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Resist Board Meeting, Nov. 19, 1981

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R E S I S T

38 union square · somerville, massachusetts 02143 · 617/623-5110

*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 Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority

Nov. 10, 1981

Dear REsisters,

THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURS., NOV 19th, at Frank B's, 277 Highland Ave., Somerville (776-0588). However, we are pretty strapped for money and we're not sure what we will have for grant-giving. At this point, we are still recovering from the summer slowdown. Several mailings have gone out and the returns are steadily trickling in. While these seasonal slumps seem to be inevitable as well as temporary, we are feeling the need to reevaluate and reorganize. Our income is steady, but hasn't made any major leaps over the past year. We have a few ideas for getting a better flow, but as it stands now Resist cannot comfortably support the equivalent of 2 full-time staff people (Amanda & Dorothy are each half-time and Frank is full-time). The bind is that the amount and quality of our work would be very difficult for one person to manage. We'd like to discuss options and changes at the next meeting and would appreciate any advice you may have.

Here are the grant requests we have so far:

The first 6 were put off at the last meeting.

1. West Virginians for Equal Justice -- \$500 for Reaganomics mailing.
2. Women's Connection (Vermont) --\$500 for bulk rate mailing service.
3. Oficina Legal del Pueblo Unido -- \$500 for suit against Corpus Christi police.
4. Western Mass Labor-Community Support Network -- \$500 newsletter production.
5. Chinatown Housing and Land Development Task Force (Boston) -- \$530 office supplies - this group is still actively fighting and also dealing with racism & sexism issues.
6. East Providence Community Center (RI) -- help with multilingual newsletter.
7. Mobilization to Save the Heartland (MO) -- update on conference (applied for seed money previously).
8. Black United Front -- \$220 office supplies.
9. R2N2 (NYC) -- help to provide technical assistance & publicity campaign.
10. Sing Out Magazine (NYC) -- \$5,000 toward special issue.

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.

11. Stop Project ELF (WI) -- \$500 for mail expenses.
12. Mission Hill Planning Commission (MA) -- \$500 seed \$ to restore tenant org.
13. Women's Party for Survival (AZ) -- \$250-300 various campaigns.
14. Peace Resource Center of San Diego -- help with slide show & other education.
15. New Jewish Agenda (MA) -- \$350 for newsletter & pamphlet.

More to come.

Dorothy

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—from A Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority

MINUTES OF MEETING: NOVEMBER 19, 1981

The meeting was at Frank B's. Present were: Frank, Dorothy, Amanda, Louis, Wayne, Kate, and Ken. We considered 27 proposals, made eleven grants totalling \$1842.00, and had fourteen rejections and two postponements. The grants were:

1. Officina Legal -- A token grant of \$100 to help with their latest suit against a police department in Texas.
2. Western Mass. Labor Community Support Network -- \$50 x 3 (a cautious support grant for their newsletter).
3. Mobilization to Save the Heartland -- \$150 x 2 for their planned conference. Received a good report of the fall anti-draft conference sponsored by the same group of people.
4. Black United Front -- \$150 for their Police Brutality and Investigation Unit. *Thanks to George for info. on this.*
5. Stop Project ELF -- A support grant of \$150. It was felt that although they have done much good work in the past, at the moment they are pretty confused and disorganized. We are open to requests from them in the future.
6. Women's Party for Survival -- \$100 x 2 for general support. (Received a report that these Arizona women are great!) *—Thanks to Louis.*
7. Peace Resource Center (San Diego) -- We liked their updated application (~~see third section of packet~~) and gave them \$184 to produce their brochure on San Diego's Nuclear Harbor.
8. Southern Organizing Committee -- \$150 to support their guns and butter organizing in North Carolina.
9. Selective Service Law Panel (LA) -- A token grant of \$100 towards their videotape on draft registration. The total budget was way beyond our means, but we all felt that the work of the Panel is exceptionally valuable and should be supported.
10. CALC & CORD (Oregon) -- \$208 for a slide projector to be used in their minority outreach draft counseling project.
11. Coalition for Basic Human Needs -- \$100 x 2 for their anti-Workfare campaign. Kate and Frank felt strongly that this group has been and will continue to be in the forefront of the anti-cutback fight and that a Resist grant might encourage them to emphasize the guns/butter connection more.

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11/19/81 Meeting

Rejections:

1. West Virginians for Social Justice -- Despite geographical points in this group's favor, people were not impressed with their Reaganomics pamphlet or with their plan to mail it out. We will encourage them to apply again when they have some direct organizing in mind.
2. Women's Connection (VT) -- This bulk mailing project seems like a good idea but is not a priority.
3. Chinatown Housing and Land Development Task Force (Boston) -- From what we could gather, this group is not very political and their work is not a Resist priority.
4. East Providence Community Center (RI) -- We felt that this was social service work.
5. R2N2 (NY) -- This group has now gone national, and although we have supported them in the past we felt that to accomplish their stated goals they must now attract liberal support and any Resist support would be simply token.
6. Sing Out (NYC) -- This was clearly out of our league.
7. Mission Hill Planning Commission (Boston) -- This is just tenant organizing, not at all political and Haymarket's kind of thing.
8. New Jewish Agenda (MA) -- Louis has worked with this group and feels that they can raise money from their largely professional and academic membership.
9. Mass Open Resistance (Boston) -- Frank, Amanda, and Dorothy have worked with these people (actually only two white, middle-class resisters) and felt strongly that although theirs is the only resistance group in the area they ~~would~~ were not likely to attract new members.
10. Women's Caucus on El Salvador (W. Mass) Although their conference seemed like a good project, their budget was high on frills (Entertainment and food) and we did not feel we could support it.
11. Wallflower Order Dance Collective (Cambridge, MA) -- We ~~fx~~ like their work, but feel that the audience they reach is already sympathetic to solidarity struggles, and that they could always use an available slideshow on Nicaragua instead of producing a new one themselves.
12. New York Circus -- We felt that their planned directory for undocumented aliens is a valuable project, but that they should get funding from the social service agencies that will use this directory.
13. Cooper Square (NYC) -- This group is not at all political aside from the class/race composition of ~~xx~~ its membership. After the meeting we received a support letter from Dave Dellinger for this group, ~~x~~ but did not feel that this was a reason to change our decision.

