Resist Board Meeting, April 13, 1969

Resist

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Recommended Citation
Resist, "Resist Board Meeting, April 13, 1969" (1969). Resist Board Meeting Minutes. 11.
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AREA PEOPLE'S MEETING: WED, APRIL 30th AT LOUIS' APARTMENT.

Members present: Frank Joyce, Dick Friedman, Noah Gomsky, Louis Kampf, Florence Hunt, Paul Lauter, Bill Davidson, Dan Stern, Robert Zevin,

Area People: Ron Hais, Hugh Matthews, Wayne O'Neil, George Heim, Doug Mcary, Saul Slapoff, (Bob Rotstein?)

Guests: Greg Finger (CLDF), Nathan Pusey (Harvard University.) Office Staff: (Casso appearances)


REPORTS

I. Office - It's doing better than last month. The desertion rate is nearly equal by enlistings. In fact we are operating at less strength at the moment. (The illusion born out of a one-day lull) The best news is that Arlene Siegel, editor of the Newsletter, will come to work full-time after giving up her MIT job.

II. Week to Confront Campus Militarism - It did as well as could be expected, actions taken place at about 35-50 campuses (rough estimate), though by no means are all of these a response to our sponsorship of the Week. The Week project raised several political and practical questions about new Resist functions. These questions are discussed in Bob Parsons' "Heat & Potatoes" essay which is enclosed.

III. Poets Tour - 26 poets participating, 10 good coordinators in the cities, anticipating fairly good profit.

DISCUSSION

A rambling discussion touched on several familiar arguments. The most persistent disagreement concerns Resist's ability or inability to make useful connections with working class or underclass groups. We have, of course, funded such groups since the early days of Resist. But there is a feeling that such groups represent a revolutionaryanguard that we should be seeking them out in order to find out how we can help them. There is also considerable skepticism about this evaluation and about our fitness (as white, mostly academic, relatively privileged persons) for the task of locating the groups, understanding intra-group rivalries and providing substantial support for their work. We might also be swamped with requests.

The above is also related to the aims of any "traveling" that is to be done in the name of Resist. Brother Stern's letter (enclosed) exposes that conflict.

There was a consensus at the end of the discussion in favour of the policy guidelines contained in "Heat and Potatoes." It was agreed that up to $300 could be used for a trip by someone from the office to certain existing Resist contacts. The purpose of this trip would be to find out more concretely than we can from occasional correspondence just what our contacts are doing and how we can support their work. It had also been suggested that we send out a traveler who would seek out specifically working & underclass groups. The consensus was to postpone a decision on that kind of trip until the next meeting - in the meantime certain S.C. members are to visit such groups in their cities to see if we can make a useful connection. (In Boston we have had a useful talk with the Black Panthers and expect a funding request from them. The people we spoke with seemed quite eager to cooperate with white radicals within certain fairly obvious limits.)
Running through the discussion was the old question about Resist's "constituency," who it is, how it can be maintained, what it will contribute funds for.

Any summary of these discussions is necessarily subjective and selective. My apologies to anyone who feels that this summary is inadequate.

Greg Sandow proposed that Resist officially express its support for the oil strikers in California and the Black Panthers who are being systematically persecuted. Noam suggested that the best means of support for the latter would be a good article in "Commentary," and that the oil workers' strike is a rather cloudy issue. Perhaps we should initiate an anti-repression campaign, e.g., teachins, etc. Maybe we should encourage regional conferences on repression. There is an anti-repression campaign going on the West Coast which we should find out more about (Don Kalish et al - can you help us on this?)

In an effort to facilitate policy decisions, the agenda for the SC meeting will be circulated in advance of the meeting. Please send the office a note listing topics you want on the agenda.

Greg Finger gave a report on CLLDF whereabouts. He described the cooperative military law project as creating military law centers to provide lawyers; and train lay-attorneys; and service a national board of attorneys. Greg also volunteered his advice on how to raise money. He has had large success with direct mailings.

Greg Sandow explained Cambridge Iron and Steel as a group made up of Old Moler's, EIRG'ers, and SDS'ers who have been entrusted with a large sum of money-----$100,000------. The gift came without strings attached and the group is open to proposals for funding from anybody... Send proposals to Greg c/o RESIST.

Bill Davidson reports on the April Action in Philly. A sit-down was staged by over-draft-aged people at a draft board who read the list of 33,000 dead. The feeling of the Steering Committee was that it was a good idea to go ahead on plans for a similar reading in General Hershey's office, now being planned by Quaker Action Group and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. A good idea to get nationally prominent people in on this. Hugh Matthews was named to draft a letter to "good" contacts to stimulate national sit-ins at various local boards. Date will probably be May 29th.

Stockholm Conference: May 16-18 Noam Chomsky will probably attend.

