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Resist Board Meeting Minutes

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Resist Board Meeting, Nov. 17, 1968

Resist

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The meeting was held at Robert Zevin's house in New York City. Attending were Grace Paley, Dick Ohmann, Paul Lauter, Robert Zevin, Richard Mumma, Bill Davidon, Florence Howe, Louis Kampf, Mitch Goodman, Frank Joyce, Dan Stern. Others present were Adrienne Rich, Alfred Conrad of the CCNY Faculty. Sherry Baird and Arlene Siegel of the Newsletter staff, Allan Brick of FOR and Bob Parsons of the office staff.

The next Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled for Saturday Dec. 14 in New York City.

NAG (National Action Group) & Milwaukee 14

At a meeting in Baltimore Nov. 7th no specific financial commitments were made to Milwaukee support group. NAG has to make clear how much support it is willing to give them. At their meeting on Dec. 10 NAG will probably supply a salary for an M-14 coordinator. RESIST should be prepared to contribute up to \$250 for this salary.

Bill Davidon reported on a film made in Philadelphia on the Melvilles. NAG probably should provide money for making prints and circulating the film.

There is also a T.V. Film of the M-14 action itself - Paul will investigate getting it.

Art Sale

The sale of art works planned for next Spring will be held in New York, but not in Boston. Grace Paley is looking for a gallery.

Fund Raising

Several techniques for fattening the financial larder were discussed. Mitch will compose a funding appeal to certain literary big shots. Richard Mumma and Louis will consider an appeal to the Civil Liberties Legal Defense Fund list. Dan Stern described his United Radical Appeal. There was some discussion about the best way to approach potentially heavy contributors - It is important that these people be approached personally and with forceful finesse. There was disagreement over whether Dick Nixon's election can be used to motivate donations, i.e. are people really aroused by his imminent reign? Richard Mumma and Dick Ohmann will each try approaching a fat cat and laying down the argument for supporting RESIST'S activities. They will report on the effectiveness of this technique.

Resisters themselves should also be invited to parties where they can make a pitch for funds. And, we should probably resume the practice of making a pitch in each Newsletter.

There was considerable feeling that local adult support groups and faculty groups have not been organized to provide funds. Local contacts should plan fund-raising parties to benefit both the local movement and RESIST'S bank account. RESIST would provide a prominent speaker for the party.

Paul will check on RESIST making an appeal in the Radical Education Project newsletter, and will volunteer to send out their literature list with our Newsletter. Dan will check on putting an appeal in "Stars & Stripes for Peace".

*** a choice lunch was served ***

Sanctuaries

Louis, Arlene and Sherry reported on the MIT sanctuary for Mike O'Conner. Major points were that it was carefully planned in advance, Mike himself is politically savvy and articulate, there was substantial support from faculty, non-MIT people there were not allowed to take over. Planning had not gone beyond the first week so the second week was not as effective as it might have been in developing new lines of action for the sanctuary "community." There will be a more complete report in the next Newsletter.

Alf Conrad reported on the very different sanctuary at CCNY. This one was not planned in advance, poorly directed, and at all times in conflict with the school administration and most of the faculty. Opposition to the sanctuary focused on "vandalism", pot and sex," while the substantive issues of illegitimate authority were ignored. Although generally committed to non-violence, the sanctuary community was involved in a few near-confrontations of questionable value. Alf stressed the blanket indifference and hostility of the faculty, and the hysterical priggishness of the college president.

The office staff will attempt to put together a detailed memo describing sanctuaries. This should include some thoughts, perhaps out of the MIT experience, on dealing with the knowledge that the man in sanctuary is not going to escape arrest.

There was some inconclusive discussion on the possibility of holding sanctuary in the UN headquarters. The Quaker Action Group in Philadelphia will be working on that.

CARD Turn-In

Cards collected on Nov. 14 are being sent various places including to Ramsey Clark, the UN, Madame Riehn of the NLF delegation in Paris. Other suggested repositories for them were college presidents, mayors, Catholic Bishops. Generally local groups should choose where to send the cards for maximum effect.

Amnesty and Deserters

Allan Brick reported on the campaign for amnesty. This will be a cooperative effort made by several peace groups coordinated by FOR. Activities will include petitions, pamphlets, prison demonstrations. We should collect data on political prisoners and deserters.

Grace reported on the trip to visit deserters in Sweden and France. There is a serious split in organizations supporting them, with the American Deserters' Committee taking a hard political line which tends to exclude many deserters. The split has also led to mutual suspicion. It was suggested that mothers of deserters be enlisted in the amnesty campaign.

Coffee Houses

Oleo Strut (Texas) - 1st and most successful, took a strong political line, now is losing customers from base who are afraid of reprisals. Two emergency grants in two months.

Mad Anthony's (Missouri) - now closed, lack of customers, northern club entertainment not appropriate, too heavily political.