14. Radio West (Santa Monica) -- Too much ~~fm~~ dollars for this potentially commercial project. It will probably ~~be we~~ldone and useful, but it isn't direct organizing by a long shot.

Postponed:

1. Che Lumumba School (Amherst) -- Louis and Wayne will call Jack Weston and Tom Roper with some questions.
2. Machinists for Democracy (San Diego) -- This came in at the last minute and needs more checking; it may be a possibility for Z money.

Other Business:

MONEY: At the time of the meeting things were looking pretty grim. We have since done a mailing to the upper end of our contributor list which has done very well, and both earlier mailings (to Radical America and a Boston contributor list) have broken even. A Win Magazine mailing is now out and we should ~~being~~ seeing the first returns this week. In the past this list has been phenomenally successful for us.

Because of the severity of our financial situation we decided to take a long-term look at our expenses and prospects for increased income. We decided that we had two choices: either to reduce staff and produce the newsletter either seldomly or not at all, or to plan an expansion drive. We decided on the latter option and the details are as follows: We would like to do 50,000 pieces of promotional mail ~~xxxxxx~~ in the next calendar year. Assuming a 1% rate of return we can increase our contributor list by 50%, a 2% rate of return (not an unrealistic expectation) would mean a doubling of our list. With this increase in our list we do not anticipate any added staff time as all the essential work: the newsletter, pledge letter, and preparing for and following up meetings will remain the same. Because we pay a fixed ~~mm~~ monthly computer fee and do our own computer work, servicing this expanded list will also cost no more. In fact our only increased expenses should be for printing and postage which together represent only a relatively small part of our expenses. In short, we predict that almost all of this increased income will be able to go directly into grants greatly boosting the percent of our income that goes into this category.

In order to maximize the return on our promotional mailing, the board decided that it was appropriate to hire a professional to write and design our mailing. We agreed that we would hire Frank Ackerman, an editor at Dollars and Sense who has had quite a bit of experience with this sort of thing and who would do the job for \$500. HOWEVER, since the meeting a new opportunity has arisen and the new plan is that Amanda's mother, Adrienne Claiborne, will do our promotional material for free. Adrienne has been in ~~an~~ advertising for over thirty years, has an excellent track record, and experience with direct mail. ~~xxx~~ She, with her partner Gerard Yosca, have offered to write and design the mailing as well as redesign our stationary. ^{through other connections} typesetting for these projects will also be done free and we have a chance at some cut-rate printing. This is really an amazing stroke of fortune, and we on the staff are very pleased.

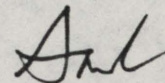
In order to minimize the cost of this mailing, and thereby decrease the percent of ~~xxxx~~ return needed to break even, ~~w~~ the board decided that it would be wiser to print a minimum of 25,000 brochures and envelopes at a time, and then turn over the money generated by the first batch of mailings and print

another 25,000. In order to do this we need some loans from the board. \$7,000. to be exact. So far, people at the meeting have pledged \$3-4,000.00 with another \$1,000 promised by Noam Chomsky for the first of the year. The deal on these loans is that they will be paid back by the end of 1982 and that they are absolutely secure. Even if the mailings bombed, our regular income would secure these loans. So we need another \$2 -3,000 from New York people. We will probably be making some calls to you individually, but if you think you can help please call the office. We are planning to send the promotional materials to the printer the first week in January and ~~we~~ do the mailings in February and March, so we need the money by January. We feel that this project is the only solution to the long-term problems of Resist and are very excited about its outcome.

expected

As an additional economy measure, the people at the meeting decided that we can no longer afford to pay for people to attend meetings, and that ~~the~~ meetings will have to be in Boston for at least the next six months to avoid staff travel costs. This also means that we can no longer afford to pay for Frank J's travel from Detroit and that we can't ask any new members to join the board unless they can pay their own transportation. Regrettable, but there it is. In order to maximize the number of New York people who can attend meetings we have decided to regularize them. From now on MEETINGS WILL BE ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH STARTING IN JANUARY. The next few meeting dates are: January 17, February 21, March 21, April 18, May 16, and June 20. ~~xxx~~ To maximize participation of those board members who regularly do not attend meetings, or who will not be able to attend as regularly, we will now be enclosing response sheets with the initial packets. Board members will be asked to indicate their approval/disapproval and to include their opinions and/or any special information they have about a particular group or project. Another advantage of regular meetings is that the staff will be able to better plan their work and we won't have the meeting, pledge letter, promo mailings, and the newsletter coming ^{all} at once as we did this month. (Which is a round about way for apologizing for the lateness of these minutes.) The staff will also not be making calls to check out meeting dates with board members. So come if you can and we all hope to see you or at least hear from you.

Best,



Amanda, for the meeting