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MINUTES, N.Y. LOCAL.....10 March 1966

Present: Jim, Shirley, Tippy, Roger, Al, Price, Jack, Helen, Lynne, Winnie, Hugh, Lyndon,
Shelly(late), Sam(late), Peter(late) Others: Bob

Absent: Harry(exc.), Ron(exc.), Danny(exc.), Dave, Paul, Phil, Shane, Hammett

Meeting convened at 8:30 p.m.

Motion: That Bob be admitted with voice.

Passed S

1. Organization of Meeting: (a) Chairman - Jack
(b) Agenda adopted
(c) Minutes of 24 Feb. adopted

2. Membership:

Motion: To accept Bob's transfer (from Chicago) to the N.Y. Local. Passed

3. General Information and Correspondence - Jim

- (a) Bill F. transferred from N.Orlins to Austin. Bonnie S. has applied for membership in Austin OC. This makes 5 members there. Larry I. has formed Marxist discussion group at Bard College (NY).
- (b) Call from Doug H. and Dave L. of Bay Area. Work that Doug was to accomplish there has not come off. Chris and Dee will go to BA this fall; Doug will return to Ithaca. BA's inability to form a student base remains a problem.
- (c) YSA Convention, last weekend. For the 1st time since founding of YSA there was no opposition presented. Steve Fox was not permitted to appeal his expulsion. Fraserites' car broke down en route from Seattle and they never reached Convention. Doug Hadd of Chi. planning to join us at Unification Conference.
- (d) Baltimore: 4 comrades coming into NY this weekend: Bob K., Joe C., Jim M., and Kelly, a worker-friend of Joe's.
- (e) Ithaca: Al to speak there this weekend.
- (f) Press: Latest issue of Challenge has article by Ed Clark of events centering around Al's Baton Rouge appearance--omitting mention of Al & Spartacist! Writing out of existence the central figure is an old Stalinist tactic, and we will expose this through Bulletin article. Red Flag of 3/66 contains bitter attacks on Healy and Castro.
- (g) DuBois Clubs: Defense demonstration at Foley Square tomorrow at 4:30 pm.
- (h) Berkeley comrades have entered UF with Draperties over Polish Govt.'s jailing of Trotskyists. An old Trotskyist and group of radical students around him have been convicted & sentenced to several years. When sentence was announced, courtroom stood and sang the Internationale and were roughed up by police.
- (i) State of Unity developments: Wohlforth expressed surprise recently at idea of Unity Conference as he thought unity was to take place at April International Conf., and others of his group are also unaware that a Founding Conference was agreed to at Northern Conf. This is peculiar. Letter from Slaughter has word "delegate" crossed out several times with "observer" written over it. This may be because prior to Northern Conf. we had requested fraternal status only; however, at Northern Conf. we agreed to accept decisions of the April Conf., entitling us to full delegate status. This will be clarified through letter to Slaughter.
IC Delegation: White cannot go. REB has designated 2 delegates, Robertson and Gordis, with possible alternates Rose and Mark. (NOTE: since REB meeting we have learned Wohlforth has accepted a much needed job and will not attend Conf. Mazelis will head ACFI delegation. This indicates Wohlforth is not expecting a struggle there.)

(j) Latest letter from Sebo read.

Disc: Roger, Shirley, Lynne, Al

4. Public Meeting - Al

Jim will speak on "Castro's Right Turn and the 'Third World' Crisis", has been rescheduled to 27 March to avoid conflict with SWP meeting on same topic, at which latter we will intervene. Our meeting will be at Beacon Hotel, 75th & Bwdy. Leaflets will be distributed at SWP meeting, DuBois demonstration, Columbia, and at International Days of Protest Parade, among others. Comrades should start now to mobilize their contacts for this meeting as it will be a very important one.

5. March 26 Viet Nam March - Jim

At noon we will assemble in same manner as on 16 Oct. and will use same slogans, need 100-150 signs. We will form a large block with our signs and distribute them as widely as possible to others around us. We will form a defense squad for our section, as violence against us is anticipated. Our other task will be to distribute our meeting leaflet heavily before March starts. We will have an all-out mobilization. Since Peace Parade Committee has an open policy on signs this time, we can function openly. Should contact NLF Committee beforehand. Need work party Wed. beforehand.

