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Resist Board Meeting, Aug. 1, 1982

Resist

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Minutes of August 1, 1982 Meeting

Present were Amanda, Meredith, Pam, Kate, and Louis and we had a proxy from Ken.

Money is good considering it's August, but that doesn't mean much. We decided we could give out $1000 now (with another $150 which won't be sent till October) and that we can't afford a September meeting. We'll be doing some mailings to outside lists in September, but can't expect them to produce more than they cost. Income from our own list won't really start coming in until October if the past few years are any guide. Of the seventeen proposals in the packet two were postponed due to lack of information (2,5), two were recommended to the Ferrys (3,10), and there were eight grants made and five rejections. Details are:

1. Community Works (Boston) -- $200 towards cost of their first campaign targeting Harvard. We felt that it was important to encourage this effort at self-sufficiency even as we were not impressed by some of the member groups of this coalition.

2. Indian Treaty Council -- postponed for more information (unfortunately received Monday).

4. Oficina Legal (TX) -- $150 which we'll send them in October as their need is constant but not pressing.

3. Long Island Progressive Coalition -- They do most of their work with unions, so we decided to give the Ferrys a try.

5. People's Switchboard (NYC) -- Postponed due to lack of info.

6. New York Street Theatre (NYC) -- Any contribution would have been token, and this really did not seem a priority anyway.

7. Community Land Trust (TN) -- This did not seem like a Resist priority, and their application was not well thought out. Meredith has done some foundation research for them and will pass on these names. We also leave open the possibility of giving them something at a later date.

8. Mass. FAC (Boston) -- This is electoral and not a Resist priority. Amanda will suggest some other likely foundations to them.

9. Worcester Peace Network (MA) -- It is important for peace groups to deal with the questions Americans have about the Soviets, but this seemed rather a naive and not particularly effective way to go about it. They have also applied to Haymarket, NE War Tax Resistance, and the Peace Development Fund all of whom seem more predisposed to this sort of thing.

10. Workers Rights Project (Seattle) -- They received Ferry money for the first edition of their pamphlet last year. We'll recommend them again.
11. Peace Education/WILPF (Boulder) -- We'll send them $75 to cover the costs of their library presentation. Geographic distribution was as much a factor as anything else on this one.

12. Rural American Women -- This is a good group and we would have sent more if we'd had it. $200 towards their mailing.

13. The Newspaper (Lynn, MA) -- $100 as their annual token contribution. Louis comments that we can't keep on funding them forever.

14. Center for Student Rights (Chicago) -- Their book appears to be excellent and, from what Pam says, unique. We had some concerns about their distribution plans, but a letter received just before the meeting was reassuring in this regard. This was another one where we would have given more if we'd had it. $200.

15. Jobs with Peace (Baltimore) -- We had a good discussion about the pros and cons of this campaign. Pro-soviet, but do raise important economic issues. Louis felt that their analysis was fundamentally faulty: under capitalism money not spent on the military would not be spent on social services, but the rest of us felt that it was better to make these connections than to pretend they don't exist as do most community groups. $100 which is what we gave the Boston campaign.

16. Bay State Conversion (MA) -- Their booklet definitely could have been better, particularly the graphics, but it definitely fills a need. An important tool for activists. $135 for distribution with "money is tight" letter.

17. New Liberty Productions (Philadelphia) -- We hear nothing but good about this group and if times were better we would have given them a token contribution. As things are we couldn't.

The New Call

We discussed the first draft of the New Call which Dick Ohmann wrote (Enclosed). We felt that it succeeded in covering a lot of ground, and that it met the main requirements of being both short and substantive, and a complicity and a political statement. Specific criticisms were: in talking about the All Volunteer Army it should deal with the racism of the status quo; it should address the connections between draft resistance and other kinds of resistance (the resistance of everyday life?) in a more substantive way; it should be snappier or more poetic. Louis pointed out that the first Call took a year and a half to write, so we all felt relieved. The plans for this are as follows: 1) locate a copy of the first call to provide some political and stylistic continuity; 2) pass on our suggestions to Dick directly; 3) ask all of you to write your own drafts or to make changes/comments/suggestions on the enclosed draft and send it directly to Dick, 33 Orange Rd. Middletown, CT 06451. We really need the involvement of as many of you as possible if we are to produce a good statement.

In case you want to mark up your calendars, the next meeting is SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17 at Louis', 11 a.m. as usual. We may have a meeting in September to work on the Call if that seems desirable.

Anyone interested in a national legal defense fund? There will be a meeting on this in NYC on the 22nd, 9 am at Friends Meeting, 15 Rutherford Place.
July 25

Amanda, Meredith, & RESIST friends--

Here's a draft for you to work with, or against. I wanted to read it to one of the office people, to see if you thought you could build on it. But it's Sunday, and I'll be away tomorrow, so I read it to Louis and he thought it would do, for starters.

All numbers mentioned in the draft are out of my head (except the figure of 3 indicted, which is out of Louis' head), and should be checked.

Amanda--the one lead of yours that I didn't take up was the suggestion to mention the Boston 5 trial. I wasn't sure I understood why: was it to make people feel safer in signing a new call? Also, I couldn't figure out a way to extend the second last paragraph without seeming to shift the focus to RESIST.

Let me know if you'd like me to try another approach.

Best,

(I asked my son, a non-registrant, to comment on this. He thought it was OK but thought we should also note that there's no way the Court can win on this, if a solid movement develops.)
Complicity Statement--Draft

More than half a million young men have declined to register with the Selective Service System. One hundred sixty, who refused openly, have received letters threatening prosecution. Three have already been indicted.

