam available. Chicago- made good impact at East Lansing Socialist Conference. Epton defense activity there impressed Conrad Lynn. UF formed with PL and IWW for united leaflet and mass rally in Loop opposing Viet-Nam war. Recruited first Negro comrade. Ithaca- 10 in YSL (a disciplined organization). Only other tendency on campus (SDS) destroyed as YSL recruited all members. Joint demonstration planned on Viet-Nam. Beginning Epton defense work. Houston- Two more applicants for membership. We might get Austin organizing committee soon.

- 3. Statue of Liberty Bomb Plot- Shirley
Black Liberation Front of which Bob Collier was a participant was formed on Cuba trip and had no existence after the trip.

Several statements were publically made implying that all black members on Cuba trip were in BLF, which was incorrect. Now papers are bringing PL, FPCC, Guevara, Mao, and Cuba into the plot, also RAM, and papers mention there may be more arrests. Therefore they may also try to lump Shirley in with this amalgam. Disc. Al, Jim, Sam, Mark T.

4. Grand Jury and Picket Line- Shirley and Jim
Shirley reported that about 40 participated in our picket protest Monday of Grand Jury. Hearing was postponed till Wed. PL didn't participate in protest, though a few supporters turned up. Charity of Morningside Tenants participated. N.Y. Times reporter interviewed Jim. This was our first demonstration in our own name. In Wed. picket, Lyndon was only Spartacist. Cathy P., Wendie N., and Genevise C. convicted of civil contempt, get 30-60 days. Jim reported that no irrelevant questions were asked him, therefore he was able to answer all questions. DA refused to let Jim make notes on questions or on his own testimony. They are trying to get 'evidence' to indict Bill Epton, Milt Rosen and Fred Jerome for conspiring to start Harlem and other riots. Jim undercut creditability of Fritz O. Baer of Red Squad. Disc. Paul, Shirley
5. Ed Board motions:
Paul and Shirley were expelled from HDC of which they constituted 2/3 of active membership by Bill McAdoo with support from Bill Epton, basically because we are 'counter-revolutionary Trotskyites who oppose Mao and Castro and therefore oppose Chinese and Cuban Revolutions'. Referred to 'Hammer and Steel' article and clearly indicated that they felt work with us might stand in the way of their getting Chinese franchise. PL going against interests of class struggle in this country in order to appease Chinese bureaucracy. The following motions were unanimously adopted at a special editorial board meeting Sunday, 14 Feb. at which NYC membership was invited to attend with voice rights. Motions include a number of suggested amendments and modifications and are binding upon entire Spartacist group:
 - "a) in general to press forward at full speed on Epton defense work, involving as many elements as possible of all sorts genuinely interested in the work; locally to hold off temporarily at CCNY where a special situation exists. Will send letter from Columbia group inviting Epton for a large public meeting.
 - "b) Shirley to write letter to PL leadership over their alleged intention to keep defense exclusively limited to PL and periphery, and on the McAdoo 'expulsion' of two of our comrades from HDC. In the meantime our comrades should not volunteer information re HDC expulsions, etc., outside.
 - "c) authorize our comrades expelled from HDC to proceed to work on tenants councils, etc., as the 'Harlem Organizing Committee' and seek to involve other militants in this work."
6. Healy letter:
Letter of 8 Feb. from Healy in response to our protest of Wohlforth's provocation states regarding unity between Wohl. and us: 'It is not our opinion that there is a basis at this time for unity between the groups in the United States.'

7. N.Y. CORE

- a) Epton Motion- Paul. The following motion put forward by Paul was unanimously adopted by the N.Y.CORE membership on 2/10:
'N.Y.CORE condemns the attempt to make Bill Epton the scapegoat for the brutal action of the police last summer against the people of Harlem. It supports Epton's right to speak, and calls upon the City to drop its indictment against him.'
- b) Ballantine Boycott and N.Y.CORE situation- Harry. Chapter has been suspended for 30 days (no public activity) for continuing the boycott, and will be automatically disaffiliated at first violation, including if any member participates in any action against Ballantine sponsored by any other organization of which he may also be a member. Some members of the Employment Committee, incl. Chrm., will leave CORE to continue the boycott. We will stay in to carry out our long-term perspective of contacting militants and building left-wing. It was pointed out that in times of upsurge new forces flock into CORE even though the group is pretty moribund now.
Disc: Paul, Lynne, Jim, Harry

8. Campus

- a) CCNY- Peter. Several SSU members (Draperites) have been moving closer to us. PL has discredited itself among other political tendencies for its maneuverism and dishonesty. We will get united support for a mass rally and march thru Harlem on Thur. to support school boycott. Disc: Danny, Mark, Al, Jim

(Motion: To extend meeting to 11:30 p.m.

Passed)

b) Columbia

Motion by Lynne: that campus fraction meet weekly.
Procedural motion by Jim: refer motion to campus fraction.
Vote on Jim's motion: all for but Paul, abst. Passed

Dave reported we will hold a rally at the sundial with the May 2nd Committee on Thurs. against war in Viet-Nam at which Jim and Dave will speak. (At CCNY the M2M decided no Trotskyites can be members.)

9. Finances- Al. \$305.44 on hand, \$188 owed in back dues in N.Y.

10. Sales- Danny

Thurs.- SPU rally w/Pete Seeger- Lynne, Jim, Ralph, Danny
Fri.- Militant Labor Forum- Harry, Al
Sat.- SDS Demonstration in D.C. on Viet-Nam- Danny, Mark
Marcyite Union Square Rally on Viet-Nam- 6 volunteered
Sun.- Malcolm X rally- Paul

11. Miscellaneous

- a) Shirley reported that at his last meeting Malcolm X claimed Muslims bombed his hom and that he was present when Muslims in South made deal with KKK to give Negroes some land in Ga. to take pressure off integration demands.
- b) Wohlforthite to speak at Contemporary Forum (where Al spoke) Sun.
- c) New FI No. 3 of the Internat'l Comm. available locally and nationally, double issue 50 cents.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.