

MEETING OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE OF THE SPRING MOBILIZATION
COMMITTEE TO END THE WAR IN VIETNAM

Thursday, March 2, 1967, New York at 8 PM

Present: Dave Dellinger (chairman), Robert Greenblatt, Edward Keating, Amy Swerdlow, Al Evanoff, Bradford Lyttle, Pauline Rosen, Abe Weisburd, Cliff Rugg, William Solomon, Robert Gottlieb, Paul J. Carling, Chris Beatty, Mika Seeger, Ron Clark, Irma Hellinger, Percy Gilmer, Doug Jenness, Ruth Gage Colby, Joleigh Lockett, Herb Hoover, Keith Lampe, Barbara Manners, Irving Beinin, Abner Grunauer, Cora Weiss, Barry Greever, Fred Halstead, Beverly Sterner, Peter Buch, Martin Davis, Eric Holtzman, Gus Horowitz, Rosalind Wells, Harry Lustig, Harry Ring, Carole Powell, Sidney Stapleton, Arnold Johnson, James Bevel was speaking at a public meeting this evening and arrived later.

AGENDA: (1) Minutes (2) Outreach and Area Reports (3) Progress on Sponsors' Signatures (4) Finances (5) Program (6) April 15 Activities and Program (7) Structure

1. MINUTES: Read by Brad Lyttle and approved.

2. OUTREACH AND AREA REPORTS: (a) Student Mobilization: (1) New York -- Syd Stapleton reported that speakers were being arranged for 12 high schools and organizing was proceeding on 25 campuses in the area, with a city-wide war crimes tribunal being planned at Hunter College and John McDermott of Viet Report scheduled to tour. (2) Gus Horowitz distributed the new issue of the Student Mobilizer containing many area reports on national activities. (b) Universities: Harry Lustig of the Universities Committee on Problems of War and Peace (sponsor of the multi-page N.Y. Times ads signed by educators, ministers, and professionals) reported that the group will organize faculty participation from east of the Mississippi and may sponsor a cap-and-gown procession. The group, which has never before engaged in activity of this type, will send out a large-scale mailing on the Mobilization to each signer of previous ads. (c) Medical Committee: Eric Holtzman reported that the Medical Committee plans to organize a contingent in the April 15 march and that work is already underway. (d) Women: Pauline Rosen reported on an enthusiastic meeting of the N.Y. Women Strike for Peace Steering Committee which decided to participate fully in the Mobilization and to contribute some staff and funds. Cora Weiss added that the group was still concerned about the Mobilization program. Dave Dellinger announced that Dagmar Wilson of WSP has accepted the position of Vice-chairman voted at the last meeting and has chosen Amy Swerdlow to represent her at meetings she couldn't attend; he also called attention to the fact that program was to be discussed later in the agenda. (e) Clergy: Clifford Rugg, assistant to Rev. Tom Hayes, announced the formation of the Committee of Faith to represent and organize the religious constituency in the Mobilization. Clergy and Laymen Concerned had decided not to sponsor it as an organization according to a letter from this group which was read at the meeting. Dave Dellinger clarified the position of the Mobilization Committee in seeking individual sponsorship, not organizational endorsement. (f) Democratic Clubs: Abner Grunauer said he attended the N.Y. State Executive Committee of the ADA -- which never participated in previous marches -- and spoke for practical support of the Mobilization though not for organizational endorsement. He noted much evidence of the broadening of support and cited the number of requests for speakers and material that has been received from the Reform Democratic Clubs. (g) Quakers: Joleigh Lockett of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee from the N.Y. Society of Friends announced that she plans to devote one day each week to Mobilization Committee work. (h) Labor: Al Evanoff announced that the work of contacting the labor movement is continuing and that the Trade Union Division of SANE has discussed the Mobilization but no decision has been reached yet. Cleveland Robinson will send out a letter soon to selected trade union leaders. (i) West Coast: Edward Keating said that he had been touring for the Mobilization the last two weeks and found great interest in the project. In San Francisco, many committees have been set up for work with professionals, clergy, labor, artists, etc., composed of reps from geographic, vocational, and community anti-war groups. The Santa Clara

County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and the Northern California District ILWU have endorsed the Mobilization. Discussion: Many people expressed the need for more comprehensive information on the Mobilization work around the country. The staff will prepare such a report for the next meeting and other information will be contained in the next MOBILIZER.

3. PROGRESS ON SPONSORS' SIGNATURES: Brad Lyttle reported that discussion is proceeding with Rev. M.L. King on signing the Call and a decision is expected by Monday. Letters and Calls have been sent to prominent people for their signature and organizations are being asked to contact at least two such figures for this purpose. Edward Keating announced that many well-known local figures have been signed up as sponsors on the west coast.

