

MINUTES, N.Y. LOCAL.....13 January 1966

Present: Jim, Lynne, Ron, Hugh, Jim M., Winnie, Lyndon, Roger, Price, Harry, Helen, Peter (late), Dave (late), Paul (late), Shirley (ex. late) Others: Shelly

Absent: Danny, Sam, Shane, Hammett (exc.), Al (on assign.), Tippy (l.o.a.), Phil

Meeting began at 8:30 p.m.

- 1. Organization of Meeting: (a) Chairman - Ron
 (b) Agenda adopted
 (c) Minutes of 30 Dec. read and accepted (NOTE: insert "spurious" between "sole" and "grounds" in SSEU report.)

2. Membership:

Motion: To grant Jim M. full membership status.

Passed

3. General Information and Correspondence - Jim

(a) REB Meeting, 10 Jan: Nelson has begun tour of Midwest and South. Substitute organizer needed in N.Y. during his absence. Cornell comrades received disciplinary probation for their activities in support of NLF, will appeal and attempt to exploit the support they have gained. Small story in N.Y. Times. Comprehensive financial statement has been prepared for 1965. Main point was ACFI-IC unity; last JUC agreed to formalize weekly contact between Spartacist and ACFI and have joint meeting of all trade unionists to discuss perspectives and joint work. Extensive discussion of Marcus economic draft. Was found to be fundamentally incorrect and rejected by REB. We will propose instead of conventional American Question document, series of theses on tactics. Because of our small size, our present tasks have only marginal relationship to broader developments. Robertson is to notify Wohlforth of these positions in advance of next JUC. Rose J. from B.A. will soon be in NYC for several weeks. Jack G. is expected to arrive shortly from Chicago, to remain indefinitely in N.Y.

(b) Austin: Lyndon reported has received call from Austin comrades and from John Sw. John Sw. is still with Spartacist and plans to resume activity. Our Austin comrades are doing good job, are involved in Univ. Socialist Club and are planning meeting for Nelson. Sent \$25 and will make regular pledge. Disc: Roger

4. Public Meeting - Shirley

Proposed forum on Fanon's two books, to be held somewhere uptown. Speaker could be Jim or Shirley. "Wretched of the Earth" is best-seller in Harlem among black militants and everyone is discussing it and considering its implications "profound". The best people are now moving away from nationalism and looking for answers and program, disturbed by nationalists' lack of program.

Disc: Jim, Helen, Jim M., Lynne, Jim M.

Motion: To schedule public forum on Fanon books.

Passed

5. Transit Strike - Harry

In revising and cutting Harry's first draft of leaflet to fit mimeo'd page, Harry stated he felt that omission of criticism of Quill, especially for lack of preparation for the strike, was incorrect.

Motion by Harry: (1) To endorse decision of Exec. to put out leaflet.

(2) To accept leaflet supporting transit workers with the recognition that some explicit criticisms of the leadership should have been retained in the leaflet.

Disc: Lyndon, Lynne, Jim, Jim M., Dave, Hugh, Shelly, Roger, Price, Harry, Lyndon, Lynne, Jim, Shirley, Hugh, Roger, Price, Paul.

It was agreed by all that omission of Labor Party advocacy from the first mimeo'd leaflet was a serious deletion. During course of discussion, the following additional motions were made:

Motion by Jim: (1) That the strike experience has vindicated our line to build in the T.W.U. as our main trade union fraction in NYC.
(2) We merit criticism and correction for such a passive application of the line that we do not yet have a single member working in the industry.

Motion by Jim: The leaflet was correct in not singling out Mike Quill for attack at that time and moreover with the trivial accusation of "blusterer".

Amendment by Price to Part (2) of Harry's motion: To substitute "could" for "should".

