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Resist Board Meeting, Dec. 14, 1968

Resist

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The meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM. In attendance were Paul Lauter, Florence Howe, Louis Kampf, Noam Chomsky, Robert Zevin, Dick Ohmann, Dan Stern, Frank Joyce and Grace Paley. Helen McCormick (former Resist office manager), Bob Rosenthal (CLLDF), Arlene Siegal (Newsletter editor), Karen Weinberg and Bob Parsons also attended.

I. FUNDRAISING

There were a total of nine ways suggested for raising money in the future:

1. place an ad in Stars and Stripes magazine- Dave Miller, who helped edit and place the ads in New Republic and New York Review, will be asked to help with this.

2. hold a fund-raising dinner in New York- Hans Koningsberger and Dwight MacDonald will be asked to help. NY Support-In-Action will take care of the mechanics.

3. show Michael d'Antonio's Year of the Pig and collect proceeds- Robert Zevin is checking on this.

4. continue working on the Art Show that Harold Tovish has been organizing.

5. arrange a series of Benefit Poetry Readings to be help on various college campuses and cities throughout the country. In order to organize this successfully either someone will have to be full-time coordinator or there will have to be an anchor-man for each of the large cities on the east and west coast. Florence feels that between 10-20 poets will participate. Robert Bly (who has already done this sort of thing) will be contacted, letters will be written asking other poets and, possibly, a brochure will be written explaining the series.

6. Mitch Goodman is drafting a letter to send to potential large contributors.

7. members of the steering committee will take it upon themselves to persuade wealthy people who are sympathetic to the Movement to make a sizable contribution to Resist.

8. postage costs to cover newsletter mailing will be collected from all those on the mailing list who want to continue to receive the newsletter. This is one part of a two-fold attempt to determine (at least approximately) who of the present mailing list (5500) are interested enough in Resist and the newsletter to return a "resubscribe" form that will be enclosed in three consecutive newsletters. The form will give the reader an opportunity to a) send $3 to cover postage costs for the newsletter, b) indicate that he still wants the newsletter but is unable to pay, c) contribute to help the work that Resist does, and d) make a first payment towards a monthly pledge. The form also provides space to add new names to the mailing list, and to make suggestions for the newsletter. If the form has not been returned by the time several weeks have elapsed after the third form is received, the person will be taken off the mailing list and put into the inactive file. (This means he will no longer receive any regular mailings.)
II. ALLENWOOD PRISON "A Celebration of Conscience"
This program was theoretically conceived as one part of a "free political prisoners" campaign, but as it has developed, it is going to be non-political. There will be day and evening workshops, Dec. 20-21.

III. END THE DRAFT
Grace Paley will continue attending meetings and acting as the Resist liaison. A major concern of the people at their organizational meeting was that the drive to abolish the draft not lead to a volunteer army instead. A large sum of money was contributed at this meeting.

IV. M-14
A book, Delivered into Resistance, will probably be out in January. It will contain essays by several people including Staughton Lynd, Barbara Deming and others. The M-14 are also putting out a regular newsletter and Resist should carry parts of it as a special feature in every issue of the Resist newsletter and also tie in the M-14 with other events taking place in the Movement. State charges may be pressed sometime in January, but the M-14 probably won't organize around this. Resist still has $250 committed to the M-14, but response from other NAG groups has not been good.

note: Phil Berigan and Tom Lewis are out on bail.

V. JANUARY 6-BOSTON 4 APPEAL DATE
Boston Support is organizing a teach-in around this event. Hopefully, several purposes will be accomplished; fund-raising, publicizing the other, less well-known, political indictments in the Boston area, and generally bringing people not actively involved closer to the movement. Speakers will include Ferber, (hopefully) Spock and Coffin, defense lawyers, local members of the M-14 and representatives of the 43 Boston area resister§ now under indictment.

VI. HIGH SCHOOL ORGANIZING KIT
Karen Weinberg and Allan Berube (both from the Resist office) are working on this. So far they have simply picked up leads and either written or called people asking for two things; copies of all the material they have on h.s. organizing and, more important, written reports of personal experiences in h.s. organizing. In a sample questionnaire that is sent to people, there are several questions that attempt to establish the kind of h.s. (suburban, black urban, etc.), attitude of faculty and administration, local support, etc. This, hopefully, will be more useful than a general and theoretical report. In order for this project to be successful, it will be necessary to compile as thorough a list as possible of people and groups who are doing organizing. It was suggested that a notice requesting any relevant information be placed in various journals and underground papers. It was also suggested that in conjunction with the personal reports, examples of organizing materials used by various groups be sent to Resist contacts. In trying to get names of people doing organizing, it was learned that many organizers (at least in the Boston area) are doing more harm than good. A typical tactic is for an organizer to enter a highschool where he knows no one, distribute leaflets, perhaps talk to a few students and then either leave or get kicked out. The need for orientation workshops is apparent but almost impossible to set up on a large scale.
VII. PLANS FOR THE INAUGURATION

Discussion focused on three questions - Should Resist 1) publish a call for people to attend events on Inaugural weekend? 2) Endorse the plans published by National Mobilization? 3) Sponsor a conference of Resist's affiliates to discuss the movement's present status and future strategy?

Arguments made in favor of participation in and endorsement of the Inaugural events were: a) There is a need to "keep the streets open" against mounting repression. b) There is a need for a symbol of continuing opposition at the Inauguration. c) There is widespread interest among movement groups in some form of action then. In general, participation was urged not so much for public relations effect, but as a means of strengthening intramovement relationships.

Opponents of participation argued that:
1. There is evidence that not a large number of people intend to take part - several groups have already decided against participation.
2. The Washington D.C. police are relatively sophisticated and won't provide the newsworthy spectacle of another "Chicago".
3. The events planned, and those likely to take place, are more likely to divide - rather than unify - the youth from the older wings of the movement.