THE RESIST OFFICE IS IN DESPARATE NEED OF A MIMEOGRAPH MACHINE. IF YOU KNOW WHERE WE MIGHT GET ONE, CHEAP!, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

Next Steering Committee Meeting is May 18th in New York. at 7:00 PM

Funding Requests Granted:

"El Grito del Norte"
Oakland Draft Help
Resist (in Tuscaloosa, Ala.)
"Rough Draft"
Young Patriots
Resist (SIVIS)
South Bay Peace Center
DC 9 Defense Committee
To: All members of the RESIST steering committee

From: Paul Lauter

Subject: Restructuring the Steering Committee

April 19, 1969

We have talked about restructuring for a long while now, and it seems finally that we will be doing that job at the next two meetings. Many of us are, frankly, tired and overworked; we need new energy and new ideas. And broader movement relationships, too.

We are therefore inviting a number of possible new steering committee members to the May meeting in New York (May 18, 11:00 a.m., at the Zevins'). A number of people were suggested at the last meeting, and are being contacted, and a few other names have been proposed since. If you have any further suggestions whom you would like to invite, please give me a call before you do so, just to keep things from getting too big too fast (I'm at 301-252-1517; 10 LanLea Drive, Lutherville, Md. 21093).

The other decision we took was that we ought not to keep on the steering committee, for simple formality, or a letterhead, those of you who don't feel you can give your time to the organization just now. We divide pretty much in two: those who either come regularly to the meetings or keep in touch by letter or phone and work on projects, and those who don't. I don't think I've written to everyone in the latter category about continuing; if I haven't before, please now let me know if you want to stay on beyond next month. If I don't hear from you (or see you at the meetings), I'll assume you want to drop off.

“We believe . . . that every free man has a legal right and a moral duty to exert every effort to end this war, to avoid collusion with it, and to encourage others to do the same.” From A Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority
"Tonight we're not saying anything unless it's significant."
STATEMENT - APRIL 11, 1969

BALANCE MARCH 14

DEPOSITS
PLEDGES
CONTRIBUTIONS
TOTAL DEPOSITS
TOTAL TO APRIL 11

DISBURSEMENTS

I. GRANTS
A. REGULAR GRANTS

- The Resistance (Denver) $100
- Times Up $50
- Hartford Draft Action $225
- Arkansas Peace Inf. Ct. $90
- Pa. High School Project $100
- The Resistance (Seattle) $150
- SDS $320
- The Resistance Eugene $200
- The Detroit Collective $350
- Young Patriots $100
- American Deserters Cont. $100
- Clergy and Layment $250
- Peacemakers $100
- PISS $75
- Black Panthers $250

B. EMERGENCY GRANTS

- El Grito $100
- Dan Swinney $200

TOTAL GRANTS $2,460.00

II. OPERATING EXPENSES

- Payroll $1,060.06
- Travel Expenses (inc. Resistance) $256.30
- Office Expenses Conference $590.32
- The Week $548.23
- High School Kit $65.20
- Printing and Copying $195.58
- Postage and Mailing $308.10
- Poetry reading $56.25
- Loan (repaid 4-11) $200.00

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES $3,280.04

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS $6,040.04

BALANCE APRIL 11, 1969

Encumbered

- Rent $130
- Telephone $200
- Payroll $1,060
- M 1/4 Mailing $120

Grants

- The Resistance Denver $100
- Ark. Peace Center $90
- The Resistance Eugene $200
- Detroit Collective $250
- Peace Makers $100
- PISS $75
- Black Panthers $250

TOTAL ENCUMBERMENT $2,575.00

UNENCUMBERED BALANCE $3,750.77
FUNDING REQUESTS FOR APRIL 1969

1. Atlanta Workshop in Nonviolence, Georgia.
   For coffeehouse and Institute for the Study of Nonviolence.

2. Oakland Draft Help, Calif.
   For continuing support of counseling center.
   \$200/mo - Dec. 1968

3. Resist, Tuscaloosa, Ala. (Bill Hart)
   For additional seed money (we funded him \$200 in Feb.)
   to maintain a counseling center.
   \$208

   For GI newspaper

5. Young Patriots, Chicago.
   For meeting hall rental, food & clothing welfare, political
   organizing. (We funded them \$100 in March)
   \$100/mo/3 mos.

   Seed money for new office. (We are awaiting more specific
   request and a report from Ron Halstead).

7. "El Grito del Norte", Espanola, N.M.
   For printing and community organizing.
   \$350/mo/3

8. Resist, Southern Missouri State, Springfield, MO.
   For mimeo machine.

9. Committee for the 27, SAN FRANCISCO & WASHINGTON
   Requests from both offices: SF request apparently is intended
   to go for legal defense. Washington request presumably is for
   their office expenses. It's probably all one bag ultimately.

10. Note: George has made two out-of-pocket grants to South
     Bay Peace Center, Redondo Beach, Calif.

OTHER REQUESTS: over
a. Oregon
b. D.C. 9
salary, buttons, $125 + Mark