

Minutes January 22, 1939.

Chairman: Harry.

Correspondence: E. D. Cook, Washington \$2.50. Caloary - Request for information concerning Vanguard for February. Celia Goldberg, Chicago, concerning a dollar - a lost dollar.

Free Soc. Group \$25.00

- I. Persons Subscription - Payment of Vanguard \$1.00 - letter received from England - Rise of Fascism in Eng.

Reports: Hall Committee - Unable to find Hall. Property of Group stored in IWW hall. Office work at FAS. For \$10.00 a month could meet at One Big Union Hall.

M/S Committee to go look for hall. Secure information on meeting place.

Amendment - Committee look for office; speak Russian Jewish Groups.

Final Motion: Committee to approach Groups, look for place (Maximum rent \$15.00, consider means of raising money) Motion carried.

Committee: Irving, Toto, Joe, Yetta.

Brooklyn - Meeting Friday.. Attempt to have hall in Brooklyn. Perhaps with another group - \$5.0 month. Report accepted.

Membership: Leon - Ran on Trotskyite ticket in school election. Motion - letter to Leon requesting that he attend next week's meeting and discuss matter.

Meeting called by Sid for next Saturday for older members.

Members urged to attend meetings regularly. Irving volunteered to membership com.

Magazine: Still in make-up process. Difficulties in getting board together; little cooperation. Motion: Committee to meet with Editorial Board - Alfred, Irving, Harry - Sunday, Feb. 5, 5 o'clock, at Sid's.

Party: FAS group giving party Sunday at 3 o'clock - Comradetatz 20 W. 8th St. Members instructed to attend.

Conference: Minutes have not yet been sent out; motion

made that Roman send them out.

Meeting Day: Discussion tabled.
101 McDougal.

Next Sunday at Alfred's,

New Business: Jewish Ana. Fed.
Harry - Work for 1939. Tabled.

Conference - Irving, Miltie,

Good and Welfare. Pay dues.

Meeting adjourned.

Nancy.

Sunday, February 5, 1939,

Minutes were read and accepted.

Correspondence: Stelton Group - cooperated in putting out publication - as for rent that seems to be out of the question.

Money received from various sources.

As to the matter asking the Stelton Group for rent for us, instruct Joe to write a letter to them explaining the matter and try to straighten it out with them.

The minutes of the Conference are to be sent out Tuesday.

JAF Conference in the Rand School on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The speaker for the opening night is Glenn Carrington. Dal and Alfred are to be delegates. Yvette as interpreter. Brooklyn delegates are to be elected at their meeting.

Hall: Housing Committee to find out definitely whether they can get other groups as partners with us.

For 5 Vs none - Abs. 7.

Magazine is out. Also mailed. All are happy. Copies are to be sold. There is a meeting at the Stuyvesant Casino welcoming Russell Blackwell. Alf and Toto to sell literature at the meeting. Clara and Liuvl are to distribute the Vanguard at the various newsstands.

Wednesday, Feb. 15, meeting of Lovestoneites in CIO and AFL; speaker Bertram Wolfe, Monday 5:30 at Rivera Hall.

Editorial Board Meeting. One editor to be chosen for one month to get the magazine out. March 15 - Roman - April 15 - Dall - May 15 Syd. Editors are to call a meeting at least once a month for a check-up. Comrades who are willing to help and learn the ropes of editorial work to volunteer their services.

A committee to meet with the managerial board
to work out certain plans. A follows: Harry and
Irving. Yvette on M nagerial Board.

A social at Galilei Club Feb. 18.

A social at Ida Cohen's house same date.

Meeting to be held at Syd's house if no other
place is available next week.

Sivned

Yetta Milstein
Recording Secretary.

SUNDAY, March 27th, 1939.

Minutes of last meeting were not available.

Report on correspondence developed that nothing of importance had been received.

