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Resist Board Meeting, April 22, 1979

Resist

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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

April 7, 1979

Dear Resisters,

A reminder that we are meeting next at Louis's on April 22, at 11 a.m.

Enclosed are copies of the applications that we have on hand so far. Most of the applications have additional material that is not included.

Please call me at the office number about whether or not you are planning to come.

Also, we now have a new address. Dollar and Sense, with whom we have been sharing an office, decided to move to bigger and better quarters, so I tagged along. We're still in Somerville, basically across the street from our old office. Resist now has a separate room, with carpeting, good lighting, etc., generally a much nicer place to work. The rent is about the same ($110/mo including utilities).

Also, don't forget that we are going to talk about the likely return of the draft, and what Resist can/should do about it.

See you in two weeks!

Frank Brodhead
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Minutes for April, 1979 Meeting

We met at Louis’s. Present were Louis, Ken, Paul, Frank J. And Frank B.

In addition to grants we talked primarily about two things: the draft, and the part of Frank’s report about the state of office work.

The draft: We decided to press ahead on this issue, anticipating a serious move to reinstate registration and the draft. We decided to affiliate with the Committee Against Registration and the Draft (CARD). (A copy of CARD’s principles and Paul’s letter outlining our orientation on this issue are included). We also agreed that Frank would represent Resist at the newly-formed Boston Alliance Against Registration and the Draft. We also decided, in light of office work problems (see next para) to approach some people who had supported Resist generously in the past to see if they would support hiring a half-time staff person to put some work into this issue. Frank B was encouraged to put some of this into the newsletter, etc.

Office Work: In his report and at the meeting Frank expressed being simultaneously frazzled with overwork and frustrated that so many opportunities for fund raising couldn’t be taken advantage of for lack of time and energy. After heavy arm twisting, he agreed to take a vacation. We also talked about involving Boston area Resist people more in office type work, investigating student interns or volunteer workers, and seeing if we could find the money to hire a half-time staff person to put some work into this issue. Radical America is also looking for a half-time person, perhaps something could be worked out with them.

Grants: We made grants to the following organizations (see accompanying "applications for April meeting” sheet): Downtown Indianapolis ($200x2); Community ($100 x3); CESA ($200); FLOC ($150x3, and inquiry about Ferrys); Ad Hoc Comm on Food and Land ($100); and Mobilization for Survival ($175).

Rejections: Committee to Abolish Prison Slavery (vague, essentially lobbying strategy); Portland Film Committee (should be self-financing); RECON (same as last time, too much $ for bad publications); People’s Alliance (should have funds generated internally for something like this); Kampuchea Support Comm (fundamentally dishonest); John Brown Anti-Klan; America Comm on Africa (too much $; but no article, and they should refer local groups to us); Majority Report (too much $; add the Gloria Steinem...
business is basically misguided and divisive); Quixote Center (to maintain contact, but no $); Healthright (too much $, not priority); Positive Productions ($500 for a file cabinet?!?); Casa Myrna (supported last year, not policy to encourage on-going support); Quest (nl ad, etc., but not policy for money for general needs of magazine); ISTNA (not a priority).

We also voted to send the SUBS request to the Ferrys; to encourage the SA Catalyst project to find loan money for their pamphlet on re-investment in Amherst, but that we would back them up if necessary.

Frank Will be away from May 1 to roughly May 12 or so.

The next meeting will be in New York on Sunday, June 10. See you there!

FRANK
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Report for April

From the letter head you will notice that we've moved again, basically across the street. We're still sharing with Dollars and Sense. The office is much more beautiful than any of us are used to. It's much nicer to go to work; and the rent is about the same ($110 including utilities is our share).

Income since our last meeting has been adequate, but not terrific. We took in $2100 in February, and $3200 in March. Income has been slow during April.

The reason for this is simply lack of output on the part of our staff. Pledge letters have been getting out late in the month, the newsletter is bogged down on a bi-monthly schedule, contributors mailings could be more frequent, and we need to do mailings to other lists to get new contributors.

Frank is pretty much worn to a frazzle and will take off from May 1 to about May 11 or so. This should help a fair amount. But still it's frustrating, because I think we could do more if I could more time in on things beyond keeping day-to-day. I have told Radical America that they have to hire at least a half time staff or else, because I want to put more work into Resist. If we could find the right person, perhaps Resist could hire the "other half" of this person for Resist work.

