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Resist Board Meeting, Nov. 24, 1974

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MINUTES FROM RESIST MEETING, NOV. 24

Present; Wayne O'Neill (chair), Hilde Hein, Grace Paley, Paul Lauter, Louie Kampf, Eileen Atherton, Hank Rosemont, Larry Thomas, Bill Davidson, Hans Koning, Jean Turner, Bob Zevin.

The office and financial reports were submitted and accepted.

The meeting began with the presentation of the staff proposal. Discussion of the reorganization aspects was taken up first. Bob Zevin felt that the staff should prod people more insistently to get things done on time, and that it was necessary to maintain a full-time paid staff, especially if we were to embark on new fund-raising projects. People felt that the final decision on whether or not to abolish the staff should wait until after these fund-raising plans were finalized and adopted. The discussion turned to the problem of lack of non-staff input into the work of RESIST and how this affected our political vitality and financial situation. Paul felt that an overall projection of fund-raising projects was needed, and that ~~ad~~ political unity within the organization was necessary to a) involve non-staff people more; and b) to present a unified political "face" in our fund-raising efforts. He felt that this unity should be established around the organizational priority of "sustenance for the independent left." The lack of participation on the part of non-staff in RESIST's work (including and adversely affecting fund-raising) was due to a divergence in the past between the political position of the staff and the "political center of gravity" of the rest of the organization, and a more than necessary pre-occupation with Marxist-Leninist tendencies and our attitude towards them. For many reasons, he felt that this tendency was unimportant and that time spent discussing the issue (beyond an already-reached minimum) served only to alienate RESIST people and our constituency.

Larry stated that homogeneity was never been a characteristic of RESIST in all of its aspects, from fund-raising to decisions on grants, and that although the staff had to maintain a broad vision of what they felt was important, that it was unrealistic and politically harmful to expect the staff to define its politics solely in terms of the rest of the organization. Paul stated that everyone pushes the political tendency they are most interested in, that differences within the organization were good and to be discussed, but that discussions and differences over Marxism-Leninism were at this point divisive and irrelevant. Eileen stated that discussions about Marxism-Leninism arose over the number of requests we received from such groups and not by any sort of design. She emphasized that the September meeting at Ken's reached the conclusion (reaffirmed a long-standing policy) that no groups were to be excluded from possible funding solely on the basis of their attitude towards Marxism-Leninism.

Hilde, Hank, and Larry stated that if people weren't happy with what goes into the Newsletter or the thrust of the organization, that it was their responsibility to struggle around issues, rather than adopting a non-struggle attitude of non-participation. Input to the work of the organization was the best means to advance one's position while non-participation left things open to those who did. The discussion then turned to developing a fund-raising program.

1- Mass mailings. It was decided that mailings of 10,000 to various lists would be undertaken every three months. The first of such mailings would go out by mid-January. It would draw its 10,000 from the Rampart's, USSF and MAI lists. Paul and Bob took responsibility for having the first draft of a letter in by December 10th so that it could be gone over and approved during the next meeting (DEC. 15). Copies of the draft will be sent to people prior to the meeting. Larry said he would contact Ken Coplan about the lists, while Bob took responsibility for raising any initial money that would be needed for postage, printing, etc.

2. Names of contributors who have not given in the last six months were circulated. People chose names they were familiar with and will write personal letters to these people. (Please return the cards to the office as soon as possible).

3. Newsletter resubscription - A notice would be placed in both the December and January newsletters asking people who have not sent in at least \$5 during the last few months to resubscribe.

4. Three copies of a future newsletter, perhaps containing the piece Bob Z. wrote a while back on the importance of pledges to RESIST, would be sent to our pledges and the organizations on our list. Hopefully, they will circulate them to friends who might be interested in supporting RESIST or receiving the newsletter.

5. Mailing to Professional Associations. RESIST members would make up a letter to be sent to various radical caucuses and academic associations of which they are members. These would go out after Christmas. Hank took responsibility for writing a model letter, which will be ready for next meeting. The following lists were suggested;

APA (Hilde and Hank)

MLA (Paul)

Linguistics Society of America (Ken)

Committee of Concerned Asian Scholars (Hank)

Insurgent Sociologists (Paul)

Poets and Writers (Grace and Hans)

URPE (Art McEwan)

Boston Visual Artists (Hilde)

Science for the People (Larry)

6. Ads in Newspapers and Periodicals. This would be undertaken only if the ads could be procured for gratis or a reduced rate. Larry will make up a list of all the newspapers we receive in the office. The following will be looked into right away;

New Journal of Modern China (Hank)

Woem, A Journal of Liberation (Jean Turner)

Counter-Spy (Larry)

Rampart's (Noam)

7. Speakers. A list of people in RESIST and the various topics on which they could speak will be put in the next two newsletters. People were asked to work on this possibility at their schools or organizations. A list was circulated and people wrote down the topics they could speak on.

8. Concerts and Parties. Hilde suggested the possibility of Quadrivium doing a benefit for RESIST and will look into the matter. Suggestions about fund-raising parties were vague and people's attitudes were generally non-committal.

9. Miscellaneous. It was suggested that the staff get in touch with various people with experience in fund-raising who presently had the time to share their skills. Hans said that a friend offered space in an apartment in New York for possible use as an office. People generally concluded that this suggestion (moving the office to New York) was impractical at this time. The staff objected to the possibility of a runaway shop for RESIST.

REQUESTS FOR NOVEMBER 24

Grants

1. Sunfighter (prison newspaper) Monroe, Washington.....\$250
2. Jackson Human Rights Project, Jackson, Mississippi.....\$200

Rejected

1. Black United Liberation Front, Philadelphia, Penn.....
2. Peace and Justice B-1 Bomber Campaign, Rochester, New York

Postponed

- People's Town Hall, Huntington (Paul will investigate)
- Hand, Inc., Holyoke, Mass. (staff will call contact in that area)

Use on Mailing List

Dollars and Sense, a new publication of the Union of Radical Political Economists, was given the use of our mailing list in hopes of expanding their circulation.

The above proposals were chosen for consideration according to age. We had requests held over from September, and wanted to cut down on the total we would have to consider at some future time. Because of the limited amount of money we had to give, the number considered was restricted to the above. We still have approximately twenty requests waiting for consideration.

1- Next meeting. It was decided that mailings of 10,000 to various lists would be undertaken early next month. The first of such mailings would go out by mid-January. It would draw 10,000 from the Report's, USIP and WIL lists. Paul and Bob took responsibility for having the first draft of a letter in by December 10th so that it could be read, heard and approved during the next meeting (DEC. 15). Copies of the draft will be sent to people prior to the meeting. Larry said he would contact Lee Carter about the lists, while Bob took responsibility for raising any initial money that would be needed for postage, printing, etc.