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Resist Board Meeting, April 25, 1971

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Minutes
RESIST Steering Committee--25 April, 1971
12:00 @ Baltimore, Md.

P Present
Steering Committee: Paul Lauter, Florence Howe, Michelle Russell, Grace
Paley, Barbera Webster, Bill Davidon, Claudette
Piper, Tony Avirgan, Frank Joyce
Area Persons: Wayne O'Neil
Staff: Wendy Batson, Barry Wingard, Shawn Donovan
Guests: Nick Egleson, Martha Westover

Staff Report

Chris Stevens has asked to be hired full time for the next several weeks. This was okayed; Chris is working on the mass mailing for the Spring fund raising drive. Claudette may come back to work on the staff instead of going with the New England Free Press if her legal situation looks precarious.

--Spring Ad--

(Previously known as the "Winter Ad"). Ran in the Crimson on the 21st of April. Scheduled to appear in the Chicago Maroon, Daily Washingtonian, Minnesota Daily, and the Daily Cardinal during the week of April 25 ff. The total cost for submission of the university ads is \$880.66. The Phoenix in Boston is giving us a free full page ad at a cost of \$720!

Mass Mailings

Signatures already obtained for the covering letter are Noam Chomsky's Kate Millett's, Ben Spock's, and Alexander Calder's. FLORENCE will call Susan Sontag re: use of her signature. Don Kalish will also be added since so many of the envelopes are going to the West Coast. Chris Stevens has obtained 44,000 names from various movement groups--two lists will be dropped, they are Reservists Committee to Stop the War and Vietnam Veterans Against the War. The first does not promise a good return; the latter should be used for a subscription campaign during the summer. Chris will obtain an agreement from LIBERATION to use their list soon.

The contents of the mass mailing is: a covering letter signed by the above people, tear sheet of the spring ad, a return envelope. On the back of the covering letter will be a list of movement groups that RESIST has funded since September of 1969 or a partial explanation of a handful; on the back of the tear sheet of the spring ad will be a collage of clippings about the FBI/RESIST caper and Claudette's subpoena.

Paul suggests that an ad be written @ the movement security kit, why the FBI files were distributed, and what RESIST is all about--submit this to the Village Voice (1/2 page ad). Use a blurb from Nat Hentoff's articles or his signature. Title: "What Can You Do About Those Men Knocking At Your Door? 1) don't talk, 2) write RESIST for mvt security kit, 3) contribute to RESIST. GRACE & PAUL will collaborate on this.

A request from the Miriam Davis Scholarship Fund for our mailing list will be delayed abit. When they use ours, we should ask to use their list for either a fundraising or subscription campaign.

-Direct Solicitation-

All agreed (!) that this was a necessary and good time to approach "angels" for money for both RESIST and Claudetts' bail. Money should be raised on a "no return basis" and more than is necessary for bail should be sought. The Money can later be applied for funding.

a) The burden for fund raising should fall not on the staff but the steering committee, the staff can be entrusted to day-to-day political decisions since they have handled them well in the recent past.

b) Staff will send a list of names that ZEVIN provides about direct solicitation to other S. C. members. These will be people who should be approached soon, distribution will be along lines of geography and acquaintance. PAUL will ask MITCH to ~~list~~ up the Pen List.

c) GRACE will confer with BELL about organizing fundraising parties. Staff will ask ZEVIN about the feasibility of these parties at such a late date as this.

-SECURITY KIT-

Wendy is still awaiting material about campus surveillance from friends in Chicago and Carbondale. Grossman is interested in looking at the entire kit with an eye toward publication. BILL DAVIDON will send a copy of the Philadelphia DRUMMER article about organizing against FBI/Police harrassment. Wendy says the gaps in the areas which the kit covers are being covered up nicely, what is needed now is material about city and local police infiltration/surveillance. The NARMIC book on similar material (police technology, vietnamization of domestic problems) is coming out very soon. Wendy says the kit will be completed by the end of May.

Concerning advertizement about the Security Kit. Paul is submitting a letter to the NYRB as a follow-up on the Donner article which recently appeared. In it he will mention RESIST's kit. Claudette recommends that we submit 2" display ads in numerous underground papers plugging the kit. A press release for both Movement Security and H. S. organizer's Kits should be send to LNS, WIN, PHOENIX, AND BOSTON AFTER DARK. A flyer for mail distribution should be made up advertizing both kits on reverse sides of the sheet. No decision has been reached on the final cost of the kit, not on the cost for purchase.