Vote on Amendment: For: Price
Opposed: Hugh, Harry, Roger
Abstaining: Paul, Lynne, Lyndon, Winnie, Shirley
Not Voting: Jim, Ron, Jim M., Dave Peter
Amendment lost

Vote on Harry's motion (1) to endorse decision of Exec to put out leaflet:
For: Ron, Lyndon, Lynne, Winnie, Price, Hugh, Shirley, Harry, Roger, Paul
Opposed: Jim M.
Abstaining: Dave, Helen, Jim
Not Voting: Peter
Motion Passed

Division requested on part (2) of Harry's motion.

Vote on Harry's motion (2): to accept leaflet supporting transit workers:
For: Jim, Jim M., Winnie, Lyndon, Lynne, Hugh, Shirley, Helen, Harry, Roger, Paul
Opposed: --
Abstaining: Ron, Dave, Price
Not Voting: Peter
Motion Passed

Vote on part of Harry's motion (2) "accepting leaflet with recognition that some explicit criticism of the leadership should have been retained."
For: Roger, Harry, Hugh, Ron
Opposed: Jim, Jim M., Lyndon, Winnie, Lynne, Shirley, Helen
Abstaining: Price, Dave, Paul
Not Voting: Peter
Motion lost

Vote on Jim's motion that "strike experience has vindicated our line to build in TWU as our main trade union fraction in NYC"
For: everyone
Passed unanimously

Vote on Jim's motion that "we merit criticism and correction for such a passive application of line that we do not yet have a single member working in industry"
For: Jim, Jim M., Ron, Lyndon, Price, Lynne, Shirley, Paul, Helen
Opposed: Roger
Abstaining: Winnie, Dave, Hugh, Harry
Not Voting: Peter
Motion passed

Division was requested on Jim's final motion.

Vote on part of Jim's motion "The leaflet was correct in not singling out Mike Quill for attack at that time..."

For: Jim, Jim M., Winnie, Lyndon, Lynne, Shirley, Helen, Harry, Paul

Opposed: Hugh, Price

Abstaining: Roger, Ron, Dave

Not Voting: Peter

Not voting

Motion Passed

Vote on "and moreover with the trivial accusation of 'blusterer'."

For: Jim, Jim M., Ron, Winnie, Lyndon, Lynne, Price, Hugh, Shirley, Paul

Opposed --

Abstaining --

Not Voting: Dave, Helen, Harry, Roger, Peter

Motion passed

(Harry and Price left at this point.)

(Motion: To table information reports and proceed to action points. Passed.)

6. Acting Organizer:

In Al's absence, an acting organizer is needed.

Nominations: Helen nominated Jim M.

Hugh nominated Lynne

Roger nominated himself

Lynne withdrew

Motion: That new acting organizer be placed ex officio on Exec. during the period he serves. Passed

Vote: Jim M. - 9 Roger - 1 Blank ballots - 3 Jim M. was elected

7. Joint Spartacist - ACFI trade union caucus:

Motion: To table and refer to Exec. or organizer to poll relevant members and to check with ACFI as to what would be good meeting night. Passed

8. Announcements and Sales:

(a) Fri., Jan. 14, Militant Forum, pro-Castro priest - Shelly, Jim

(b) Draperite discussion, uptown - Jim M.

(c) 1199 Teach-In on Vietnam, Sat., Nov. 15, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Ron, Shelly

(d) Lynd, Aptheker, & Haydon report on Vietnam, Manhattan Center, Sun. 16 Jan. 1:30 p.m. - Jim, Roger, Jim M., Helen

(e) ACFI class, Sun. evening, 16 Jan - Shelly, Jim M., Lynne, Helen

(f) Friday, 21 Jan. Epton rally - Shelly

(g) Monday, 24 Jan., Epton meeting - Helen

(h) Tues. 25 Jan., 5th Ave. Parade Committee

(i) 25 Jan., registration for Dave's Free University class.

(j) Caucus, Tompkins Sq. Peace Comm., at Marty's (ACFI)

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 midnight.