1-29-1978

Resist Board Meeting, Jan. 29, 1978

Resist

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Dear Resisters,

Here are the minutes of the meeting held in Boston on January 29.

Our NEXT MEETING will be in Boston on Sunday, March 5, at 11 a.m. at either Wayne’s or Louis’s. In addition to doing grants, the agenda will include some serious business on the future of Liberation, and a discussion of the National Labor Federation.

Enclosed with these minutes are copies of my report on the financial situation, and a list of grant applications considered at the meeting.

MINUTES

Present were Wayne, Louis, Paul, and Frank.

Business:

Paul reported on the status of Liberation. So far there is some support but not enough. Liberation has about $1400 in the bank, or enough to pay creditors for three months before bankruptcy. Paul will have some more definite news at the next meeting.

Swarthmore College Peace Collection would like to have the Resist files. We were generally agreeable to pursuing this, keeping in mind that some files should be kept confidential. Frank to consult with Paul, Wayne, and Swarthmore. (NB. Since the meeting, some of my historian friends have pointed out that the files would be more useful in Wisconsin, with other files of ‘sixties movements. I would like to reopen this at the next meeting. FB)

We had scheduled a discussion of the National Labor Federation, two of whose affiliates had applied for grants, and which has been accused of being linked with the Labor Committee (or worse!). As George could not be at this meeting, he requested that it be postponed a month.

We discussed the financial situation, and particularly mailings. We will do several more small mailings this spring.

(over)

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p.s. Some nice late news: The Ferrys supported both the Philippine Lib Couxier and the Los Alamos Grand Jury proposals in the amount we requested; and also sent Resist a nice contribution. fb.

GRANTS

1. The Newspaper (113 Montmore St., Lynn, Ma. 01901).

We have funded them several times in the past; and we turned them down in December. They sent a letter saying that they are in emergency straits, and asked us to reconsider. We agreed to send them $300.

2. MassCOSH (Mass. Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health, PO Box 17326 Back Bay Station, Boston, MA 02116).

They need $425 to publish the next issue of Survival Kit, their newsletter. We voted to refer this to the Ferry's if they themselves have not applied to them, or to give them $300 if they had. (I found out they have applied to the Ferry's, and so sent them $300. FB)


Working with South African military deserters and others. They wanted $500 to go to Canada to talk with people who have done GI work there. This was DEFERRED until the next meeting, while we check this group out.

4. Los Angeles Conference on Southern Africa

A conference in LA on SA, sponsored by ZAPU, ZANU, SWAPO, and some local groups. They wanted any part of their $7550 budget. Agreed that we could give only token support of $150. Carlos is checking this out first.


They wanted $300 to help with publication of a pamphlet on "How to Get Out of Jail Before Trial," to be published in English and Spanish for use in eastern Mass. We thought this was a good project, but that they had other sources of funding, including Haymarket, and this was DEFERRED until this could be followed up.


They wanted $100 or more to help with republication of a pamphlet, "How to Start a High School Underground Newspaper." We have supported them before, and voted to send them $150.

7. The Lansing Star (PO Box 21, East Lansing, MI 48823).

A student newspaper that had tried to become a community paper, and had its student funding cut off, wanted anything toward general maintenance. We voted to send them $200 of they still needed it by the meeting. (...) but they had since had some student funds reinstated, and said that they wouldn't take the money now but would call us if they ran into trouble in the future. FB)

(end)
Resistance to many forms of illegitimate authority is necessary to bring health to this country and make it a constructive force instead of a terror in the politics of nations.

— from A New Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority

REPORT FOR JANUARY

December and January were good months for income. In part this was the cyclical pattern of income that Resist has always had; in part it was also as a result of the mailings we did, which have been fairly successful.

Income in December and January, not counting income from the promotional mailing to the Dollars and Sense and RA lists, about equal to income during these months a year ago.

In other areas, the month has not been so hot. Vacation, a few sick days, the storm, and a number of aggravating hassles with Liberation business, and the wiping out of our envelope printers with the flu have thrown everything off schedule. The January newsletter, which has been ready for a month, won't go out until next week; the February newsletter will therefore be late also; and I've fallen behind in preparing future mailings. I also haven't got much done about communicating with the board about grants between meetings.

Income

Income for the month of December was $3800. So far for the month of January we have received almost $4900.

Pledge income for December was $1220; for January so far about $1400. We received $2000 in newsletter renewals and contributions in December; in January so far we have received slightly less.

A mailing went out to all those who have contributed $25 or more, about 200 people. So far we have received 28 replies, with a total of $1100. (Many people who received this mailing sent in contributions as well, but they were recorded under 'newsletter'.)

The mailing has been pretty successful. We sent out a total of 8000 pieces, costing about $0.18/each, for a total cost of just under $1500. So far we have received 66 returns, with a total income of $1050. I think we can expect at least a dozen more returns, and that we will just about break even.
Mailings

We should judge the mailing to D and S and RA to be a good one. In addition to having the immediate income more or less cover costs, we added 66 people to our mailing list. We can expect contributions from at least some of these people in the future: many small contributors will probably contribute more in the future. For example, one person who first became a contributor on the URPE mailing a year and a half ago has made three contributions since, for a total of about $300. Given that our total list is about 1500 individuals, 66 new ones is substantial.

Also, we have added more than 15 pledges as a result of the mailing (25 pledges total). Assuming that we get 75% of what is pledged, the total income from these new pledges should bring another $1000 over the next year.