-FBI CAPER-

A discussion ensued about the hassels which came out of staff distribution of the liberated documents. The decision processes of the past month were discussed. The biggest problem is, of course, the legal one: RESIST is right in the middle of a twi-light zone regarding jeporady. As for handling

the press: the staff during the past month was constantly educated to the tensions inherent in developing personal relationships with journalists and the latter's drive to "get the story" by the most expeditious means possible. Paul suggested that the staff write up an article for publication somewhere about the experience and hassels of the last month. Perhaps LNS would distribute it. In the future, the staff will send copies of packets received to S. C. members for distribution in their cities to other RESIST people. Several journalists have expressed interest in doing a long story on the background of RESIST, they will be refered to S. C. members for interviews.

Local FBI Committees: Bill Davidon said that ACLU is following up on movement harrassment of FBI in Philadelphia area: instructing students as well as others of their rights, what types of surveillance to expect and how to protect against it. He suggested an article in the Newsletter advocating such organizations in different cities. The next covering letter of a packet might suggest this also. The points to explore in the newsletter is that most surveillance is carries on by local Red Squads not the FBI., that Hoover is not the issuer but rather the FBI, and that titillation and shock are not proper responses but rather mobilizing against surveillance is.

RESIST has not tapped into liberal groups which are in a flurry about the expose of the FBI. No cogent political development is coming out of this whole issue. RESIST should hold on issuing a statement advocating local citizens' commissions until National ACLU makes a more positive move. At that time, both RESIST and ACLU can issue a joint statement

Harrisburg Grand Jury

The reasons behind the new batch of subpoenas were discussed. Claudette though that 1) Government has no evidence for conviction, trying hard to construct a case, 2) a general attempt to smear the Catholic Left by implicating all with the original indictments, 3) an easy way to jail people and get them off the streets.

Fund Raising/Speaker's Bureau

Howard Zinn and Fred Branfman, Richard Drinnon and Doug Dowd will be asked to join the list of RESIST speaker's Bureau. WENDY will ask SUZY GRODEN to handle all the arrangements on a volunteer basis..

Next issue of the Newsletter

Follow up article on FBI, Claudetts's subpoena, Women's Conference in Toronto, NOAM or FRED BRANFMAN on drug situation in Vietnam, and blurb on availability and contents of Movement Security ~~Kit~~

RESIST and Attendance at National Organizational Meetings

Paul raised questions about the future of the Peace Treaty--its political direction etc. Suggested that RESIST should be more active in the national anti-war movement and that this requires attendance at the large organizing meetings. Attendance should not fall on two or three people but should be an organizational responsibility.

Report on the BPP Split

Michele and Frank analyzed the split in light of the history of the Party and its treatment in the establishment media, Frank pointed particularly to the extent of successful police infiltration and harassment of nearly every local office and the national Party. He predicted that in the future one faction would adopt another name, with the opposite group sticking with the original name. Michele is working on a detailed look at just what happens in the broader movement when a "vanguard" mentality pervades, and what happens to the group or groups in terms of pressure and harassment who are thought of as "vanguard"

FOR NEXT TIME, S.C. AND STAFF SHOULD LOOK INTO DIFFERENT LOCAL ORGANIZING PROJECTS (such as the one in Lynn just funded) TO ATTEMPT AN EVALUATION OF WHAT IS ACHIEVED BY ORGANIZING WORKING CLASS WHITE COMMUNITIES.

--MAY GRANTS--

	May	June	July
1) Dorchester Tenants:	\$100		
2) Lynn PCPJ:	\$50		
3) GI/Airman/Sailor Coalition:			
4) King Community House:	\$150	\$100	\$50
5) Women's History Research:	\$100 with conditions		
6) Milwaukee Newsreel:	\$60	\$50	
7) Milwaukee WRO:	\$100	\$100	\$100
8) Black Lung Association:	\$100		
9) Cockroach/North Dakota:	pending		
10) Work/Vermont:	pending		
11) Mobile Non-violent Info:	\$50		
12) American Exile:	\$50		
13) Fort Bliss G.I.s	\$100 tentative		
14) High School Coffeehouse	\$200 if they can raise \$800 locally		
15) RYM/Racine:	\$103 (that's right:\$103)		
16) The Next Step:	\$150	\$150	\$150
17) Newark Community Union:	pending		
18) Appalachian Mvt Press:	\$250	\$200	\$100
19) Malcolm X Liberation:	\$200	\$150	\$100
20) Redsticks News Coop:	withdrawn		
21) Mississipp Draft Info:	\$85	\$85	\$85
22) Kuduz:	\$300		
23) Ozark Mountain Times:	withdrawn		