

POLITICAL BUREAU MINUTES.....19 February 1968

Present: Full: Henry, Robertson, Stoute, Turner, Nelson  
Alts: Small, Ellens, Janacek Staff: Martin, Gordon

Absent: Alt: Glenn  
Meeting convened 9:30 p.m.

- Agenda: 1. Minutes
- 2. General Information and Correspondence
- 3. TSU Five Case
- 4. N.O. and PB Functioning
- 5. Policy on Party Pseudonyms
- 6. Press
  - a. SPARTACIST #11
  - b. Bound Volume
  - c. Long-term Possibilities

1. Minutes: Several sets of back minutes are not available except in draft: Spartacist-ACFI 8th Unity Negotiating Session, 8 October 1965; National Conference, 3-5 September 1966; enlarged PB, 26 December 1966. We have a current backlog, of which almost all are in draft form: 19 December PB; 26 December PB; enlarged Central Committee Plenum, 30-31 December; 23 January PB; 30 January PB. All other minutes have been mimeographed and circulated.
  
2. General Information and Correspondence:
  - a. Iowa City: Comrades have raised \$30 from sale of 2 pints of blood.
  - b. Austin: Friendly, fraternal letter received from ex-member Mike Cooke, expressing agreement with our Arab-Israeli line.
  - c. PFP: 5 February New York Times reports that California Peace and Freedom Party plans to run Huey P. Newton as one of its candidates. Newton, Defense Minister of the Black Panther Party, is supposed to have shot and killed a cop in self-defense and thus makes a very satisfying folk hero. PFP, as a result of a deal made with the Panthers in its drive to get enough signatures to get on the ballot, now has a large black constituency. We have also heard that the CP has made a turn and will support and enter PFP, which will destroy ISC control over PFP, now ISC's front group.
  - d. CP: We have heard from Stanley Aronowitz (CIPA) that the CP is having serious internal difficulties resulting from the involvement of young CPers in New Left milieus and the growth of the DuBois club. The struggle has revolved around the editorship of the new CP daily paper. This trend may be characterized as New Leftist and tending to a more radical orientation within the continuing Moscow-Stalinist framework. They have forced a change in line more toward Black Nationalism.
  - e. PL: In NYC almost all of Progressive Labor's Negro cadres have broken away--David Douglas because of a personality clash and McAdoo allegedly over the handling of the Epton case. PL's only leading Spanish-speaking cadre, Genoveva Clemente, has quit and moved far to the right. PL is continuing to recruit from the student milieu.
  - f. MLCRC: The NYC Militant Labor Civil Rights Committee has drawn up and is distributing thousands of a programmatic leaflet to members of local 1199 of the hospital workers, which is moving into negotiations for a new city-wide contract.

- g. Chicago SL: Our comrades intervened in two recent important events. At the national Student Mobilization Committee conference they distributed a leaflet, had a lit table and collected many names for the mailing list. They report PL made little headway in its call against the student strike and for SMC to dissolve itself. At a Midwest PL student conference our comrades passed out a substantial leaflet, "Where is PL Going?"
  - h. Spark: West Coast PL has suspended its publication in favor of circulating their national publications and local newsletters. Disc: Ellens, Stoute
  - i. NYC: The NYC SL is holding a five-part public class series on Marxian economics taught by Joseph Seymour.
  - j. Hainline: Has received orders to Vietnam. He has been lumped in with other marginal elements being sent over without security clearance. One factor in his assignment may be his company commander, a Green Beret who has read Mao and is interested in talking with "commies". Hainline will go across the country on his leave. Helene will remain in the Bay Area for some time after his departure.
  - k. Spartacist-South: Our planned story on the Laurel strike has been covered by the Southern Patriot, CP-backed Southern civil rights newsletter.
3. TSU Five Case: Trial of the Texas Southern University Five is about to take place. Our press release on the case was carried in full in Inner City Voice, a radical Black Nationalist Detroit paper. Several of our locals have been publicizing and exploiting this case: Houston, Iowa City, Ithaca, New Orleans. Comrade Joe V. reports this case has stirred up more hell in New Orleans than even the "Nelson incident". The Southern Patriot has also given the case heavy coverage. Comrades nationally should bear in mind the CC Plenum's motion to implement TSU Five defense fund-raising and publicity. Disc: Ellens
4. N.O. and PB Functioning: Presentation by Turner: The failure to get SPARTACIST #11 out has raised the question of our functioning. The delay was reaching the point where it was beginning to make the organization look sick nationally and internationally. There has been a loss of confidence in the leadership by comrades nationally and a growing mood of cynicism and discontent. Discussed this with a couple of comrades initially, and the heat engendered may have been a factor in finally getting out the issue. It was most disturbing that nobody seemed to know when the issue was coming out. There was a tendency for comrades to be afraid to forthrightly ask Robertson about this. The relation between Robertson and the PB as a collective body is not balanced; the PB functions as a sounding board for his ideas and not as a collective. There is a superstitious attitude toward Robertson's authority among the PB; comrades come to PB meetings not prepared to make contributions politically but rather to receive words of wisdom. The comrades must do their homework and must display more initiative. There is also a tendency to neglect other aspects of party work in order to concentrate on trade union work, perhaps because this is an area where we can call our soul our own. It is necessary for us to begin to make some plans for SPARTACIST #12

while waiting for Comrade Cunningham to arrive and get settled in New York.

Disc: Robertson, Ellens, Gordon, Janacek, Turner, Robertson, Ellens, Gordon, Robertson, Janacek, Robertson, Small, Janacek, Robertson, Ellens, Robertson, Ellens, Robertson

Motion: To table the balance of the agenda to the next meeting.

Passed

Meeting adjourned 12:10 p.m.