Member of Editorial Board reported that meeting had been held on the previous Wednesday, with all but one member of the board present. Hope to have next issue of VANGUARD published within a week, as material had been received. The Board voted carfare for Roman from Stelton from the Vanguard fund, so that he might fulfill his duties. Two dollars and sixty three cents spent on cables. Report accepted.

No report forthcoming from Managerial Committee. Comrade Solomon protested and suggested that Committee should attend to various matters under its jurisdiction. It was asked that the Secretary of the Committee bring in report at next meeting or the following one on the program of managing magazine. The suggestion was put in the form of a motion and carried.

Organization report: Comrade Friedman reported that there had been no response from letters sent to various people in Ohio. Believed that some work should be attempted in Philadelphia and plans for work in the very near future should be undertaken. Report accepted.

Hall Committee Report: Comrade Sterling reported that great cooperation had been given by most of the members of Vanguard and especially by Comrade Weiner. The cost of painting was \$12.00; \$7.50 additional was expended, including \$5.00 for deposit on rent. \$21.50 still due on May rent. A discussion took place on the project of decorating the hall, cleaning it, and moving various furnishings, etc. Toto, Irving, Harry agreed to confer on this detail. Report accepted.

Comrade Sterling further that the Forum Committee would work on having speakers contacted. Also that it was planned to have, besides the forums, the following:

- 1 night for meeting of group
- 1 " for social activities
- 1 " for rent to another group
- 1 " for open house.

Also that it was planned to have Hall open each night and also some part of the day.

A discussion took place as to when hall should be officially opened. Comrade Sterling reported that it had been suggested that FAS would hold an affair in Vanguard Hall, the group to provide refreshments, etc., and a collection be taken up, perhaps of one dollar from each guest. This portion of report was accepted.

Comrade Jerame offered loan of a radio up to May 30 and a gift of it thereafter. Others offered book cases and files.

Offers were gladly accepted.

Brooklyn member said there was nothing to report.

May Day Committee reported that while nothing definite had been done, due to lack of cooperation from other groups, a final meeting was to be held on the next Monday to determine whether or not a May Day Celebration would be held. A motion was made and carried that if May Day plans did not materialize, Vanguard should offer to hold joint meeting with the Jewish Federation.

Social Committee reported that an April Fool Party would be held at Dora Pine's, 318 Second Ave., and Toto was instructed to send out cards to that effect. Party on April 1st.

Forum Committee decided to hold meeting after regular business meeting. Comrade Solomon offered suggestions on work of Forum - four lectures a month, if possible, and if not, two.

Comrade Garcia reported that about \$4.00 had been made at Stelton party March 25th.

Refugees Committee: May Day Committee was instructed to make inquiries at meeting of their Committee tomorrow night (March 27th) as to what had been done on Refugee Committee work. Also May Day Committee instructed to ascertain if FAS knew anything regarding the picketing of French Consulate. This was later placed as a motion before Group and carried.

On motion that meeting night be changed from Sunday to some other time there was a discussion. A vote was taken on the most popular night and Wednesday was decided as the meeting night in the future.

It was moved and carried that the next meeting be held on Wednesday, March 29th, 1939, when discussion as to tasks and work for Vanguard Group will be held.

There was a discussion on whether picket line should be placed in front of a meeting place where the so-called Christian Front would hold a lecture on Thursday, March 30th. A motion to this effect was made and withdrawn. Instead a motion was carried to have comrades sell Comrade Rocker's book "The Tragedy of Spain" in front of meeting place. Mike and Toto offered to do the vending.

Meeting then adjourned.

Wednesday, March 29th, 1939.

Motion made and carried to postpone April 8th party to the 15th.

Letter from Comrade Roman Weinreb received, resigning his position on Editorial Board. Resignation accepted and vote of thanks given for his splendid work in the past.

Hall Committee reported nothing new. *After next issue is of present.*

Motion that committee be appointed to issue program, deferred until next meeting.

Wednesday, March 29th, 1939.

A general discussion of tasks before the Vanguard Group for furthering the movement and increasing their activities developed the twenty-eight suggestions listed below.

