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Resist Board Meeting Minutes

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### Resist Board Meeting, Feb. 15, 1969

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## RESIST STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES

New York City

FEBRUARY 15, 1969

Members attending: Bob Zevin, Bill Davidon, Dan Stern, Florence Howe, Dick Ohmann, Paul Lauter, Noam Chomsky, Louis Kampf, Richard Mumma, Grace Paley. Others present: Tom Hayes (Clergy & Laymen), Helen McCormick (formerly in Resist office, now at Friends World College), Arlene Siegel & Chris Stevens (Newsletter), Leonard Boudin (eminent lawyer on our side), Greg Sandow & Bob Parsons from office staff, Greg Finger (CLLDF).

### I. SWEDEN

Clergy and Laymen is sending Tom Hayes to Stockholm where he will establish a support service for deserters there. Tom outlined the pros & cons of establishing a house which would serve as a center for the deserters. Resist is being asked to provide some financial support (see funding section), but it is important that we avoid favoring either of the groups there.

### II. OFFICE REPORTS

1. Art Show - Slow progress is being made for the show at Spectrum Gallery in New York. Wende is working on this in the office.
2. Mitch's Funding Letter - This is being typed in the office (individual copies) and signatures will be added with rubber stamps.
3. Civil Liberties Legal Defense Fund mailing for Resist - We are using their mailing list, and hope to have it in the mail by Feb. 21st.
4. High School Organizer's Kit - The first collection of organizing materials is nearly assembled; the next step is to have these reproduced in quantity to be sent out. We now have a list of about 100 people who have expressed an interest in this project. When the first packet is ready to mail, we will advertise it and the draft counseling kit in the Guardian and New Left Notes.

### III. POLITICS & PROGRAM

The Committee spent several hours discussing political analysis and seeking ways to apply the analysis to a program. The Committee had before it a National Action Group proposal for a series of loosely defined actions over April 3-6, and this proposal provided a focus for the discussion at several points.

Mike Zigmund (Support, in Boston) sent a letter urging that support for Resisters be continued and structured more effectively. It was pointed out that Resisters have generally not been effective political organizers. Group sentiment favored our continuing to seek ways to aid resisters and politicize people in their home communities.

Dan Stern urged a much greater emphasis on working-class/under-class organizing. Much discussion focused on questions of our ability to move in this direction, but consensus strongly favored such a move. (NB Funding of Black Panthers).

Bill Davidon stressed the need for continuing the specifically anti-war actions in the face of public apathy about the war. Hans Koningsberger warned that the Government is becoming increasingly sophisticated in removing issues from public contention. Consensus also favored our continuing to seek ways of dramatizing the war.

The following questions seemed central: Should we and can we re-activate the anti-war constituency? What capacity have we to organize on working-class issues? Are we willing to risk the support of our constituency by sharpening our political actions and education, particularly as we emphasize issues that are not specifically anti-war?

The Committee eventually reached agreement on a package program for continuing anti-war work. The general idea is to use a series of public events to educate people to the ceaseless atrocities of the war, thereby at least maintaining a flame of protest, and hope that this momentum will eventually connect with objective events (like a major Administration blunder) to precipitate the sort of dramatic, disruptive protest which has in the past tended to push the Government toward a Vietnam settlement.

The package consists of the following: the March 4th Research Strike, the Week to Confront Militarism on Campus, a tour of poets highlighted by Allan Ginsberg & Robert Bly, a speaking tour by Peggy Duff & Claude Bourdet on behalf of ICDP (International Committee for Disarmament & Peace), and possibly a climactic event around May 1st (merely a gleam in the revolutionary's eye at this point).

A major tool in this campaign is to be a new manifesto issued by Resist. It will expose the greatly escalated violence in South Vietnam, the Government's suppression of information about this, and it will tie in issues of domestic repression. This manifesto is intended to educate our constituency along the lines of the analysis outlined above. Bill Davidon will write it with advice from the brothers and sisters.

There was no strong inclination in the Committee to devote much energy to the NAG project. We will cooperate where appropriate.

#### IV. MISC. BUSINESS & Vietcong

A. The North Vietnamese/in Paris would like discussions with North American specialists in various disciplines who can explain what political leverage might be exercised. It was suggested that these specialists might come from cities on the Poets' Tour. (?)

B. Coffeehouse operators are running into heavy opposition. Harrassment takes a heavy toll, and it now appears that heavy political program only provokes a reaction which threatens the life of the coffeehouse. A more subtle and patient program may be wisest now. Resist probably should fill two vacancies on the board of the U. S. Servicemen's Fund.

C. Hester Butterfield - wife of an imprisoned resister - has forwarded a prisoner's request for contact with "writers and thinkers." [Hester has since explained to the office staff that this was not a request for a whole project, and she will find out more about just what prisoners desire before asking us to proceed. She has been asked to consider taking responsibility for the long-dormant Resisters Bill of Rights project.]

V. Next Meeting will be held in Cambridge, date to be determined. Committee Members paying their own transportation will divide up costs evenly, if all are amenable to this arrangement.

