

confidential--for members only

MINUTES.....N. Y. SPARTACIST COMMITTEE

November 18, 1964

Present: Loretta, Harry, Roger, Lynne, Jim, Al, Shirley, Price, Dave (late), Peter (late); Others: Paul, Danny, Harriet

Absent: Tippy, Charlotte, Edith, Shane

Meeting convened at 8:15 pm.

- 1. Organization of Meeting: (a) Chairman - Shirley  
 (b) Agenda adopted  
 (c) minutes of 11/4 read and accepted.  
 (d) BA minutes of 11/3 read.

2. Membership:

Motion: To accept Paul as a candidate member.

Passed unanimously

[This new comrade is in his middle twenties, a factory worker and sometime night school student, was met by us and worked with in Harlem CORE, previously had been a long-time member of Black Nationalist groups.]

Motion: To accept Danny as a candidate member.

Passed unanimously

[This comrade is new to politics, is 18 years old, attends CCNY where met our fraction and joined us in preference to the YSA, PL, Draperite (SSU) and Marcyite groups working on campus] (Dave recorded a proxy vote in favor of the two memberships.)

- 3. Sales - Propose distribution of Spartacist No.2. at Jesse Gray meeting on Rent Strike. 2 volunteered.

- 4. Finances: On hand \$402.47; owed \$317. Spartacist No.3 will take all money on hand.

5. Information and correspondence - Jim

- (a) Letter from Bob H. of Nov. 12 available.
- (b) Newsletter of Oct.17 acknowledged our existence for the first time.
- (c) Marxist-Leninist Vanguard (POC) - latest issue attacks PL and us as paid agents of the State Dept.
- (d) Moscow News reprinted extract from 'Ten Days that Shook the World' mentioning Trotsky as a leader of the Revolution and as receiving 'sharp, tumultous cheering' by masses.
- (e) Letter from OAAU (Malcolm X) - acknowledging receipt of our Election Supplement.
- (f) Letter from Japanese Trotskyists acknowledging our publications.
- (g) Letter from YPSL acknowledging publications exchange.
- (h) Letter from Doug H. with attached material on political activity at Cornell. Has written Wohlforth inviting him to speak and requesting 100 copies of Bulletin for circulating. Jim phoned to clarify our tactics toward Wohlforth group. Letter referred to REB. Jim and Shirley will visit Ithaca separately prior to Xmas.

6. Special Point on Organization--Criticism of Roger's conduct:  
 Jim: On the Saturday night of the SWP election rally which was followed by a PL party and by a BCRDC party, Roger had accepted assignment to attend BCRDC, then refused, in front of Paul who was then a close contact. Since Roger then attended the PL party, it was only his personal preference which made him refuse to carry out his assignment. Roger acted as a non-member, not for the first time. While Jim is not bringing charges against Roger, he feels that his conduct represents a breach of discipline, and that this must not become a tolerated system of conduct.

Roger: Doesn't disagree with Jim's presentation of facts or with Jim's concept of discipline, but feels discipline was not involved in this case since Jim didn't have the authority to instruct him to go.

(Motion on procedure: to have one round of discussion with summaries in usual order. Passed unanimously.)

Disc: Harry, Lynne, Shirely, Paul, Al, Roger, Dave, Jim

(Special motion: to admit Harriet to the meeting upon her arrival.)  
(Passed unanimously)

8. Mass Work:

(a) New York CORE - Harry. Discussion of program expected at next meeting. We will make full presentation of our programmatic ideas. We will present motion to reject Funnye program and replace with grass roots approach.

(i) Membership Committee - Roger. Chrm. asked Roger to resign because she heard he was in CP, will be taken up at next membership comm. meeting. Roger will defend right of CPers to be in CORE, while distinguishing himself from CP over such questions as support to Johnson. If they want to kick Roger off, will have to take it to the membership.

Disc: Al, Jim, Harry

(ii) Housing Committee - Lynne. Our approach was rejected, with the decision being to work in Urban Renewal. Vote was 4 for urban renewal, 3 against, 4 abstaining. Disc: Al.

(iii) Employment - Harry. Leaflet being prepared on Ballentine boycott which incorporates our '30 for 40' demand.

(b) May 2nd Movement - Al. We missed first meeting of re-organized M2M, Al attended second. We pressed for genuine united front. Pretending to be liberals cannot build viable peace movement (see SPU). Must strike at heart of war system. M2M working to organize autonomous campus chapters and to establish national contact and coordination.  
 Disc: Dave, Jim, Shirley.

(c) Harlem Defense Council - Shirley.

No meetings since Shirley joined (Paul has also joined). Now concentrating on setting up 'Non-Partisan Defense Committee' to defend Epton and others charged with contempt of Grand Jury. HDC presently engaged in no other work.

Discussion: Paul, Harriet, Jim, Lynne, Roger, Dave, Harry, Peter, Lynne, Jim.

Suggestions:

- (1) that we intervene to politicalize the defense;
- (2) that the HDC should not exclusively concentrate on defense work;
- (3) Raise the question of Spartacist group participation in United Front defense work outside Harlem.

Motion by AL: Steering Committee should take up these questions and act on them prior to next meeting. HDC comrades should raise first 2 points with Epton, then SC prepare proposals for our intervention.

Passed unanimously

(Motion: to extend meeting to 11:30. Passed)

(d) Private Jesse Gray meeting - Shirley.

RAM contact told Shirley of Monday meeting of several Harlem organizations and people, incl. L. McRae, Unemployment Center, Shabazz, Gray, to form united coordinating organization of mass struggle and independent political action (7 orgs. present). Tone of militant reform, no organizationally concrete proposals. Will have future meetings. Disc.: Jim, Al

9. Campus Work

CCNY - Demonstration in solidarity with Univ. of Puerto Rico students consisted mainly of deBois Club and Youth Against War and Fascism members, an overly isolated demonstration. Disc.: Harry.

10. Branch Elections:

Motion: to have nominations at our next meeting and elections for SC and organizer at following meeting.

Passed unanimously

11. Spartacist No. 3 - Jim

All copy now in, issue out soon (before next meeting).

12. National Organization - Jim

Regularize functioning of REB. Regular meeting night set, with meetings at least once every 4 weeks. Travel planned, to Ithaca by Jim and Shirley, to West Coast by Lynne and Jim, to Chicago by Shirley and Al.

Motion: Amendment to motion passed at last meeting on use of NY minutes: That REB, rather than the local organizer, should pass on the draft minutes prior to stencilling.

Motion: To table till next meeting. Passed.

Announcement: PL Cuba party Saturday night.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 pm.