4. FINANCES: Brad Lyttle reported \$1228 on hand, with a staff reserve (earmarked for staff from Cleveland) of \$778; Bills Payable \$1389; Current Deficit \$610; Working Capital \$1000. Abe Weisburd suggested that a fund appeal be directed to signers of the Universities Committee ad.

5. PROGRAM: Dave Dellinger read a statement from N.Y. WSP proposing the addition of the four points listed in A. J. Muste's "Preliminary Mobilization Memorandum" to the Mobilization program. He reported on a discussion of this proposal in the Steering Committee meeting the previous evening and explained that the original Call Committee had tried to avoid being too specific on political questions while striving for new expression. He outlined the two main positions expressed at the Steering Committee, which agreed, however, that the Working Committee should decide the issue at this meeting: (1) We should state a program comprised of 3-4 points; in adopting a general statement without these points, we only increased instead of allaying any suspicion of unstated aims of the Mobilization. Dellinger stated his personal support of this view. (2) We should not add these points because it would divide the movement. James Bevel arrived at this time and later spoke against addition of the points.

Dellinger further clarified the situation: since the Call has been finalized and sent out, anything added would be part of the Mobilization program, in a form to be determined later; there was to be no discussion about adding to or changing the Call itself. A telegram from the west coast sent on February 27, copies of which were distributed, read as follows: "By a vote of 44 to 35 Bay Area members of the west coast steering committee meeting here tonight urge that if it is possible the national Call be revised as follows: Last sentence of next to the last paragraph before sponsors list be changed to read: 'We march to dramatize the world wide concern that the war end now in Vietnam. We call for a permanent halt in US bombing now, for a cease-fire of all sides now and US initiative now to negotiate a settlement that includes withdrawal of all US troops on the principle of self-determination by the Vietnamese people.' If this is impossible we are prepared to proceed immediately to print the call as prepared by you. Please respond immediately. (No Sig.)" Edward Keating said he was on tour when the telegram was voted on and that he opposed its contents, proposing instead adoption of a single slogan, "End the War in Vietnam Now."

Lengthy discussion revealed the main arguments of those opposed to adding any points to the program included: that a political program introduced at this late date into the Mobilization would be divisive and would alienate one or another section of opinion; that some, if not all, of the program points proposed were unacceptable, especially those calling for negotiations or cease-fire by all sides; that sponsors whose support had already been obtained on the basis of the Call would object to program additions made after their support was enlisted; that the addition of 3 or 4 points would not bring us large new constituencies of middle-class, clergymen, etc.

Those favoring the addition of the points raised the arguments: that at least

a minimum program was required to present to the public that everyone speaking for the Mobilization would adhere to for press and other publicity; that concrete proposals were necessary to convince new people that we were sincere, that the war could be stopped, and that they should take part on April 15; that much wider sections of the population could be involved with specific appeals such as "End the Bombing" and "cease-fire."

Abner Grunauer reviewed briefly the history of previous marches in New York with respect to the decisions on slogan policy that maintained the coalition of groups and he proposed formation of a slogan committee to bring in proposals for official slogans and slogan policy for the Mobilization on leaflets or posters.

A vote on two alternatives was taken: (1) To add political positions to the Mobilization program (not to the Call which was considered not subject to further changes) similar to the WSP four points or the west coast telegram's three points. (2) Not to adopt any such positions in the program, but to set up a sub-committee to propose leaflet and poster policy and slogans, as in Grunauer's proposal. The latter alternative was adopted, 19-7.

The following sub-committee was formed: Al Evanoff, Marty Davis, Sue Eanet, or Robert Gottlieb or other SDS representative, Cora Weiss, Harry Ring, Otto Nathan, Abner Grunauer, with Al Evanoff to convene.

6. APRIL 15 ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM: A committee was formed of Pauline Rosen, Robert Greenblatt, Rosalind Wells, Cora Weiss, Keith Lampe, Sumner Rosen, plus adequate representatives from the Fifth Avenue Parade Committee and the Student Mobilization to be convened by Brad Lytle and to report at the next meeting. Suggestions for rally speakers are to be referred to this committee.

7. STRUCTURE: Dave Dellinger read a Steering Committee memo regarding structure, staff, policy and decision-making procedures, relations with the Parade Committee, etc., largely summing up previous Working Committee decisions. A staff meeting on Friday, March 3, at 8 AM will go over staff questions more in detail. Any suggestions or proposals should be submitted for further consideration at that time. Dellinger proposed weekly meetings of the Working Committee from now on. Agreement was reached to meet alternately on Thursdays and Fridays every week, beginning with next Friday.

NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY, MARCH 10 7:30 PM in Room 408 at 857 Broadway (at 17th St.) in New York

ADJOURNMENT: 11:30 PM.