My particular frustration around this is that I think with the likely return of the draft and the upturn of the cold war mentality that there will be more interest in supporting/contributing to Resist because of the work that we have historically been best known for.

Any suggestions?

Grants: We have about $3300 in the bank. I'm not sure about spending more than $2000-2500 on grants right now, and as I'm still hopeful about doing a mailing or two before summer sets in.

Frank
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APPLICATIONS FOR THE APRIL MEETING

1. Substitutes United for Better Schools (SUBS) (Chicago) -- at our last meeting we made a $250 x 3 times grant to SUBS, and said that they should send us more details about their need for a gestetner stencil-making machine, with an eye to "Z money."

2. Downtown Indianapolis -- a group of independent socialists have organized to do research and publish a pamphlet on who benefits from redevelopment of the downtown.

3. Committee to Abolish Prison Slavery (Washington, DC) -- we postponed this request from CAPS at our last meeting because we weren't sure what they actually did. They want money to set up a DC office.


5. South Africa Catalyst Project (Amherst) -- We helped them before to publish a guide on divestment. They would like a loan, to be repaid out of sales, to print a guide on re-investment.

6. Portland Film Committee (Oregon) -- a coalition of organizations are sponsoring a film series. They would like money from Resist to launch a second series for the summer or a fall. (more info requested).

7. RECON publications (Philadelphia) -- we turned them down last time, partly on the basis of the publications they wanted help distributing. This is an up-dated request, with a slightly different product mix.

8. Committee to End Sterilization Abuse (CESA) (New York City) -- we like $ to republish a brochure on sterilization. We have funded them before for a hospital monitoring project. A copy of the brochure is enclosed (the original on red/orange paper).

9. People's Alliance -- Ted Glick from PA visited last month to ask emergency help on supporting a southern organizer. I called the Boston people, who thought a) the amount was too big for an emergency grant, and b) they should be able to finance this out of their internal financial structure. They have asked that we consider this at a full meeting, and have sent some up-date material.
10. Kampuchea Support Committee -- a new organization, sponsored in part by the CP-ML, wants money specifically to support a national newsletter for the organization.

11. John Brown Anti-Klan Committee (New York) -- we gave them some $ a year ago. They would like $500 for general support, esp. for publishing a pamphlet on the klan, and to support a letter writing campaign.

12. American Committee on Africa (NY) -- would like $ to help support their Bank Campaign Against Loans to South Africa.

13. Necessities (Northampton, MA) -- An organization formed a year and a half ago, would like $500 to publish two pamphlets on sexual violence and battered women. Would also publish another similar to mail to local groups.

14. Farm Labor Organizing Committee (Toledo, OH) -- They wrote for money last year during their strike. We suggested that they apply again this spring when they are lining up their summer campaign. They would like $4 to support publication of their paper.

15. Majority Report (NYC) -- This women's liberation newspaper is having a financial crisis, and would like any amount of $.

That's it so far. At least a few more are expected before the meeting.

Frank
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Late Arrivals for April Meeting

16. Quixote Center (Maryland) -- a form letter request for support for a conference on "Homophobia in the Churches" planned for May. They would like up to be a co-sponsor for $250.

17. Healthright (New York) -- would like any part of $7000 for projected health project for women in prison.

18. Positive Productions (Maryland) -- would like $500 for office equipment in support of distribution of their film on the "Wilmington 10". I wrote for some clarifications, but no reply yet.

19. Casa Myrna Vazquez, Inc. (Boston) -- a women's shelter in Boston's South End, would like $200-$300 for general support. We gave them a grant last August, also for general support.

20. Ad Hoc Committee on Food and Land (Boston) -- A little complicated. George Ballis from National Land for the People visited, and talked with Frank, Ellen Cantarow, and some others about doing a letter campaign to Sen. Tsongas in support of their small holders campaign in California. Tsongas is a key figure on the Energy Comm., which would act on a land reclamation act bill. Ballis thinks that Tsongas could be key because he is not from an agric. state, and relatively immune from agribusiness pressure. But Tsongas is not interested in the issue without constituent pressure. The Ad Hoc Committee on Food and Land will do a mailing to their list of food/gardening/food coop etc. people, and would like us to put up postage, about $100. 

