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Minutes of the RESIST Steering Committee Meeting

New York City, Saturday, December 5, 1970

ATTENDING

Steering Committee: Bell Chevigny, Noam Chomsky, Mitch Goodman, Florence Howe, Frank Joyce, Paul Lauter, Dick Ohmann, Grace Paley, Dan Stern, Barbara Webster, and Robert Zevin.

Staff: Todd Manley, Claudette Piper, Arlene Siegel.

Area People: Wayne O'Neil and Susan Rozen.

Guests: Shawn Donovan, Barbara Carson, Bob Nichols, and Michelle Russell.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Our income has gone up again since the elections: last month pledge income was back up to \$2400; contributions, which had been down considerably, were very good. We had \$2600 to give away. After setting aside \$800 for the poetry reading expenses, we were left with \$1800 to use for grants.

OFFICE REPORT

Todd will be leaving in January to work full-time with his collective. Claudette would like to work at the New England Free Press, but there will not be any staff openings for several months. Arlene plans to apply for the fourth Venceremos Brigade and will go to Cuba if accepted. All this means that at least one person must be hired soon. Sue Rozen and Shawn Donovan have been doing volunteer work and may be interested in joining the staff.

MIDDLE EAST DISCUSSION

Noam spoke first of his view of the Middle East situation: he believes that the war has changed from one of resistance to one between states and that it will be suicidal. The Palestinian guerrillas were severely hurt by the past several months' events in Jordan and have retreated into strongholds in the north. In response to questions from Todd, Noam acknowledged that the guerrillas, particularly Fateh, have organized social programs which have been successful in giving spirit to the people in Palestinian refugee camps. However, he does not believe that the guerrilla groups have any politics; Dan argued that they have developed as much politics as had the Vietnamese and the Chinese at comparable points in their struggles.

Noam said he was disturbed by what he feels is irresponsible encouragement of the guerrillas by groups on the Left in the U.S. and elsewhere; he feels we have deluded them into expecting much more concrete support than we can hope to provide. Arlene asked why we shouldn't try to build this kind of support, as we do for the Vietnamese, instead of doing nothing because we can not live up to the Palestinian's expectations. Noam responded that to support the Palestinians at this time was to encourage them toward suicide, since they do not yet have a base for people's war. Noam feels that only through coalition with some disenchanted Israeli groups can the Palestinians hope to win, that they must begin by recognizing the existence of Israel.

It was agreed that we must begin to educate our constituency about the Middle east through the newsletter. Paul suggested that we begin by comparing the claims of the zionists and the arabs. We should also try to show why the Palestinians have felt their only hope is to take up arms. Mitch suggested that we relate the U.S. need for Mideast resources (oil) to our analysis of imperialism. Noam countered by saying that U.S. support of Israel along with Zionist lobbying in this country, is rooted in the revival of the Cold War ideology and re-alignment. Israel, he said, is the Southern part of a pro-U.S. presence in the Mediterranean which includes Greece, Spain and several other countries. The office will do this in one or two articles for the coming newsletter; Noam will be available for consultation

REVISIONS OF THE NEW CALL

The proposed text for point six of the new call, which had previously been written by Florence, revised by the staff, re-written by Florence, and re-revised by Resist women in Boston, was read and generally approved. People then went over it line-by-line to edit and shorten it. Minor corrections were made on the other proposed changes. When finally edited and polished texts of all changes are ready, copies will be circulated to all steering committee, staff and area people by the office.

REPORT ON WAYNE'S TRIP TO THAILAND

This past summer Wayne went to Thailand to evaluate the Peace Corps TEFL (teaching English as a foreign language) program. He also talked with Peace Corps people about their position, which they didn't find strange even though they were quick to point out their opposition to the war. Through his travels and discussions with Americans and others, Wayne found that the Northern two provinces of Thailand are no longer in government control; they are now in the control of the native men and women of the area. Thailand, unlike the other countries in the area, has always had a landed peasantry. Now the peasants are losing that land to usurers and are being forced to go into the cities, especially Bangkok, by the thousands. Wayne's report was rejected by the Peace Corps. Given the usefulness of the trip, and the possibilities for gathering information and making contacts in the war area on similar trips, people wondered whether he should have written a report that the Peace Corps wanted to hear. (Then the report might have been accepted and, more important, he might have been able to make the follow-up trip which had been scheduled for January.) People wondered how other radicals could get into positions where they could make similar trips at government expense, whether this is a good idea, and what they should do while on them and afterwards. Wayne has written an article about the trip for the New York Review of Books.