Opponents of a Resist-sponsored conference felt that the movement people in D.C. at that time would not be representative of the strongest parts of the movement, that it would be difficult to hold a useful conference in the excited atmosphere likely to exist then, and that a more carefully planned conference later would be more useful. There was also some feeling that a conference should be held in the Midwest.

The Committee reached a consensus on these points - 1) There would be no endorsement by Paul of the Mobe's plans (but this isn't intended as a precedent for prohibiting other members from making endorsements as individuals.) 2) There will be no Call by Resist for people to participate in events planned for that weekend or Monday. 3) There was a tentative decision to hold a workshop in Washington that weekend for "whoever happens to be in town".

VIII. WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

Frank Joyce reported on the continuing military/police repression in Wilmington. Although there is not martial law, Guard units still patrol with state police escorts. Repression has succeeded in destroying the black power movement there. There is no local legal help, and those arrested remain in jail. It was suggested that the NYR would print a letter containing an appeal for funds. Resist will send a $200 grant and $200 "loan" to assist the formation of a "committee to free Wilmington". Paul suggested that ACU and Quaker people from Philadelphia and Washington would help.

IX. FUNDING

1. New Jersey Resistance- (James Oss), for state-wide organizing denied
2. BDRG- for printing copies of "Vietnam G I" to be distributed in Boston $50
3. People in Ann Arbor connected with REP Radical Educ. Project)- for establishing a cooperative print shop, held for further investigation
4. New England Free Press- capital funding for "Leviathan magazine" Louis is seeking other sources of financial support for them.
5. Oakland Opposition Center- for program expenses $180/mo for 3 mos.
6. Fargo--Moorehead Draft Center for seed money $85/mo for 3 mos.
7. Student Organizing Committee (Chicago)- for high school organizing $250 now, $150 next month
8. National Student Association- for the next Draft Counselor Training Institute $400 unless CLLDF will fund it.
9. Boulder Colo.- held for further investigation.
10. New York Resistance- for establishing Resistance commune Support-in-
   Action has taken care of it.
12. SSOC-Lynchburg College- for mimeo machine $15
13. Wilmington, Del.- for committee to free Wilmington(see p.3) $200 grant
   and $200 loan.
14. Donna Michelson-coffee shop coordinator- for travel expenses $100

We remain committed to assist financially with the organization of an
umbrella corporation for servicemen's projects; see below.

X. U.S. SERVICEMEN'S FUND
This is to be an umbrella corporation to further servicemen's projects,
especially legal defense. Hopefully it will gain tax-exempt status in New
York. Resist will recommend that Florence Howe, Frank Joyce, Robert Zevin
and perhaps George Hein be on its board of directors. Financial support
will be sought from Emergency Civil Liberties Committee for the legal
defense program.

XI. COMPOSITION OF STEERING COMMITTEE
Florence Howe was officially inducted into the Steering Committee. Several
people are being invited to the next meeting more or less as prospective
new members of the Committee.

XII. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
1. The Newsletter will report on the arrest by Japanese police of an American
deserter who was turned over to Americans. Beheren(Japan) has called for
international protest of the arrest.
2. International Committee for Disarmament & Peace needs financial help and has
gotten little aid from U.S. groups. Noam will write to our major affiliates
(FOR, SANE, SDS, etc.) asking them to cooperate with us in placing an
ad in NYR to benefit ICDP. Jerry Grey is attending its Conference in Sweden
for Resist.
3. Noam reported that there are approximately 4000 American deserters in
Canada. The Canadian government is being quite helpful, but prefers that this
situation not receive a lot of publicity.

XIII. RESEARCH STRIKE AND WEEK TO END CAMPUS MILITARISM
As an outgrowth of the MIT sanctuary, a one-day strike of researchers at MIT
is planned for March 4th. It is receiving very substantial support and the
idea is spreading to other campuses.

Paul has proposed to NUC that there be a Week to End Campus Militarism,
probably the week after the research strike. This event should focus on
American militarism both abroad and at home, i.e. counter-insurgency work
being done on campuses. It should try to get into more substantial issues
than campus recruiting and ROTC. There was general enthusiasm among
Committee members for these projects.

**** Working-class kids can be organized, reports Dan Stern on the basis of a
project in Lakeview, Ill.

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Next steering committee meeting will be held either Jan. 11 or 18 in Cambridge.
STATEMENT - DECEMBER 12, 1968

BALANCE NOVEMBER 14

DEPOSITS
pledges 2,540.00
contributions 1,393.34
TOTAL TO DECEMBER 12th 3,933.34

DISBURSEMENTS

I. GRANTS *
A. regular grants
Milwaukee Resistance 500
Cincinnati Draft Project 200
Peace and Freedom (Pa) 150
Links 300
WBUR Milwaukee 700
Fargo Moorhead Draft Ctr. 50
Donna Mickelson 100
Peacemakers 100
Clergy and Laymen Concerned 100
PISS 50

B. emergency grants
James Oss (NJ organizer) 100

TOTAL GRANTS 2,350.00

II. OPERATING EXPENSES

Payroll 707.00
Office 543.63
Postage and Mailing 402.76
Printing and Copying 679.99
Public Relations - Advertising 300.00
Kit 41.95

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES 2,675.33

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS 5,025.33

BALANCE DECEMBER 12, 1968

ENCUMBERED
Rent 130.00
Gnomen Copy 43.07
Lillian Zevin (loan) 340.00
Grants 550.00
TOTAL ENCUMBERMENT 1,063.07

UNENCUMBERED BALANCE 2,097.93

* Bob Zevin $300 to Columbia Citizen Council