We couldn't get a consensus here in Boston, so no emergency grant was possible. The Ad Hoc Comm still wants to do it, so here it is.

21. Quest (a magazine --Washington, DC) -- would like up to $500 to support production of the next issue of their magazine.

22. ISTNA -- applying again for help in publishing a directory of US trainers for non-violent action. Would like $300.

23. Mobilization for Survival (Boston chapter) -- would like any amount, exp. up to $500 to help with organizing for May 6 demo, and $175 for a slide projector.

TONY AVIRGAN, EILEEN BISSON, FRANK BRODHEAD, BELL CHEVIGNY, JUDY CHOMSKY, NOAM CHOMSKY, UNA CLAFFEY, MARGERY DAVIES, DONNA FINN, NORM FRUCHTER, MITCHELL GOODMAN, KENNETH HALE, HILDE HEIN, ANDREW HIMES, FLORENCE HOWE, FRANK JOYCE, DONALD KALISH, LOUIS KAMPF, MADGE KAPLAN, MARY-LOUISE KEAN, HANS KONING, PAUL LAUTER, DOUGLAS McCAY, RICHARD OHMANN, WAYNE O'NEIL, CARLOS OTERO, GRACE PALEY, CLAUDETTE PIPER, HENRY ROSEMONT, BOB ROSENTHAL, MICHELE RUSSELL, CAROLE SMITH, AMY SWERDLOW, JEAN TURNER, GEORGE VICKERS.
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April 24, 1979

Dear Resisters,

In most respects organizational work has been going smoothly and well. Income has been consistent. Good grant applications have come in, and we've usefully funded many. The Resist staff, Frank Brodhead, has maintained an efficient and responsive office and organization.

At the same time, new demands and opportunities are clearly before us: the possibility of a restored draft, the increasing conflict in Southern Africa, the fallout from Three-Mile River, and the growing anti-feminist backlash, in particular.

We identified two kinds of organizational problems at the last meeting: one is that with a staff of one, and little committee participation, there are simply many opportunities which we cannot follow through on. We discussed a number of approaches to this problem; in particular, we're trying to raise some additional funds to finance a half-time staff person who, we think, would more than make up her salary in increased income and organizational work.

Second, at the last two meetings of Resist, only male members of the committee were present. It isn't we thought, that decisions about funding would be significantly different if both women and men participated in them -- with respect either to feminist or other projects. We do think, however, that discussions might be more fully informed. And what could clearly be improved, were more women to take an active role in the organization, is the flow of grant proposals from feminist organizing projects (six of 23 this time round). That's surely a desirable goal. How do we move to deal with this problem?

One more thing you will want to know: we decided last meeting to join formally both a national and a local (Boston) coalition against registration and the draft. Frank will be attending meetings in Boston; it will be necessary to have a person or persons willing to attend the national (CARD) meetings on our behalf. Volunteers? Frank is drafting up a statement of our views on the subject as part of a letter to CARD—basically, it says that we would encourage and organize resistance to a renewed draft and that we believe taking that position and organizing for it now to be the best means actually to stop passage of any new bill.

Where have we heard this before?

Cheers,

Paul Lauter

TONY AVIRGAN, EILEEN BISSON, FRANK BRODHEAD, BELL CHEVIGNY, JUDY CHOMSKY, NOAM CHOMSKY, UNA CLAFFEY, MARGERY DAVIES, DONNA FINN, NORM FRUCHTER, MITCHELL GOODMAN, KENNETH HALE, HILDE HEIN, ANDREW HIMES, FLORENCE HOWE, FRANK JOYCE, DONALD KALISH, LOUIS KAMPF, MADGE KAPLAN, MARY-LOUISE KEAN, HANS KONING, PAUL LAUTER, DOUGLAS MCCAY, RICHARD OHMANN, WAYNE O'NEIL, CARLOS OTERO, GRACE PALEY, CLAUDETTE PIPER, HENRY ROSEMONT, BOB ROSENTHAL, MICHÈLE RUSSELL, CAROLE SMITH, AMY SWERDLOW, JEAN TURNER, GEORGE VICKERS.