

FEDERATION FOR SELF-DETERMINATION

Minutes of Meeting of December 21, 1967

Meeting was called to order at 8:20 p.m. by Ed Vaughn of the City-Wide Citizens Action Committee. The chairman noted that handouts were available in the back of the room. They included membership applications, minutes of the previous meeting, previously passed resolutions on structure and other items.

Minutes were read by Mr. Don Roberts and approved with one minor correction.

Mr. Renny Freeman recapitulated the proposal before the New Detroit Committee and gave the historical rationale behind the need for developing such an organization as the Federation as it occurred from pre-rebellion days to the present time. An ad hoc committee was established which set up the objectives to bring about the actual formation of the Federation for Self-Determination. A three-phase program was developed. The first being for a six-month period, and the second and third being for 12 months each, thus constituting a 30-month program span.

The first phase calling for \$137,000 is the most crucial stage, an incubation period, or experimental phase concerned with setting up and staffing the Federation and testing its effectiveness for the black community.

The second and third phase calls for \$200,000 each and would continue the efforts of the first phase.

Rev. Potts reported on the current status of the proposal in the New Detroit Committee advising that discussion on the proposal has basically been limited to its funding aspects. Action has been deferred until January 4, 1968. The New Detroit Committee has argued that the Federation is not broadly enough based. However, the recommendation was made that the Federation should proceed as planned with the expectation that funds will be forthcoming with the understanding that the Federation accelerate its membership program.

Mr. Kenneth Cockrel questioned the role of Solidarity House, Mr. Walter Reuther to be more specific, as it had become evident that this faction is supporting the attack being directed against the Federation.

Mr. Freeman intervened at this point by restating the Federation's commitments: Community Unity, Self Determination and Accountability. Rev Cleage added at this point that all challenges to other black organizations should be made within the confines of the Federation.

Mr. Freeman continued to clarify the position of such organizations as DCO, TULC, the Cotillion Club and Detroit Council on Political Education, all of which had sent telegrams to the New Detroit Committee taking stands supporting DCO and denying membership in the Federation.

Several persons recommended that more positive action be taken by the Federation if the desired social changes are to be achieved.

Mr. Lonnie Peek questioned where the additional funds would come from which would be needed to supplement the amount called for in the Federation budget. Mr. Freeman responded that additional funds would be requested from other sources with the assistance of the New Detroit Committee.

Mr. Tony Vance and several others again questioned what action should be taken to deal with the Allen constituency.

Rep. John Conyers recommended ignoring and forgetting the black opposition on the basis that the people who had attacked the Federation could not be changed. He further added that there would always be people of that sort engaging in attacks upon the Federation.

The point was raised from the floor and explained that these attacks from the DCO, et al, would not affect the ultimate funding by the New Detroit Committee.

Another member, in speaking to Rep. John Conyers' statement, recommended that no consideration be given to the organizational tools but that we develop a strategy to aim an attack directly upon the key man behind the DCO, namely Walter Reuther.

This was made into the form of a motion and carried unanimously.

Mr. Cockrel moved that the chairman appoint a committee to immediately plan the strategy to deal with Mr. Reuther. Again support was unanimous.

Dr. Karl Gregory reported on the membership policy for new members. A statement on policy was approved as read. See Exhibit A.

Mr. Freeman reported on the status of the applications advising that all applications for membership in the Federation may be handed in during any meeting or mailed to the WCO office at 3535 Grand River Avenue, Detroit 48208. Henceforth the Membership Committee will handle the processing of membership applications. Some work has been done relative to recruiting organizations based on recommendations and suggestions made by members. Any further information to aid this cause would be appreciated.

Mr. Andrew Perdue reported that the Federation is now a duly constituted corporation as of December 13, 1967.

Mr. Freeman made recommendations as to the duties of the Executive Director and chief administrator. Recommendations were accepted and approved by the body. See Exhibit B.

Mr. Freeman announced the recommendation of the Board of Directors for Dr. Gregory to be appointed as the Executive Director. Recommendation was again received and approved unanimously.

Rev. Cleage recommended that a news release be made to the community pending Dr. Gregory's release from Wayne State University.

Rev. Cleage advised that the books are to be audited annually by a CPA to be appointed by the Board of Directors. A statement of financial accountability was read and adopted. See Exhibit B.

Mr. Brazelton reported on the Federation committees. The following committees were adopted.

1. Membership
2. Leadership Accountability
3. Direct Action
4. Communications and Publication
5. Education
6. Business

Mr. Cockrel suggested that the director consider using the Inner City Voice as its vehicle for publication and communication.

A committee was set up to institute a national day of mourning for Malcolm X on February 21.

Some conversation was held regarding the possible location of the Federation's office. It was moved and adopted that this be left up to the discretion of the appointed director, Dr. Gregory, as he is aware of the needs and objectives of the Federation.

On behalf of CCAC, Rev. Cleage offered the Federation a seat with IFCO inasmuch as CCAC has purchased a membership which constitutes two seats. The Federation accepted the offer of the IFCO seat from CCAC with the understanding that as soon as the Federation becomes financially able it will relinquish this seat and purchase its own membership.

The Federation membership wished to know the composition of the Board of Directors and were advised as follows:

Board of Directors: Rev. Albert Cleage, Jr.
Mr. Lorenzo Freeman
Mr. Edgar Brazelton
Mr. Ernest Davenport
Mr. Donald Roberts
Dr. Karl Gregory

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There are to be controls limiting voting to the members as suggested by Mr. Haywood Wilson at the Federation meeting. It was suggested by Rev. Cleage that this body vote on the size of the Board of Directors at the next meeting after the membership lists are completed.

Rev. Cleage recommended that Rep. Conyers head a committee to involve and negotiate with those persons who were not yet able to support the aims and goals as set forth by the Federation for Self-Determination by joining. This was put into a motion duly approved and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Roberts
Secretary

DR/KG/JF:es
12-26-67