#### VI. FUNDING - See page 3

VI. FUNDING

	Feb.	March	April
A. Southern Student Organizing Committee, Charlotte, N.C.: Resistance & community organizing. Salary.	\$100	100	100
B. Bill Hart (ex-GI), Tuscaloosa, Ala.: seed money for draft counseling	up to \$200 authorized if it looks like a good project.		
C. Ann Arbor printing co-op: to set up a movement print shop.	encourage them to raise money in their relatively wealthy area.		
D. Tom Hayes, CALCAV, going to Stockholm: aid to deserters	up to \$250 authorized		
E. Montreal ADC: to build political program among deserters.	postponed until political situation clarifies.		
F. Salt Lake City Resistance: seed money	\$200 authorized, but we'll try to get some evaluation of the people involved first.		
G. "Narodniks", a film of the Palo Alto Resistance caravan: printing expenses	Zevin will try to raise money for them.		
H. "Where It's At", GI newspaper in W. Berlin: for distribution.	\$200 once; Paul will ask Jerry Grey to raise money in England.		
I. CADRE (Rick Boardman): \$1000 requested for expenses on national Resistance conf.	request denied. NB This is <u>not</u> intended to signal any indifference toward resistance work.		
J. Black Panther Party of Ill.: communications equipment; community patrol; movie equip. for education program; office expenses. NB. The political implications of this grant were discussed at length. The Committee is aware that such a grant probably risks some portion of Resist's constituency.	\$650	\$200	\$200
K. "Vietnam GI" anti-war GI paper: for production and distribution.	\$800		
L. Bill Bloom, chpl., French Reformed Church, Paris: rent of an apartment for deserters/resisters	\$100	100	100
M. Prisoners Information & Support Service (PISS), Boston. continuing education & newsletter on prison & prisoners.	\$75 indefinitely		
N. John Toler, Underground Railway, Stockholm: We are asking radical journals to donate subscriptions to <u>both</u> UR & ADC. We think it best that housing come through Tom Hayes (see minutes I), and we will provide \$250 for his use (item D, above). Susan Sontag will be asked to help with their film expenses. We will try to find musical instruments (or \$) in New York and Boston. In all of this, we try to avoid exacerbating conflict between UR & ADC.			

FUNDING REQUESTS for the meeting of Feb. 16, 1969

I. Current Requests

- ✓ 1. Columbus Draft Project      Hugh Matthews wrote telling them that he'd heard they'd already received money, but if not, that the steering committee would grant them \$100. No answer received.
  
2. SSOC      \$100/month - subsistence salary      100/3 mo ✓  
Jim Grant
  
3. Bill Hart(ex-GI)      \$385 to start a draft counseling center      up to \$200  
Tuscalossa, Ala.
  
- ~~4. Milwaukee Resistance      request cancelled~~
  
5. Ann Arbor Printing Co-op      funds to set up a co-op printing shop - hope they will only need "seed" money, and then become self-sufficient.  
Postponed for month
  
6. Underground Railway      general funds to help deserters in Sweden  
Stockholm Sweden
  - a. Communal House 200/mo.
  - b. Emergency fund (to help newly arrived deserters) 50-100/mo
  - c. spending money 75-100/mo
  - d. Publications- either money to pay for several radical magazines, or the subscriptions themselves
  - e. musical instruments- to set up a band - or, help getting the instruments wholesale
  - f. film - \$100 to complete a film that is already begun.      100
  
7. Tom Hayes (sponsored by Clergy and Laymen)- contribution to the total amount needed for program money for Tom who is being sent to Stockholm to work with American Deserters.      up to \$250  
wor
  
8. Montreal ADC      money for general expenses
  
9. The Shelter Half      \$250 for rent, fuel and insurance bills  
Tacoma, Washington
  
10. Salt Lake City Resistance      \$370/mo. for six months - general expenses      \$200  
Salt Lake City, Utah
  
11. Narodnits      \$800
  
12. Where IYS AT      \$1500      200 ✓
  
13. Ca dre      \$1000
  
14. Chicago Panthers      800 + 400/3      650 + 250 + 250  
800
  
15. Vietnam <sup>Dave Komatsu</sup> GI.      1000 - P.O. Box 9273 / 60690      100/mo
  
16. Bill Bloom, Paris      - ~~150~~ 150/
  
17. Piss      - \$75/mo instead of \$      25/mo

FINANCIAL REPORT - FEBRUARY 14, 1969

Statement

Balance - January 10th 2,810.73

DEPOSITS

PLEDGES (410)	3,791.35	
CONTRIBUTIONS	1,283.43	
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM "resubscribe"	1,322.00	
TOTAL DEPOSITS		<u>6,398.78</u>
TOTAL TO FEBRUARY 14th.		9,207.51

DISEURSEMENTS

I. GRANTS

A. Regular grants		3,540.00
Brethern Crusaders	50	
Atlanta Workshop	100	
Charlottesville Draft Op.	100	
Delaware Peace Action	300	
Oakland Opposition Ct.	360	
Fargo-Moorhead Draft Info.	170	
Student Organizing Comm.	150	
Detroit Resistance	320	
Austin Draft Info. Ct.	400	
Donna Michelson	250	
American Deserters Comm.	100	
Pa. Resistance	500	
The Victory Press	300	
John Phillips - PISS	40	
Columbia College Citizenship	300	
Peacemakers	100	
B. Emergency grants		175.00
WDRU - Racine	100	
SSOC - Jim Grant	75	
TOTAL GRANTS		3,715.00

II. OPERATING EXPENSES

Payroll	1,197.00	
Travel Expenses	<del>100.00</del>	
Office Expenses	508.13	
Kit (Pa. Resistance for "Exiled")	300.00	
Printing and Copying	3.19	
Taxes	746.25	
Loans (\$90.00 of which has already been returned)	110.00	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		<u>2,964.57</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		6,679.57

BALANCE FEBRUARY 14, 1969

2,657.44

ENCUMBERED

Rent	130	
Telephone (approx.)	150	
Payroll (maximum)	900	
Grants		1180
Delaware County Peace Action	100	
Austin Draft Info. Center	150	
Peacemakers	100	

TOTAL ENCUMBERMENT

1,530.00

UNENCUMBERED BALANCE

1,127.44  
11.80  
2807