

confidential--for members only

MINUTES, N.Y.LOCAL.....24 March 1966

Present: Price, Helen, Shirley, Roger, Lynne, Danny, Bob, Ron, Peter, Winnie, Lyndon, Paul, Jim, Al, Hugh, Shelly, Harry, Sam(late)

Absent: Jack, Dave, Phil, Shane, Hammett, Tippy(l.o.a.)

Meeting convened at 8:15 p.m.

- 1. Organization of Meeting: (a) Chairman - Shirley  
 (b) Agenda adopted  
 (c) Minutes of 10 March adopted

2. SSEU - Lynne

We have now begun the organization of the Militant Caucus. At last membership meeting we distributed leaflet "Clients & Caseworkers" inside the meeting hall. Outside 17 copies of Bulletin containing our article on Welfare election were sold. There were about 200 people at meeting. Judy Mage asked for copy of Bulletin, said about the article, "It's full of lies and intellectually dishonest". We must now proceed forthwith to first meeting of Caucus. Geoff G. of ACFI seems very sensitive to criticisms of our actions by union leadership and our political opponents. We haven't seen Hammett for several weeks. Lyndon is drawing several in his Welfare Center around him on Vietnam issue.  
 Disc: Roger, Shirley, Lynne, Roger

Motion: To table further discussion till next meeting and have the fraction bring back a report. Motion lost

Motion: To have one round of discussion, 90 seconds each. Passed

Disc: Jim, Lynne, Harry, Lyndon, Roger, Peter

Motion by Harry: To have discussion on Woman Question at meeting in near future.

Amendment: Discussion should be on Family Structure and Society. Accepted

Amendment: The Incoming Exec. shall schedule the discussion. Accepted  
Motion Passed

3. ACFI Unity and International Conference - Jim

Special REB Meeting. Motions passed on the performance of our delegation at the Conference: (1) We must have a decisive vote; (2) On the Cuban Question--the only point of qualitative difference between ourselves and IC--we want to make this our principle theoretical contribution to the Conference (However, agenda is not yet known). We will oppose adoption of a formal position on this question at the Conference as there has been no prior discussion and no documents; adoption of a position at this meeting could only be viewed as an attack upon us. (3) Our delegation will have plenipotentiary powers in line with line of our organization and with motions adopted at this REB meeting. Our delegation will consist of Robertson, Gordis, & Rose, with alternate Mark. ACFI delegation consists of Mazelis, Freeman, and Terry V, and will not have plenipotentiary powers. H. has denounced Wohlforth for refusing to attend.  
Joint Spartacist-ACFI Membership Meeting: Draft document we presented was exact expansion of outline accepted by JUC 2 months ago. Wohlforth said no unity on the basis of this document is possible. Most of his comrades dissociated themselves from him, but later he was able to line them up on going to England with 2 documents rather than trying to amend or expand draft outline we presented. Wohlforth indicated there must be a struggle before unity can take place, threw unity process back to last summer's position. Wohlforth is in a bad position because his own membership and the IC now favor unity.

Wohlforth also stated he was in agreement with every word of our document! (Refer to Lenin's Collected Works, document "The Fundamental Tasks of the Communist International.", presented to the 2nd Congress--this document has the structure Wohlforth deems pernicious.) Wohlforth's attack on unity has resulted in our having more contact with ACFI members who favor unity, but basically means more trouble. Wohlforth has been under close observation since Northern Conference and has mainly made helpful, though small, contributions on JUC, but has not given us any real information about his group and developments while we have been open with him. It is obvious that to Wohlforth unity is unprincipled. But unity will take place, though Wohlforth is hostile. We propose in the American Commission to set date for Unity Conference (July 2-4??). We will also take the various bits and pieces we have, some from ACFI drafting delegation, and ask American Commission to help put American document together. It appears a hard anti-unity faction may be crystallizing in ACFI. Wohlforth now wants to suspend the Bulletin; he has a history of refusing to function when under pressure and things going against him. He has now lost 3 organizations through his tactics: the YSA, the majority of the original Tendency, the majority of the Wohlforth-Fox grouping, and now may be losing his 4th group. Jim will make a gesture of explicit, personal collaboration to Wohlforth before leaving.

Disc: Al, Harry, Sam, Roger, Lynne, Helen, Shirley, Bob, Ron, Lyndon, Roger, Al, Shirley, Harry, Jim, Price

4. Fifth Avenue Peace Parade:

Joint Spartacist-ACFI work session to prepare for parade. Sam (as well as Jack, Bob and Shelly) worked very hard in preparing signs: 150 made, 70 with "Withdraw..." slogan, and 40 each "Vietnam-Watts..." and "Victory for the Revolution...", half signed and half unsigned. Al went to meeting of Parade "monitors", there will be no organized self defense. As Halstead of SWP, head of the monitors, put it, "its being left up to each monitor's conscience." We will march with NLF Committee and Tompkins Sq. Committee. We will join with them for organized self-defense. 3,000 leaflets announcing Jim's talk will be distributed with our political leaflet on the back. We will concentrate on the students and youth and will also have Spartacist contingent selling ACFI Bulletin. We will meet on SW corner of 93rd and Madison. Disc: Roger, Price, Hugh, Lynne, Sam, Helen, Paul, Shirley, Price, Al

5. Public Meeting:

Literature - Helen; Chairman - Al; Mailing List - Winnie; Door - Roger. Admission - 50 cents. Be sure to bring contacts. Party at Lynne and Jim's on Saturday. Sunday afternoon is East Coast Conference, featuring International Report.

6. Local Elections:

Motion by Roger (tabled from last meeting): To add 2 alternates to Exec.

Disc: Roger, Lynne, Al, Helen

For: Roger and Jim

Opposed: Price, Helen, Shirley, Lynne, Bob, Ron, Winnie, Al, Hugh, Shelly

Abstaining: Harry, Peter, Paul, Lyndon, Danny

Motion lost

Nominations for Exec: Roger, Helen, Bob, Hugh, Al, Shirley, Paul, Lynne, Lyndon, Sam were nominated. Paul, Lynne, Lyndon and Sam withdrew.

Nomination for Secretary - Lynne

Harry recommended elections be postponed 2 weeks in view of late hour.

3 want to speak.

Motion by Harry: If there is discussion that we table elections till next meeting

Disc: Al

Motion lost

Disc: Roger, Harry, Al

Procedure: No bulleted ballots.

Vote:

Executive Committee; Shirley - 17; Al - 17; Hugh - 11; Bob - 16; Helen - 14;  
Roger - 10. Shirley, Al, Bob, Helen & Hugh were elected.

Organizer: Al - 13 (out of 14 votes cast)

Secretary: Lynne - 12

Sales and Circulation - Sam and Shelly - 14 each

7. Announcements:

(a) Epton Rally, 4/2 at 110th and Bwdy at 12:30 p.m.

(b) Militant Labor Forum - Dobbs, "What Program for the Anti-War Movement?".  
Shelly, Roger and Al

(c) New Exec. meets Thursday.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.