

5/22/62

Forerunners of the Split

(Some recollections of D. Brunswick, supplemented on this date by his consulting the early minutes of Society and Institute.)

In June 1947, at the Annual Business Meeting of the Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Society, the "opposition" succeeded in shelving Dr. Simmel as President of the Society after a one-year term and electing May Romm in his place. Simmel was elected Honorary President. All of this was contrary to Simmel's own wishes. I was not on the nominating committee (the next year I was), and I do not remember how this result was brought about or what measures, if any, 'we' used in attempting to prevent it. True, Simmel had been ill off and on since the preceding November, and this was probably the pretext used in the making of the move, with the reason given of 'sparing' Dr. Simmel's energies. But he did not want this, and I know he was much upset by it.

The same pretext was certainly used in removing Dr. Simmel from the Chairmanship of the Education Committee at the Annual Election Meeting of the training analysts and Education Committee on July 7, 1947 at Dr. Simmel's house. My impression is that the opposition had carefully planned their moves, and according to my recollection our side had no suspicion beforehand of the move and therefore no concerted plan of voting to forestall it. But if before the meeting I had spoken to any one of us about the telephone

conversation I had had with Milton Miller, I believe that the opposition's plan could have and would have been defeated.

The organization of the Education Committee had developed as follows: At the organizing meeting of the Society on February 22, 1946, Simmel had appointed as training analysts besides himself Lewy (Secretary) Romm, Slutsky and Tidd. These five constituted the first Education Committee of the Society and Institute. Slutsky had died in November 1946; and at the meeting of the Education Committee on January 27, 1947 at Simmel's home there were present Simmel, Lewy, Romm, Tidd and Grotjahn, who in the meantime had been elected a training analyst but not yet a member of the Education Committee. At this meeting Brunswick and Greenson were elected training analysts and Simmel appointed Greenson and Grotjahn to the Education Committee, which thus was enlarged to six members.

Between January 27 and March 3, 1947, Mrs. Deri and Milton Miller must have been elected as training analysts (I saw no minutes of a February meeting), for at the Education Committee meeting of March 3rd at Dr. Lewy's house there were present the Committee of Lewy (presiding), Greenson, Grotjahn, Romm and Tidd (Simmel absent, presumably ill) and also present Brunswick, Deri and Miller.

So at the time of the Education Committee election meeting of July 7, 1947 there were six members of the

? (~~Miller~~) Brunswick later

Miller 1/47 or
earlier
Deri (?)

Simmel
Lewy
Tadd
Romm
Gottlieb
Jennison

-3-

Miller
Deri
Braunroch

Education Committee and a total of nine training analysts, all of whom were present at the meeting at Simmel's home. In the meantime the Society (and Institute?) By-Laws must have been amended to enlarge the Education Committee to seven members, so that at this meeting it was necessary to elect another member to the Education Committee. (Apparently the President or Chairman no longer had the appointing power, but the seven-member Committee was to be elected by and from all the training analysts.)

(7-7-47)

Before the meeting (I believe on the same day), entirely of my own volition and to my sole knowledge, I telephoned to Milton Miller. I suggested that since Mrs. Deri was older and more experienced as an analyst and teacher in psychoanalysis, he and I should forego being members of the Education Committee and should see to it that Mrs. Deri be elected as the added member. He told me at once that he did not agree with me and would himself like to be a member of the Committee. That was clear; I was somewhat shocked, but I told no one else about this. I should have alerted Mrs. Deri and Dr. Lewy at least. I was unaware at the time of the developing split, and our side were naively unaccustomed to political maneuvering, caucases and the like. As Ernst Lewy would say, we didn't know from nothing.