Other organizations are anxious to use the Liberation mailing list, which I have cleaned out down to 2500 individuals. So far, exchanges have been arranged with Socialist Review, Working Papers, and Safe Return.

Pledges

The January pledge mailing went to 100 monthly pledges, who have pledged a total of just under $1100. There are also a number of annual and quarterly pledges, which are listed as about $1000 in January and another $1000 for the year.

During the last month we have added 25 new pledges, listed as a little over $200/month. Most of these have come from mailings; about 10 have responded to newsletter appeals.

Liberation

Liberation has about $1400 in the bank. We have creditors for all of it; payment schedules worked out, but usually neglected, in the past mean that we have to pay about $400/month to stay out of court. I.e., we have about 3-4 months of money before bankruptcy.

I think the sensible thing to do is to have Liberation pay Resist $100/month for rent, staff time, telephone, postage, etc. I think this is reasonable, and if we don't pay it to us, we'll have to pay it to someone else. If Liberation starts up again, and Resist wants to return this money, we could just make a grant.

Grants

Though we have received a lot of money in the last two months, we should not spend it all at once. After paying bills and our loan, we have about $2500. I think we should spend $1000 - $1500 this month.
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— from A New Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority

JANUARY GRANTS

1. The Newspaper (Lynn, Mass.)
   We have funded them several times in the past; and we turned them down last month. They have sent a letter saying that they are in emergency straits, and ask us to reconsider. They need several hundred dollars.

2. MassCOSH (Mass. Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health, PO Box 17326 Back Bay Station, Boston, MA 02116).
   They need $425 to publish the next issue of Survival Kit, their newsletter.

   Working with South African military deserters and others; want $500 to go to Canada to talk with people who did American deserter work.

4. Los Angeles Conference on Southern Africa
   from Kathy Gilberd, who is asking on behalf of people holding a conference on Southern Africa in early February. Any part of $750.

   $300 to help with publication of a pamphlet on "How to Get out of Jail Before Trial," to be published in English and Spanish; for use in eastern Mass. Have funded them before.

   $100 or more to help with republication of "How to Start a High School Underground Newspaper." I believe we have supported them before.

7. The Lansing Star (PO Box 21, East Lansing, MI 48823).
   Anything toward general maintenance; a student newspaper that has tried to become a community paper, and has had its student funding cut-off.

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Working with South African military deserters and others; want $500 to go to Canada to talk with people who did American deserter work. — write to George Hausner, MCA, NY.

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First meeting

1. Berlin — changed to
   "Swiss Paediatric Society"

2. Send Paul list of new contributors —
   all, or those identifiable as being
   from their mailing.

3. Non-profit status for mailing —
   Progressive magazine —

4. Card file of past liberation contributors to Paul —

5. Postcard reminder —

6. NAF Labor Federation —
   Allen Grunberg
   1547 Bancroft Way
   Berkeley, CA 94703
   Say hello from everyone.

7. Mary Louise — coming late January —

8. Robert — newsletter
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Jan. 3, 1978

Dear Mary-Louise,

Well hello. Sorry I've been out of touch for so long. I never get anybody home at the number at MIT you sent me, so I missed your visit.

Things are not too bad here, for a change. Actually I've been optimistic for about the last three weeks. Exactly why this is so is pretty boring, but the main points are: the meeting of mid-October, when people said that we would continue until the Spring, and continue over the summer if we could get grants up to $1500-$2000 by summer; the newsletter is looking better; a brochure is finally done; and the mailing is finally out. I also did a pretty big contributors mailing, and a lot of people give big big amounts of money at the end and beginning of the year. So the money situation is temporarily under control; we can do some grants so that people think that we're still functioning; and there's a bit of a breathing space while I try to figure out what to do next.

The meeting in NY 10 days ago was also pretty good. I met Grace for the first time, which was fun. The meeting was also pretty good-spirited, and we got a lot of business done, even though we could only do a few small grants.

This Liberation business is a little strange. People's attitudes are generally, if Paul wants to do it, ok; but it seems like a long shot. Actually, by giving us a mailing list to swap for other lists, it might help us a lot. On the other hand, I have to do about 10 hours a week of Liberation mail. So......

I've gotten to like working here in Somerville. Union Square itself has no redeeming features, but the Dollars and Sense office group is very congenial, and I feel moved in and finally at home.

Working on my own is mixed. There's just about more work than I can do, though I keep thinking that someday I will get everything on automatic pilot. For example, it looks like we're going to get our own com-

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computer terminal here (for Dollars and Sense and Brodhead enterprises: Libemation, Resist, and Radical America); and I've pretty much learned most of the job now. Still, it's a little hard working on my own; though it also gives me more energy to do things my way, etc.

I haven't sent your pledge card out for the last two months because I've been putting off writing to you, and am also a little unsure of the exact address. Is this the best place to write you?

I hope you like Irvine. Did you look up Jon Weiner ever? He's in politics, I think, or maybe sociology.

I'm putting in this package the last two newsletters, and some brochures I did up. Can I send you a bunch of newsletters regularly? Or anything else from here? Drop a note if any of my money schemes catch your eye.

As for me, I'm pretty good except working too hard. Resist, RA, Liberation, and my thesis all peaked between Thanksgiving and Xmas; and I'm still a bit worn out. But I have a new romance going, and the work seems almost under control, so I'm basically pretty happy.

Send me a letter sometime.

Best wishes,