

MINUTES- Monday, June 22/81

Against the Right

About 30 women attended. An agenda was formed and accepted.

1. Business

Letters:

The letter mentioned in last meetings minutes has been mailed out. The line " looking forward to smashing the right with you " was deleted

A letter was received from the Vancouver Gay Community Centre re. our involvement in 1981 Gay Pride Week, Aug. 1st. Discussion followed around our involvement as a group vs involvement of individual women only. This matter was TABLED to the next meeting.

Money:

The money collected at the National Lesbian Conference has been deposited in the Fisherman's Credit Union.

The money collected at the last meeting has not been dealt with yet.

We owe Video Inn \$20. for rental of equipment for this meeting.

We owe V.S.W. \$ for xeroxing which should be covered by the national collection. Discussion around who can spend our money and on what and how much was TABLED to the next meeting.

Invitation from Bread and Roses:

We have been asked to send a speaker from this group on Friday July 10th to talk about Lesbians Organizing Against the Right. They have arranged speakers from C.C.C.A., The B.C. Coalition Against Racism, etc. Discussion followed about beginning our public profile.

It was suggested that we send a woman from the Research Cttee. VOTED/CARRIED

2. Reports From The Research Committee (excerpts)

Climate Created by The Right:- the Right grows when society is in crisis therefore the enemy is not only the Right but the social conditions that prompt them to mobilize.- the church, army and politicians support the Right when they feel its (the Rt's) support is needed to maintain their power.- they seek to be a mass movement and can mobilize people around the issues of social discontent.- they are currently concentrating on unemployed working class youth and the middle class where they are also claiming financial support is being received.- their Right to Life campaign is mobilizing women.- they use scapgoats i.e. Gays.-currently in the U.S. the Anti-Abortion movement is seen as the most dangerous because they can out mobilize many other group including the Women's movement.- in Canada Right to Life is a national movement organizing in every province except Quebec where the church is doing that organizing.- they have groups in every major Canadian city pressuring hospital boards.- their money comes from corporate donations and from membership donations.

Development Stages of The Right:- they started out as fringe groups-moved on to actions like strike breaking- increased their public presence and therefore came into conflict with reform and liberal politicians-force the liberals to move to the right on issues like abortion and immigration-they can get politicians to agree with their policies because they are well organized and know how to use electoral politics.

Reports From The Research Cttee.- continued

Secular Front Groups:- Renaissance- anti Gay

- Positive Parents- anti Gay teachers and gay curriculum
- Moderate Majority-anti Gay, currently campaigning in trade unions to have "sexual orientation" removed from union contracts
- Right to Life/Pro-Life- anti abortion, currently using the rights of fetuses

Moral Majority and The Reverend Jerry Falwell:- president of M.M. and star of a weekly T.V. program with 20 million viewers called "the Old Time Gospel Hour". M.M. founded in 1979 now has 4 million members-"the O.T.G.H." broadcasts on 304 U.S. T.V. stations plus 69 out of country including 2 in Can.- it also sends out 700,000 newsletters a week- this combination bring in more than a million dollars a week.-also broadcasts $\frac{1}{2}$ hour bible study daily on 300 radio stations and five minute news comentary 3 times daily on 130 radio stations-M.M. organizes a particular electorate- registers its members to vote-raises money for certain candidates- selects and trains its own candidates.

M.M.'s Long Range Goals: recognize Taiwan asgov't of China, prayers in public schools, increased arms spending in U.S., ban on gun control laws, abolition of civil rights for homosexuals, ban on abortion, ban on child protection laws, sanctions for Rhodesia, compulsory religious education in all schools.

M.M.'s Immediate Goals: more militant military, less federal control of education, defeat of E.R.A., strong government sanctions against: abortion, homosexual rights, pornography and anything anti-family or anti-God.

the name moral "majority" means that they are not an organization of minority groups.

traditional fundamentalists are against the K.K.K. but the M.M. has declined to make known their stand

Police and the Media: police do not act by them selves, someone gives them orders.
- the bath house raids in Ont. took place three weeks before the Ont. Prov. election- this was used to discredit the Liberal and N.D.P.'s who support Gay rights
- as a result, the N.D.P. withdrew their support of Gay rights- Conservative are in power and are connected with the police- the media quotes the police as experts therefore the stories are biased in their favour- 1500 people attended a rally in Toronto and the media coverage was very small but a gathering by the K.K.K. received front page coverage.

- we must find out what is happening internally with the police
- police/army/government all have the same interests- we should research the connections in Vancouver and B.C.

Climate Created by the Right: T.V. news is the major source of information in Can.

- 2-7 versions available- give the impression to the viewer that the events and activities taking place in other cities are also happening in their own city therefore they feel they have licence to act/react to situations as if they were local

Ku Klux Klan: recent publicity in B.C. on Wolfgang Droege- organizer Dave Cook.

- Grand Wizard Alexander McQuirter- Ontario Prov. Police okayed a person for a security guard position who turned out to be operator of the communication centre for the K.K.K. - K.K.K. now accepts Catholics and women-there is a book on K.K.K. by Patsy Simms

Reports From The Research Cttee.-continued

K.K.K.-continued

-in U.S. infighting resulting in banishments-in Canada off-shoot group called Nationalist Socialist Party of Canada- B'nai B'rith does on-going research on K.K.K. - F.B.I. has infiltrated- K.K.K. are currently recruiting in highschools in south U.S., Toronto, Langley, Surrey and East Vancouver

Questions and Discussion on Preceeding Presentations

Who is the Western Guard?- 10 year old organization started in Alberta- now the Nationalist Socialist Party of Canada
Who has literature on the Police and the State?- Frances will list
Is this all going into written form? (typist's note-"seems to be the case!")
Is the Moderate Majority organizing in B.C.?-don't know
Right to Life is having a public meeting next week.
Pro Life is advertising in the Vancouver Sun.
Moral Majority has letter writing campaign to remove gay themes and characters from T.V.
Proctor and Gamble have withdrawn advertising from T.V. shows with questionable material i.e. sex, violence, immorality
A list of publications was circulated for a future clipping file.

3. Decision Making Process

Rotating chair. One woman chairs, another takes minutes. Minute taker is responsible for bringing minutes to next meeting. VOTED/CARRIED

Agenda. Will be suggested in the last five minutes of the previous meeting, then updated at the begining of the current meeting. It will include time allotments for each item and total time allotment for each meeting will be 7:30 to 10:00 P.M. VOTED/CARRIED

There will be a round at the beginning of each meeting which will include name and group represented if desired. VOTED/CARRIED

A speakers list only used in difficult discussions at the discretion of the meeting and or the chair. VOTED/DEFEATED

All concrete suggestions for policy or actin be voted on. Decisions made by 2/3 majority by show of hands. Vote called as For/Against/Abstentions. Abstentions count in total for purposes of counting 2/3 total voting. VOTED/CARRIED

Any woman who has attended one previous meeting of main body or any sub-body may vote. TABLED

A decision may be changed if 3/4 want to re-open discussion. Same decision making process from there. VOTED/CARRIED

A brief period (10 minutes) is available at the close of each meeting for general emotional clearing. VOTED/CARRIED

4. Next Meeting

Tues. July 7/81 at V.S.W. 7:30-10:00

Alleson Kase will chair.

Agenda: Old Business: - name for the group
- letter from Vancouver Gay Community Centre
- discussion and policy re. spending money
- Decision Making Process - voting eligibility (TABLED)

New Business: - presentation by Research Cttee. on who's organizing and how ?
- picking a regular meeting night