WE SUPPORT THE ACTIONS OF ALL THESE MEN.
WE DECLARE OUR COMPLICITY IN THEIR REFUSAL.
WE WISH TO JOIN IN THE RISK THEY TAKE.

Who can believe that there will be mandatory registration and no draft, for the first time in U.S. history? Bills to restore the draft have been introduced in both houses of Congress, and we hear many voices proclaiming that the so-called volunteer army is inadequate to our defense needs. Even as it carries forward the biggest weapons build-up ever, the government is preparing people for this further militarization of U.S. society. We must resist it now.

In opposing registration and a draft, however, we do not imply support of the military status quo. The "volunteer" army is a hoax. Twenty percent unemployment among teenagers, part of the severe and worsening inequality in our society, makes the idea of voluntary service a mockery. We call for a sharp reduction of the armed forces, of arms spending, and of all the government's policies which distort and regiment our society. We see in these policies no conceivable "defense" of a decent life, but only a cementing of illegitimate power, a heightening of inequality, an increasing danger of nuclear war, and a guarantee of bloody military intervention wherever popular resistance threatens the interests of U.S. corporations and the rule of "friendly" dictators and juntas.

Non-registration is an important mode of resistance to these policies, dramatizing the way the needs of the powerful cancel the rights of those with least power. But it is not a privileged form of resistance: we call for, and support, every principled action against the military, and against the ruthless grab for corporate and governmental power.

Fifteen years ago, RESIST put out the first "Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority." The mass movement of which that call was a part won some victories: most notably, it set limits to the use of arbitrary power, and established our willingness and ability to say no. We urgently need to reassert that ability now.

Here is our NO to registration, NO to the draft, NO to military power. Here is our solidarity with those who resist.
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

July 21, 1982

Dear Resisters,

The next meeting will be SUNDAY, AUGUST 1 at Pam Chamberlain's: 44 Kirkland St. in Cambridge (354-7731). The time is 11 am.

In addition to considering the seventeen proposals listed below, we will also be working out a final draft of a New Call to Resist Illegitimate Authority in response to the draft registration indictments. We have also, since our last meeting, been working on resurrecting a legal defense fund for military resisters. If anyone on the board is particularly interested in this and doesn't plan to be at the meeting I would really appreciate getting a call from him/her. Dick Ohmann is working on the first draft of the New Call, so if anyone has ideas call him at 203/347-3680 or 413/625-2715.

The proposals are:

1. Community Works (Boston) -- $400 to help set up this coalition fundraising effort.

2. Indian Treaty Council -- Up to $500 to help repay costs of Eighth International Indian Treaty Conference held June 3-13.


4. Oficina Legal del Pueblo Unido (TX) -- Any amount towards police brutality suits in Texas.

5. People's Switchboard (NY) -- More info on the way. Waiting notice received.

6. New York Street Theatre Caravan -- Any part of $8000 for travel expenses to Nicaragua.

7. Community Land Trust (TN) -- Any amount up to $3000 for their garden project in Appalachia.

8. Mass. FAC -- $400 to fund a questionnaire on food and farm issues for candidates in the 1982 elections.


TONY AVIRGAN, BRIAN BISSON, FRANK BROMHEAD, BEIL CHEVIGNY, JUDY CHOMSKY, NOAM CHOMSKY, UNA CLAFFEY, MARGERY DAVIES, DONNA FINN, NORM FRUCHTER, MITCHELL GOODMAN, KENNETH HALE, HILDE HEIM, ANDREW HINES, FLORENCE HOWE, FRANK JOYCE, DONALD KALISH, LOUIS KAMPE, MAEGE KAPLAN, MARY-LOUISE KEAN, HANS KONING, AULLAUTER, DOUGLAS MCCAY, RICHARD OHMANN, WAYNE O'NEIL, CARLOS OTERO, GRACE PALEY, CLAUDETTE PIPER, HENRY ROSEMONT, BOB ROSENTHAL, MICHELE RUSSELL, CAROLE SMITH, JAN RUCHBLOOM, JEAN TURNER, GEORGE VICKERS.
10. Workers Rights Project (MA) — $500 for updating their unemployment handbook.

11. Peace Education Comm. of WILPF (Boulder, CO) — Money for a children’s exhibit at the local library, and a school project.

12. Rural American Women (DC) — $500 for a fundraising mailing.

13. The Newspaper (Lynn, MA) — $500 to meet their anticipated deficit.


16. Bay State Conversion Group (MA) — $500 for promotion of their new booklet; to purchase DoD literature; and staff time to organize their files and library. Check reputation.

17. New Liberty Productions (Philadelphia) — They were rejected earlier this year as not a Resist priority and are reapplying as they have since gotten matching funds. Last minute phone call.

See you soon,

Amanda
AUGUST 1, 1982 MEETING


4. Oficina Legal: Y, N, Maybe. Comments: Send in November

5. People's Mailroom: Y, N, Maybe. Comments:


10. Workers Rights: Y, N, Maybe. Comments: Form a booklet and send a national application. Ferry's: Do not know whether it will work.

11. Peace Education - WILPF: Y, N, Maybe. Comments: $75. Questions are important, but this campaign not relevant to answer them. Hayworth + Neuter


14. Center for Student Rights: Y, N, Maybe. Comments: Encourage the to pay a lot of attention to not-study "student" issues. $200


17. New Liberty Productions: Y, N, Maybe. Comments: Sorry, but our contribution would have been taken and money is tight. One woman project wanted salary for herself. Actual library expenses only $100 as thank you note. Good project. Geographic isolation.