

confidential--for members only

MINUTES, N.Y. LOCAL.....18 August 1965

Present: Shirley, Dee, Mark, Peter, Lynne, Roger, Harry, Lyndon, Jim, Price, Dave R., Dave S., Helen, Paul (late), Sam (late) Other: Winnie, Carol

Absent: Shane, Hugh, Chris (sick), Al (on assign.), Tippy (l.o.a.)

Meeting convened at 8:20 p.m.

- 1. Organization of Meeting: (a) Chairman - Dave R.  
 (b) Agenda adopted.  
 (c) Minutes of 4 August accepted as corrected.

Motion: To admit Carol with voice. Passed unanimously

2. National Report - Jim

- (a) Miscellaneous- ACFI has agreed to revisions of Spartacist-ACFI election leaflet. Committee to Aid the Deacons (Austin, Tex.): press release printed almost in entirety in Amsterdam News (Harlem Negro newspaper) and elsewhere. Letter from Cliff Slaughter- There will be 2 conferences, one of those close to the IC and one broader. We have been offered vote in former if we will abide by decision. Letter is a friendly gesture of no immediate significance. Two more Southern applications received- REB will consider at next meeting. Production of drafts- (i) Mage's review article on Deutscher's trilogy; (ii) Hainline draft resolution on Stalinism is in the mail; (iii) draft statement directed to SWP convention.
- (b) Aftermath of Chicago-LA Riots: Following first night of police brutality outburst in Chicago, Jim suggested leaflet with following points: "Riots are the fault of the police not merely their everyday brutality but deliberate continuation of school segregation in Chicago, with authorities turning savagely against CR movement there; authorities getting what they deserve. Demands: Get the cops out, Free those jailed." Aim: To seek to transform riot into something else-- an organized protest around political demands. Martin Luther King called on L.A. cops to use "all necessary force" to restore "law and order". Use of slogan in Chicago "Drive Cops Out" rather than "Get Cops Out" was too flamboyant, not defensive. More serious, Jack inserted his own "Guerilla Warfare Everywhere" line. This shows lack of understanding. The world is more complex than this, consisting of peasants, workers, urban and rural, leadership, etc, not just the rising masses. On second night when our comrade Tony was passing it out, he was shot at by machine gun by cops, escaped over fence. Later Tony resigned (letter read; his reaction to the violence sounds like that of a naive and sheltered person, which he is not). Next night two white comrades carried supplies of leaflets into ghetto for distribution while wearing Spartacist buttons, were arrested for merely walking down the street. Danny was beaten and cops threatened to throw him from 6th story window. Press was looking for scapegoats, found us and ACT, a semi-militant, semi-nationalist organization. Two papers reprinted our leaflet in entirety. Bay Area: comrades convened United Front meeting of radical groups and got agreement to work to see if they could involve community organizations in a solidarity demonstration around slogan "Withdraw Cops and National Guard from Watts"; we have not yet heard the results. Hartford, Conn.- Our comrades there have worked for a few years with a teen age Negro group and were invited to participate in a joint solidarity demonstration. They prepared a leaflet for the demonstration, and one was arrested. Chicago- will have meeting featuring Paul G. from NYC and the arrested comrades to launch defense campaign if necessary. Our comrades

facing the most serious charges of all arrested. Danny interrogated by FBI while in jail. Al has left for Chicago; they have secured a lawyer.

We must absolutely maintain a common front with our Chicago comrades in their leaflet, despite its simplistic mistakes in line. N.Y.- We will hold a heavily publicized meeting and if necessary launch legal defense committee.

Disc: Roger, Lyndon, Peter, Dee, Mark, Lynne, Shirley, Roger, Dee, Sam, Jim, Mark, Jim, We must call upon the general civil rights movement to undertake the legal defense of the 4,000 jailed in L.A. mainly on felony charges.

3. Local Action on Riots: Free University has been requested to let us hold a Forum meeting. Disc: Roger, Carol, Sam, Jim, Harry

Motion by Dee: To hold our own Forum a week from Fri. or Sat. and one person to organize it. Amdt. by Harry: To seek to involve other groups on the Left.

Disc: Roger, Shirley, Jim, Dee, Harry, Carol, Jim, Carol, Shirley, Lynne, Harry, Dee, Sam, Lyndon, Shirley, Roger, Jim, Paul, Peter, Harry, Dee, Shirley.

Motion passed

Motion by Roger: That our fractions in HOC and the Garment center push for a joint rally in Harlem on the riots.

Discussion: Dee, Peter, Helen, Roger, Dave S.

Vote: For- Roger, Peter, Dave S., Dee, Helen  
Opposed- Jim, Shirley, Mark, Paul, Dave R.  
Abstaining- Sam, Harry, Lyndon, Lynne

Motion failed

Statement by Jim: ~~He abstained because~~ motion implies conclusion of a discussion not yet held. Disc: Shirley

Motion by Jim: That this question be taken up again when discussion has been concluded.

Vote: All for, but Paul opposed.

Motion passed

4. N.Y. CORE Economic Opportunities Committee- Harry  
Leaflet distribution for Garment Center Rally will be this and next Monday. Rally will be noon August 30. Speakers will include an HOC representative. Disc: Helen

Minutes should reflect that last Saturday we had 18 members in the field: 2 with HOC, 10 petitioning for SWP, 8 with PL, 2 to Welfare Workers Viet Nam Committee demonstration. This Sat. we should have a small number to follow up, and Saturday following have second and last petitioning mobilization.

(Motion: To extend meeting till 11:30 p.m. Passed.)

5. SSEU - Lynne  
Some on SSEU exec. are red-baiting Viet Nam committee, challenging right of union delegates to be on it. Disc: Lyndon

6. Exec. Report- Chris

A motion was passed in the Exec. that Shane must attend one of the next two local meetings and every other local meeting thereafter, and must turn out for one mobilization every two weeks (when we have one mobilization per week). The question was raised of Mark's and Tippy's low level of activity. Shane is to be reminded of the REB's minimum.

Disc: Sam asked to have someone else work with him on Workers Action Committee. Hugh and Helen were suggested as possible people to work on Wash. Heights Viet Nam Committee. Mark stated he had been working in the daytime and going to school nights plus personal preoccupations and that is why he has not been more active, and now is planning to leave the area. He will therefore apply for member-at-large status. Jim reported Shane said he intends to be considerably more active in Spartacist this fall.

7. Harlem Viet-Nam Committee.

Roger and Peter feel that the Vietnam war is the major issue today and that therefore our Harlem fraction should build a Harlem Viet-Nam Committee.

Disc: Shirley, Helen, Lynne, Mark, Dave R., Mark, Sam, Lyndon, Paul

(Motion: To extend meeting till 12 p.m. Passed.)

Motion: To table discussion at end of first round. Amdt. To continue discussion at special meeting next week.

Passed as amended

Reconsideration of Roger's motion: To instruct our HOC and Garment Center fractions to push for a joint meeting in Harlem on the riots.

Vote: For- Dee, Mark, Sam, Dave S., Roger, Peter

Against- 0

Abstaining- Lynne, Shirley, Helen, Lyndon, Paul, Dave R.

Not Voting- Jim (out of room)

Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 a.m.