A great deal of discussion took place, much of which was repetitious, and some of which did not cover the field. For this reason the following points have been selected after much analysis, and the secretary believes that they combine everything that was offered in the way of suggestions. Many comrades covered the same territory, and their remarks are combined with those of others:

- 1 - Have concerted effort on magazine to see that it is issued monthly; and work toward a program to ultimately have it semi-monthly.
- 2 - More propaganda in magazine so that workers will understand meaning of movement.
- 3 - Educational articles suggested for magazine.
- 4 - Dropping of work "communistic" from title of magazine, as so many maritime works have questioned it.
- 5 - Cooperation with organizational activities in other groups, in such cities as Boston, Philadelphia, Canton, etc.
- 6 - Devising of ways to raise money for that organizational work.
- 7 - Activities should be kept at point of production - those members who go to school should do propaganda work at that point; those members who are on the sea at that point; those in office, shop at those points, etc.
- 8 - Report of inability to work with other organizations; particularly IWW from which member was expelled for his activities.

9 - Get into organizations and carry on propaganda.

10 - Apparent that in the past we have not been entirely correct in stating our goal or program of activity and we seem to go on wasting time and energy and not getting very far. We should see what mistakes have been made in the past. After several years of work we are not in a very strong position. We have merely gotten together a few members and put out a magazine irregularly. That seems to be the total of work done. Find that certain types of activity have borne fruit; that is the bringing in of new members and building up group; also magazine. Is it possible to plan so that this year will give us 100 members and a regularly issued magazine; have a few units functioning in the various industries; school unit; eight or ten speakers; also the foundation of a movement that will hold its own in the struggle that seems inevitable within the next few years, when there will probably be a war and some members may be drafted for service. some go to prison, etc. If during that time we have same kind of slipshod organization, we will not function.

11 - Possibilities of strong organization with the following important activities:

- a - Magazine
- b - Organization
- c - School work
- d - Propaganda

12 - Should undertake printing of two good pamphlets.

13 - Acquiring more speakers.

14 - Working toward some kind of federation with other groups. However, each group to keep identity.

15 - Business meetings consist not only of business details but discussions.

- 16 - Executive committee be formed to take care of most routine business, to consist of four or five comrades: Secretary, Magazine Committee, Treasurer, etc. Meet once a week and take care of correspondence, submit report. The policies of this Committee to be decided on by group.
- 17 - Shall we enter into any united front? If there is a possibility of working from our viewpoint, we can make attempt.
- 18 - Committee to be appointed to mingle with strangers at parties, etc., and make them feel at home.
- 19 - A course, comprising history of movement, meaning of the philosophy, etc. be instituted with Rudolph Rocker as the best equipped to do this. Question arose whether it should be attempted at once or next Autumn.
- 20 - General laxity of committees in their special fields: commented on and remedy against this urged.
- 21 - There are 300,000 young people in the city who are not going to school, not working, no activity. Work should be undertaken among these people; also work in the field of housing; The talk about magazine, committees, new members has been gone over for years and nothing done. There are these other fields of activity to be considered.
- 22 - We should work for a larger organization. Young people are not made libertarian communists in a day. Should devote next year to serious problems and try to bring high school students into group and into general work.
- 23 - Should have program of action covering day to day activity.

- 24 - Comrade said that while he had remained away from the group he was able to see the group, its magazine and activities from the outside and from the standpoint of other groups. New programs arise all the time, and we must discuss the new ones and allow the whole to grow together.
- 25 - Do not bind ourselves to a fixed policy, as it would be against the fundamental principles of our belief. New problems arise frequently and we must meet them, discuss them and build out activities from them.
- 26 - If our policies change from day to day we will be changing all the time and there will be nothing else to do.
- 27 - A program is something that expresses the main ideas of the group. We should have such a program.
- 28 - A group is a number of people who come together to follow out the main ideas they hold and we should work along this line.