PEOPLE'S PEACE TREATY

Paul distributed copies of "some thoughts and proposals on the People's Peace Treaty" in which he proposes that current civilian treaty negotiations, e.g., between U.S. and Vietnamese students and scientists, and women, be focused around a People's Peace Convention in mid or late March. Discussion on the goals and politics of the treaties followed. Bob Zevin said that the most valuable aspect of the treaty would be the writing of the document by many groups and that it would not matter if there were a thousand versions. Bell said that when people had

worked to write a document that they had a right to expect something to be done with it. In light of people's experiences with the Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention, reservations were expressed about a convention format.

We reached no decisions on how we would relate to the Peace Treaty. Paul will continue looking into it, and someone will attend the National Meeting in Chicago on January 8-10 at which time the treaty will be discussed.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Michelle Russell is undecided about joining the steering committee. Dick Mumma and Dick Flacks have been dropped from the steering committee. Noam will write Franz Schurmann to ask him if he still wants to be on , and if he can occasionally do Resist jobs; if he feels that he is too involved in other projects, Noam will ask him to suggest a replacement. We agreed that Susan Sontag should be written the same kind of letter, but no one volunteered to write it.

Bob Zevin asked if our goal was to pack the steering committee with half women, and we decided that it was. Judy Chomsky and Norma Becker will be asked to the next steering committee meeting.

POETRY READING

Paul said that the MLA will not allow its rooms to be used for a poetry reading unless we agree not to ask for money. It was agreed to rent 13 billboards in prime New York sites and run the following advertisement: "The Modern Language Association is a pig chauvinist racist organization that profits from the war and hates Resist."

At this writing, we have rented a ballroom in the Barbizon Plaza and will hold two poetry readings on the 29th. The room holds 505 people and rents for \$375 per performance.

ADVERTISEMENT

Three drafts for the ad were read and discussed. We decided that we wanted to use Dick Ohmann's text with a few additions and minor changes in emphasis. Everyone agreed to send their proposed changes to Dick by Wednesday; he will incorporate suggestions and return the draft to the office for circulation to the steering committee. The ad will then be published in mid-January in the New York Review of Books, the Village Voice, probably the L.A. Free Press, and several college newspapers, such as The Harvard Crimson, Michigan Daily, Daily Cardinal, The Austin Texas paper. We may also try to run it in the Bay Area Guardian.

OTHER FUNDRAISING

Paul asked the staff to obtain mailing lists from peace candidates. If the organizations are unwilling to part with their lists, then Paul is willing to expose their politics in letters to several papers.

FUNDING

1. Center for Draft Counseling and Peace Information, Santa Rosa : Postponed.
We will send them our list of "socially conscious church groups"
and refer them to ~~Franz~~ Schurman. If they then still need money
they can re=apply with an up-dated request and budget.
2. CNVA Military Counseling Training Conference: \$55
3. Black People's Community Fund: Postponed. Wayne will write to find out more.
4. The movement Workshop: \$200 contingency. Dick Ohmann will visit them. If he
approves and they need the money quickly, we'll send the 200.
Otherwise, we'll reconsider the request at the next meeting.
5.
Women's Center Newsletter Collective: \$150 for the next issue plus the sug-
gestion that they raise money for the selectric by asking each
reader for a little. If they don't get it that way, we'll consi-
der another request.
7. Stomach Ache Street Theatre: \$300. We might ask them to do a benefit for us
sometime
8. En la Brecha: \$300 x 3
9. Media Center: \$150. We will consider another request if they don't get money from
CMHE
10. King Community Center: \$150 x 2
11. Chicago Area Military Project: Postponed until next month. Dan will get a budg
and make a reccomendation.
12. American Exile Counseling Center: \$150 x 3
13. New University Conference: Denied
14. Chicago Panthers: Postponed while Dan looks into it further.