Shelter Half (Tacoma, Wash.) - new and struggling

Two houses that Tom Hayden and Rennie Davis were supposed to start were never opened.

Others in Omaha, at Fort Ord, and Chicago as well as one planned in Hawaii

Financing is a major problem. It takes about \$10,000 to start one and this money is needed in other projects.

Robert Zevin made the following recommendations for Resist's support of coffeehouses - a) funds be raised locally, b) a central committee would provide talented entertainers c) civilian lawyers would be made available to people arrested in coffee-house-initiated actions d) formation of a new corporation which would support coffeehouses, provide them with legal assistance and raise funds. (A meeting for this purpose is planned for Dec. 15) These recommendations were accepted.

Bob Rosenthal and Greg Finger should be contacted on the legal aspects of this.

Funding

Funding requests this month far exceeded the available funds. The following decisions were made:

WDRU-Milwaukee \$500 granted for press

WDRU-Milwaukee: \$200 now, \$150 next month for highschool organizing

"Links" highschool newspaper(WDRU-Madison): \$300 for each of two months

Pittsburgh Peace and Freedom Center: \$150 for newspaper. It should be made clear that we can't give continuing support and we should suggest that they hold a local/national fund-raising party.

Cincinnati Draft Information Center: \$300 granted for general business operations.

Milwaukee Resistance: \$500 now seed money, and \$500 next month if they are getting local support

Columbia College Citiz...: \$300 for each of three months, for 4-part organizing program Council

Austin, Texas to set up draft counseling centers in the four-state area: no funds granted now we will ask for a detailed program of organization, and will suggest other sources.

East Boston, high school coffee-house; no funds granted, although we may give up to \$200 for them to use in fund-raising. Other sources will be sought.

NAG: we will earmark \$250 for expenses related to salary for M-14 coordinator.

James Oss, New Jersey state coordinator: no funds granted while Robert Zevin talks with him to clarify the possibilities of establishing a state organization.

NSA: all requests denied, except that RESIST will make its counseling kit available to those who request literature from NSA, and may help with distribution of Resistance pamphlet (Ferber/Harris). Paul will suggest changes in the proposed Nation-wide Teach-In.

Counter - Inaugural

Arthur Waskow's proposed scenario was generally considered unfeasible. We will wait for further plans, and if it's becoming a Movement convention, we'll try to take part.

Repeal the Draft Campaign

Discussion was favorable, but the proposal must include a positive alternative to the present system, and an educational component on militarism. Since it is to be a broad-based campaign, funds should be available from more "legitimate" groups, and RESIST will not need to contribute. Grace will find a delegate from Support-In-Action for the December 14, meeting.

Trial of the Boston 4

January 5th is the date for presentation of arguments in the appeal. Mitch says the press will focus on Arthur Goldberg, an abominable situation. He proposes a press conference in which he would explain just why he considers Goldberg to be a war criminal. Perhaps this could be brought out in the context of a large teach-in which Hilde Hein will investigate. Further consideration is scheduled for next S.C. meeting.

Membership on the Steering Committee

There is general agreement that the Committee should be expanded to reflect our broadening constituency and to bring in more working members to share the load. Suggestions included a national meeting, local workshop meetings, a conference called on a specific, immediate issue, and no meeting at all. No decision was reached.

High School Organizing

During the meeting there were several comments which emphasized that high school

STATEMENT - NOVEMBER 14 1968

1. Mitch's letter
2. CUDF List
3. Parties & Dinners
4. People arraigned
5. Art Show
6. Prof. Fund-raising
7. Newsletter
8. Ad in ^{school} papers
9. Don looking into

BALANCE OCTOBER 13th

\$5,985.08

DEPOSITS

new pledges	\$ 100.00
old pledges	3,220.00
contributions	741.27
NY Review	473.00
New Republic	725.00
kit	47.00

5,306.27

TOTAL TO NOVEMBER 14th

11,291.35

DISBURSEMENTS

7,440.46

I. Grants

A. Regular	1,290.00
B. Emergency	780.00
1. Shelter Half (100)	
2. Vietnam GI (500)	
3. Ohio Resistnc (100)	
4. NJ Resistnc. (80)	

TOTAL GRANTS 5. Ohio stnt (150)

2,070.00

II. OPERATING EXPENSES

Payroll	1,281.00
Office (Taxes-acctnt.)	1,173.51
Postage	472.00
Printing	961.15
PR & Advertising (NR ad)	1,227.80
Travel	255.00

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES

5,370.46

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS

7,440.46

BALANCE NOVEMBER 14, 1968

4,254.21

ENCUMBERED

Hanley Sound	360.50
Rush Printing	92.70
Lillian Zevin	640.00
Grants	250.00

TOTAL ENCUMBERMENT

1,343.20

UNENCUMBERED BALANCE

1,343.20

2,911.01

~~2,911.01~~

Number of new names added to the mailing list this month 360 - most of these have come in thru New York Review and the New Republic ads.

Twenty new pledges have been added this month.