I am pretty sure that Simmel was present at the meeting and I know that he voted. However, Dr. Lewy as Secretary

and Acting Chairman presided over the election. According to the minutes I must have immediately proposed that the present committee be reelected with the addition of Mrs. Deri as the seventh member. This was not accepted and the procedure was adopted of having each training analyst cast a secret ballot listing his choice of seven members for the Committee. On the first ballot all the incumbent members of the Committee (Simmel, Lewy, Greenson, Grotjahn, Romm, Tidd) received 9 votes each, and there were 4 for Deri, 4 for Miller and 1 for Brunswick. This last was Mrs. Deri's vote; she would not vote for herself. Because of the tie vote, it was necessary to have a second ballot, for the seventh member of the Committee, voting between Mrs. Deri and Milton Miller. Of course someone of our faction should have taken Mrs. Deri aside and strongly urged her to vote for herself. No one did, she voted for Miller, and he received 5 votes to her 4 and became the seventh member of the Committee.

Now the seven members of the Education Committee were to elect their Chairman. Grotjahn nominated Dr. Lewy, saying that since he was Acting Chairman and really doing the work because of Simmel's illness, he should be the actual Chairman. This was seconded. Lewy and Greenson disagreed with this, and Greenson nominated Dr. Simmel, duly seconded. Certainly there was discussion by others on both sides of the question. Also, Dr. Lewy definitely did not want to run against Simmel. But this

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time there was separate discussion among those on our side and the danger was seen that if Lewy withdrew, Grotjahn would be nominated and could win. So Dr. Lewy did not withdraw, and it came to a vote by secret ballot. With only the seven Committee members voting, Lewy was elected by 4 votes to 3. Certainly Simmel voted for himself and Lewy did not vote for himself. If Mrs. Deri had voted for herself for Education Committee member, she would have been elected, and the vote for Chairman would have turned out just the opposite.

Dr. Simmel was hurt and depressed by this outcome (in spite of the fact that Dr. Lewy consulted with him as much as possible), and I have no doubt that it hastened his death, which occurred on November 11, 1947. I know that once I visited Charles Tidd at his house to protest against the inhumane treatment of Simmel and to ask him to help in rescinding the ouster. But Charley disagreed and felt that Dr. Simmel should be able to accept the reality of the situation.

There will be a sequel in this exciting serial story, in which I shall write how we became more sophisticated for the Society election in June 1948, and how in connection with a later election in the Education Committee I partly redeemed myself for my passive omissions before and during that election of July 7, 1947.

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Forerunners of the Split (Cont'd)

by D. Brunswick

It has already been related at the beginning of this account how in the annual election of the Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Society in June 1947 May Romm was elected President of the Society in place of Sissal, who was elected Honorary President. Charles Tidd was elected Vice-President and Milton Miller (I believe) Secretary-Treasurer. I believe Ernst Levy continued as Councillor for the American Psychoanalytic Association. Besides Sissal as President and Levy as Councillor, the two other previous officers had been May Romm as Vice-President and Tidd as Secretary-Treasurer.

After the disastrous election of July 7, 1947 in the Education Committee, our side (the classical group) became politically more sophisticated; and when May Romm appointed Martin Grotjahn and me (to my very great surprise) as the nominating committee a month before the June 1948 annual meeting, I was determined to proceed with caution and in communication with the members of our grouping. I persuaded Grotjahn that the best procedure would be to take a poll of all the members, whereby each member would send us a ballot with his choice for each of the four officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and Councillor). It turned out that the leaders for President were Romm and Tidd, and each had exactly the same number of votes. So we nominated both as candidates for the office. Tidd also led for Vice-President, so we nominated the next highest contender, Milton Miller; and

Statement of the Staff (1954)

by J. B. ...

It has already been noted at the beginning of this account that the annual election of the Vice-President of the Society in June 1954 was decided by the President of the Society in place of himself, who was elected Society President. Charles Tidd was elected Vice-President and Milton Miller (I believe) Secretary-Treasurer. I believe that they continued as Council for the American Psychoanalytic Association. Besides Tidd as President and Jewell as Council, the two other previous officers had been Jewell as Vice-President and Tidd as Secretary-Treasurer.