Disc: Hugh, Tippy, Roger.

Motion by Jim: If the Exec. Committee can superintend the development of sufficiently correct and good copy for a leaflet on Vietnam, that we mimeograph this on the back side of our meeting announcement.

Amdt. by Al: To set an absolute copy deadline of 21 March for copy.
(Amdt. incorporated).

Motion passed unanimously

Motion: To constitute Bob, Tippy, Roger, Helen and Peter (volunteers) as leaflet committee.
Passed

6. Joint Trade-Union Caucus Meeting - Helen

Last meeting accomplished little. Meeting tentatively set of 13 March will probably be cancelled.

7. Welfare Union (SSEU) - Lynne

First fraction meeting set our fundamental strategy, of forming caucus, and to this end we are passing out first leaflet, on subject of attacks on Harlem welfare workers, at membership meeting Wednesday night. Leaflet will be issued under name "SSEU members for a Militant Caucus". Helen has been elected alternate union delegate from her center. Bulletin containing our article on recent union elections will be sold outside meeting.

8. CORE - Hugh

Employment Committee to meet in one week with officials of Plasterers' Union about discrimination. One member of union will appear with Employment Comm. CORE is now involved in case of a Negro woman who was forced by 4 white cops to lower her pants in the back of a Harlem bar "to prove she was not a transvestite". CORE had several picket lines at police station and rally at 125th & 7th Ave. 10 were arrested at 32nd Precinct, and CORE chairman, Roy Innis, framed on narcotics charge. Trial tomorrow. Slogans used by CORE include call for Civilian Review Bd. and black police captains to Harlem. We opposed the second and opposed the illusions created by the first. We raised self-defense in place of call for black cops, were defeated 13-5 with 4 abstentions.

Disc: Shirley, Tippy, Lynne

Motion: To put Peace Parade back on the agenda. Passed

Motion: On the basis that the Peace Parade Committee has rescinded its one-slogan position and has agreed to permit all slogans, we should rejoin the Committee. (We won!) Passed unanimously

Motion: To proceed to action points and table rest. Passed

9. Local Organization and Functioning:

Al announced that starting with the next meeting, local meetings will start no later than 8:15. Meetings will continued to be scheduled to begin at 8:00. Disc: Helen, Jack, Jim

Presentation by Jim: The NY Local is not functioning well and is not cohesive. Many comrades have developed defense mechanism so that almost every aspect of their personal lives comes first. Organization has become extremely sluggish. Everyone thinks someone else will do what needs to be done. This is not a Bolshevik attitude. One of the most striking results is that we are not recruiting. We don't go after people. We just let 2 prime contacts slip through our fingers; though we initially had as much or more influence with them, they joined ACFI. This local is in sad shape despite the fact that we have a lot of able and devoted people. But they are not producing. No active Organizer since Jim held the position and the Exec. is a joke. An appeal must be made at this point to the consciousness of every member. We want to go into unity in good shape. If we don't straighten up, a purge will be in order through the rigid enforcement of our past decisions. We have poor social composition and operate in a rotten social milieu. Student work is especially poor, and we lack a continuing public face. We need a class. Suggests as new Exec: Al, Bob, Shirley if Paul away, one of Lynne, Lyndon, Helen, one of Hugh, Sam, Roger.

Nominations for the Exec. were opened. Roger, Helen, Bob, Hugh, Al, Shirley and Paul were nominated.

Motion by Roger: To add 2 alternates.

Motion to table Roger's motion. Passed

Motion by Roger: To establish post of Asst. Organizer to carry out functions of Organizer in his absence.

For: Roger Opposed: all else except... Abst.: Peter, Tippy
Not Voting: Jim, Lyndon, Winnie Motion lost

Al was nominated for Organizer,
Helen was nominated for treasurer,

Motion: That for the next period with a single NY Local ~~Committee~~ that we continue to operate with a fused national-local treasury and treasurer.

Passed

Sales and Circulation= to be shared by Sam and Shelly.

Announcements: Wohlforth party Saturday, 8:30 p.m.
TU*ists Party for Bill Epton Saturday, Central Plaza Annex
Local 1199 Jubilee, 20 March, 7:30 p.m.
N.Y. CORE party, 14 March 100 W. 82nd.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.