Resist Board Meeting, April 18, 1982

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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 Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority

April 7, 1982

Dear Resist Folks,

As of this writing I am assuming that the next meeting will be held at Louis' APRIL 18, at 11 a.m. The date and time are certain but there is a chance that the meeting will be moved to Kate's house if Louis' famous remodeling job is not completed in time. Stay tuned for last minute phone calls.

We have fifteen applications already in for the meeting and are expecting one more from the New York Solidarity Committee any moment now. We have two applications from religious/peace groups (#5 and #7) that I am particularly eager to hear from you on.

Here they are:

1. CubaTimes (NYC) -- $535 for a promotional mailing.
2. Community Alternatives to Budget Cuts (Greensboro, NC) -- Up to $1000 for general support.
3. Machinists for Democracy (San Diego, CA) -- Money to publish their newsletter, Machinists in Gear, at $250.00 per issue.
4. MERIP (NYC) -- $600 for a new typewriter, or $400 for graphics for a planned special issue.
5. Presente (Catholics) (Tucson, AZ) -- $250.00 for a slide projector.
6. June 14 Civil Disobedience (NYC) -- $500.00 for a weekend training session for non-violence trainers.
7. Oscar Romero Center for Christian Awareness -- $500.00 to translate and print materials from CONIP, the Coordinating Committee of the Popular Church in El Salvador.
8. People for Peace (Gt. Barrington, MA) -- $1000 for general support.
9. ASOGUA (Washington, DC) -- Any part of $748.00 for various itemized expenses.
10. Comm. to Stop the Rate Hike (Cambridge, MA) -- Any part of the expected $950.00 deficit for the next three months of the campaign.
11. Berkeley Resistance (CA) -- Help with their planned June non-violent blockade of the Lawrence Livermore nuclear weapons lab. (Specifics requested.)
12. Friends of the Filipino People (Cambridge) -- $250.00 to print a pamphlet, "For Phillipine Survival," nationalist essays by Claro M. Recto and Renato Constantino.

13. United Labor Unions (Boston, MA) -- This is an ACORN group, not to be confused with Eastern Serviceworkers, et al. They want $430 to organize home care workers. Note that they have already received Ferry money.

14. Greater Boston June 12 Campaign -- $862.45 to pay for 500 resource packets which will serve both an organizing and a fundraising purpose.

15. Stop the Pentagon/Serve the People (Philadelphia) -- $500 for one issue of their newsletter and for a general brochure.

That's it.

[Signature]
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—from A Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority

MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 1982 MEETING

We made nine grants totalling $1500.00. There were six rejections and one postponement and one group was recommended to the Ferrys.

GRANTS:

1. CubaTimes -- $100.00. We wanted to give them something, but questioned the importance of this publication given that extensive coverage of Cuba is available in The Guardian, ITT, etc.

4. MERIP -- $100.00. George felt that we needed to discuss whether or not their work was the most important thing to support in this area before giving them money, but people at the meeting felt that their information continued to be invaluable and that they had not skirted difficult issues - women's rights for example.

5. Present, Catholics for Peace and Justice -- $150.00 towards purchase of a slide projector. This group checked out very well with contacts in Tucson. On the question of abortion, the people in the group are personally opposed to it, but feel it is divisive for them to bring up their personal feelings.

6. June 14 CD (NY) -- $200.00 for a non-violence training session.

7. Oscar Romero Center (NY) -- $100.00 and George will contact them to help them raise money from NY church sources.

8. People for Peace (MA) -- $200.00 general support.

11. Berkeley Resistance (CA) -- $250.00 for their Livermore Labs campaign.

13. United Labor Unions (MA) -- $150.00 for buses for their homemakers organizing campaign.

15. Stop the Pentagon/Serve the People -- $250.00 pending Frank's checking them out in Philadelphia.

REJECTIONS:

2. Community Alternative to Budget Cuts (NC) -- They have a largely professional membership and have yet to do any in-house fundraising. We will encourage Larry Morse, who suggested Resist to them, to encourage another group he works with (Citizens for Justice and Unity) to apply instead.
10. Committee to Stop the Rate Hike (MA) -- This group fell apart by the time we had our meeting.

12. Friends of the Filipino People (Boston) -- Their proposed pamphlet was not a priority for us.

14. Boston June 12 -- Our money does not generally go to fund large demonstrations. Specifically, this is a lowest level coalition which has consistently ignored issues other than disarmament. Resist's function has always been to fund the more radical elements, i.e., the C.D. (above).

16. Solidarity (NY) -- This was a big budget one-shot deal. DSOCers should support this kind of thing.

17. New Englanders for Peace (MA) -- This was a last minute entry. They received an emergency $100.00 grant several weeks ago, and we felt that for a demonstration with a $20,000 budget this was all we could do.

OTHER:

3. Machinists for Democracy (San Diego) -- This group checked out as effective and not a party front. We will recommend them for $1000.00 Z-money.

9. ASOGUA (Washington, DC) -- This postponed for the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: MAY 16 (SUNDAY), 11 A.M. AT LOUIS.

After grants discussion we had a session which Pam initiated and Wayne christened: CRITICISM/DISCUSSION/TRANSFORMATION.