RESIST Financial Statement -- December 5, 1970

Balance on October 25, 1970

1768.81

Income

Pledges	2443.96
Contributions	2569.00
High school kit	38.00
Spanish Refugee Aid	588.00
Referendum '70	180.00
Resubscription	1201.95
Literature & New Call	48.50
Repaid loan	150.00
TOTAL INCOME	7219.41

Disbursements

Payroll	1227.03
Grants	4535.00
Postage	795.00
Printing/copying	204.45
Office supplies	65.88
Office maintenance	547.59
Travel	265.00
Misc.	572.50
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	8262.45

Breakdown of grants

October grants

New Organizing Project	200.00
Philadelphia Resistance	300.00
Comm. Info. & Service Cntr.	200.00
A Four Year Bummer	250.00
JOMO	300.00
The Next Step	200.00
En la Brecha	100.00
Ozark Free Press	200.00
M.D.M.	300.00
G.I. Conference	100.00
Rising Up Angry	150.00
Common Sense Books	100.00
Know, Inc.	100.00
Black Marxist Books	50.00
Metamorphosis	200.00
TOTAL OCTOBER GRANTS	2750.00

October Installments

People's Action Center	50.00
Delia Anderson	50.00
Wildcat Women	75.00
The Destroyer	150.00
Bread & Roses	200.00
The Kudzu	100.00
Tacoma Resistance	50.00
BEDC Che Payne Institute	135.00
TOTAL	810.00

November Installments

JOMO	300.00
Delia Anderson	50.00
Wildcat Women	75.00
The Next Step	200.00
Ozark Free Press	100.00
M.D.M.	250.00
	975.00

Breakdown of Misc. expenses

Taxes	350.00
500 Loan	150.00
Petty Cash	60.00
Literature	12.50

Current Balance, after corrections and less service Charges 1111.05

Encumberments

Payroll and taxes	1040.00
printing	170.00
phone	200.00
travel	300.00
rent	130.00
Grants	950.00
total	<u>2790.00</u>

Breakdown of grants

Bread and Roses	100.00
JOMO	300.00
The Next Step	200.00
MDM	200.00
Common Sense Books	100.00
Black Marxist	<u>50.00</u>
	950.00

Unencumbered balance -1678.95

Projected income for the next month

pledges	2300.00
Galway Kinnell	1000.00
Contr.	<u>1000.00</u>
	4300.00

The amount of money that we have to grant this month is 2621.05

Also, the amount Of money that we may spend on the poetry reading has not been encumbered, since I have no idea what those figures will be like, but we should remember to take them into consideration before we startfunding.

December Funding Requests

1. Center for Draft Counselling and Peace Information, Santa Rosa, Calif.: up to \$3600 for 3 staff salaries for 1 year

Postpone

2. CNVA Military Counselling Training Conference, Voluntown, Conn.: \$27.50 - \$55 for supplies for the conference participants 50

\$55

3. Black People's Community Fund, Shelby, N.C.: \$100/month for incidentals (cps, oil, paper, and office supplies)

Postpone

4. The Movement Workshop, Springfield, Mass.: \$400 now to pay bills and \$200/month x 3 for working capital

Contingency - up to \$200

5. New Hampshire "People's Press", Kittery Point, Maine: seed money

300

6. Women's Center Newsletter Collective, Philadelphia, Pa.: up to \$135 for the next issue and \$250 for an IBM Selectric typewriter

100

300

7. The Stomach-Ache Street Theatre, Boston, Mass.: up to \$525 for equipment, truck repairs and maintenance, and advertising

300/300/300

8. En la Brecha, Boston, Mass.: \$300/month x 3 to print their paper

150

9. Media Center, Cambridge, Mass.: \$150/month to meet the operating deficit until the center is self-sufficient

150

10. King Community Center, Milwaukee, Wisc.: \$2300 for supplies

150/150

355

11. Chicago Area Military Project, Chicago: for increased operating expenses

Postpone

150/150/150

12. American Epile Counseling Center, Montreal: up to \$920/month for as long as possible for the office, counselors' salaries, and postal expenses

70	office	
70	travel	070
60	phone	
100	mailing	
200	sal	
200		
240		
100	Rent	
100	staff	

"TO LIVE OUTSIDE THE LAW
YOU MUST BE HONEST"--B.DYLAN

0 13. New University Conference, Chicago: \$500
toward operating expenses for a free
university for exiles in Montreal or
Toronto

14. Chicago B. P. P. \$ 309

Postpone

15.

16.

17.

18.

Then: JOMO - THE NEXT STEP - ANGRY