Pam brought up several observations she had about process and criteria that went into decisions about grants: Whether a particular group receives funding depends partly on what the competition is and how much money is available in a particular month, meaning that sometimes a group will receive money that would not have in a preceding month and vice versa; in deciding on priorities reference is often made to the original goals of Resist and so Pam would like to look at some of the history and the early documents; there is a definite bias towards funding grassroots organizing and/or development of tools for organizing; in judging the individuals involved in a particular project we look for good experience, non-sectarian politics, and "radical" politics which we don't seem to have defined. Pam also noted that it seems to make a difference whether a group has received Resist money in the past, but how it effects our decisions she wasn't quite sure. Pam generally felt comfortable with the criteria and process that was used, but had questions about how much organizations were followed-up.

Responses: Wayne -- We as board members can and should encourage groups that are doing good work to apply. Louis -- In the past when the board did work in the office they were able to do a certain amount of follow-up just by keeping track of what came in the mail, now the staff is responsible for this.

Pam wanted to know the political thinking behind the opposition to funding "just" a conference of publications.

Wayne -- Opposition to publications or conferences is to these in isolation. We must ask ourselves how do they fit into an overall organizing strategy.
Louis -- Compares our opposition to the Solidarity conference to fuddling an early 9 to 5 organizing conference.

Frank -- Part of the job of the staff is to encourage a group that is doing good work to apply to Resist for specifics that are of interest to the board. Group's are often hesitant to apply for their most radical sounding stuff.

Pam feels that the process of assigning specific amounts of money appears to work but is somewhat arbitrary. The unspoken question is whether to give a little to many or a lot to a few.

Louis-- A former board member, Dan Stern, quit over this. He felt that we should decide scientifically what were the vanguard movements and organizations and give them a lot of money. Louis feels that the vanguard is usually not easily identified. Wants to know if it makes a difference in fundraising if we make a few or many grants?

Frank-- It's certainly easier to raise money with ten grants in the pledge letter instead of three.

Louis, Wayne -- It's good to raise these questions and good to have a new person to help us gain perspective on our process.

Kate -- Glad that Pam raised these questions she had many of the same. On the question of assigning specific amounts of money, she liked the meeting at which we all separately prioritized our first three choices and then saw how many "votes" each group got.

NEWS AND GOSSIP

Wayne is leaving August 1 for thirteen months in China and Japan. Frank is leaving for Philadelphia April 12. His new address is: 5030 Newhall St., Philadelphia, PA 19144. He does not have a phone number as yet. Frank would like to stay on the board as a contact and would like to receive the packets and minutes. He is also open to writing for the newsletter and would like to be approached with specific requests for stories.

NEW BOARD MEMBER?

Amanda will ask Beatriz Manz, a Chilean exile and professor (at Wayne State until recently) who is active in the Latin American solidarity groups if she might be interested in serving on the board. If she is interested, Pam, Wayne, and Louis will constitute the interviewing committee. Mitch Goodman suggested that we might consider asking the Iglesiases (Helen and Jose) to join the board. They now live in Maine and Mitch thought it might be useful to have some representation from that area. Louis was under the impression that neither of them had been politically active since the sixties. Does anyone else have any impressions?

KEEP THOSE CALLS AND LETTERS COMING

All of us on the board find the comments of out-of-town board members to be very helpful at meetings. We encourage all of you to use the proxy vote sheets that are mailed out in your pre-meeting packets. If you don't have time to fill them out, or are fearful that they won't reach Somerville in time please call us, collect if necessary. We really appreciate hearing your voices.

That's it from here, Amanda
Dear Resist People:

During the past few weeks you received two letters from Dorothy Martin concerning hassles amongst the staff at the Resist office. We meant to let you know, as briefly as possible, what the hassles are all about, and what the current situation is.

The Resist staff for the past two years has consisted of Frank Brodhead (full-time), Amanda Claiborne (half-time), and Dorothy Martin (half-time). Frank made the decision, several months ago, to move to Philadelphia. His imminent departure caused personal conflicts between Amanda and Dorothy to surface. One expression of these conflicts was Dorothy's insistence that Amanda not work full-time after Frank's departure. At its monthly meeting the board decided that Amanda should be allowed to work 28 hours so that she would not have to work at another job to make a living. At the meeting, Dorothy said she could live with this.

Dorothy changed her mind, and ultimately declared that she would not work with Amanda. We asked Dorothy to reconsider, but she stuck to her decision. In effect, she resigned. Dorothy feels that we were irresponsible, and should have done what, in her mind, is best for Resist: ask Amanda to leave. We do not feel good about Dorothy's leaving: her work has been excellent; she's dedicated to the movement; and she's a very fine person. However, there is no way we could have asked Amanda to leave.

We've decided on the following arrangement for the office: Amanda will work 30 hours a week; we'll hire a new staff person who will have the option of working 30 to 40 hours a week. We have interviewed six excellent people for the job, and have chosen Meredith Smith, an experienced organizer and administrator who has been active with Women's Pentagon Action. Meredith will start in two weeks.

Meanwhile, the office's work has been impaired only slightly.

What have we learned? The board should have been in closer touch with the staff. When the conflict surfaced, it was total news to us. We were not available to the staff when we might have been of help. From now on, at least one board member will attend weekly staff meetings. Hopefully, this will allow us to deal with problems before they become hopeless.

Finally, we can hardly say enough about Frank's contribution to Resist. He put the organization on its feet when it was floundering. He brought political thinking and administrative creativity to an office which had become
a mess. We hate to see his departure marred by this sort of conflict. We are happy that he will keep working with Resist, and will be available to us as a resource in the Philadelphia area.

Kate Cloud
Louis Kampf