After the disastrous election of July 7, 1954 in the Executive Committee, our side (the classical group) became politically more sophisticated; and then they have appointed Milton Miller and me (as my group wanted) as the nominating committee a month before the June 1955 annual meeting. I was determined to proceed with caution and in consultation with the members of our group. I persuaded them that the best procedure would be to take a poll of all the members, whereby each member would send us a ballot with his choice for each of the four offices (President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and Council). It turned out that the leaders for President were Jewell and Tidd, and each had exactly the same number of votes. So we nominated both as candidates for the office. Tidd also ran for Vice-President, as we nominated the next highest candidate, Milton Miller, and

for Secretary-Treasurer Norman Levy was the leader and was placed in nomination. As far as I remember, Dr. Levy was re-nominated for Councilor and then re-elected.

I was not present at the annual meeting that June of 1948, for I had already left on vacation with my family. The election was a spirited affair, with Greenson a very active maneuverer; and he managed to have George Frunkes nominated from the floor for Secretary-Treasurer. (I'm not sure whether there was also an additional nominee for Vice-President) Greenson sent me a rollicking and amusing telegram announcing the results. Tidd was elected President, displacing May Ross, Miller Vice-President, and in the words of Greenson's telegram Eager-Beaver Levy was defeated for Secretary-Treasurer by dark horse Frunkes. The punning description of Levy included Beverly (in case you wondered), and the description of Frunkes was -- well -- a description of Frunkes. There were a number of other humorous touches and punning allusions in the telegram -- perhaps I shall have the good fortune to find it sometime among my archives! This was the first political victory for our side. Greenson did good fighting in the cavalry, and I have no doubt others with him contributed to the planning and the activities on the floor of the meeting.

The allusion to Beverly in Greenson's telegram referred to Beverly Hills, which was at first settled in for office

practice largely by members of the other group, though of course very many of our group have followed these later. I believe it was Frances Dari who amusingly termed the other group as the Beverly Hill Billies, and she also coined the phrase for them: The May Company (of course as followers of May Roman).

What follows I am writing from memory alone, since I have not taken the time to read or study the records of the Education Committee, of the By-Laws Committee, the By-Laws of the original Institute, etc.

Simmel's death in November 1947 left the Los Angeles Institute with eight training analysts: Levy (Director of the Institute and Dean of the Training School), Brunswick, Jeri, Greenson, Grotjahn, Miller, Roman and Tidd (in alphabetical order). I was a member of the By-Laws Committee which worked out the definitive By-Laws of the Institute in late 1947 or some time in 1948, and it was in part my memory of the very disturbing Education Committee election of July 7, 1947 which caused me to press for an Education Committee consisting of all the training analysts, so that there would be one less opportunity for political conflict and maneuvering. This was in fact the arrangement adopted in the By-Laws, and all eight training analysts made up the Education Committee.

We come to an Education Committee election of two Fellows of the Board on Professional Standards of the American Psychoanalytic Association. I believe this election took place some time in 1949, maybe at a meeting of the Education Committee

a couple of months before the annual meeting of the American. Lewy and Rosen had been the two Fellows from our Institute, and it was now time once more to select our Fellows. This time Miller was nominated, as well as Lewy and Rosen, so it was clear that the dissident faction was flexing its muscles. There was a secret ballot, each voting for two of the three names, with Charles Tidd and Diana Howard (the secretary) counting the votes; and to the consternation of our group, with Rosen having the votes of all, Miller had one more vote than Dr. Lewy. (Possibly Dr. Lewy did not vote; it is hard to understand the result if he did.) Once again the opposition had upset the status quo and had at least partially ousted the leader of our Institute.

We could not understand how this had come about, and I was particularly upset, being so vividly reminded of July 7, 1947. It seemed to me that the key to the situation was Charles Tidd. I really wouldn't have expected him to vote against Ernst Lewy; and after the meeting I had the nerve to ask Charley how he had voted. "I voted for Ernst," he said.

I was very upset and kept trying to figure it out -- couldn't go to sleep. I figured that with Tidd voting for Lewy, it would have been 4 for Lewy (Brunswick, Dari, Greenman, Tidd) and 3 for Miller if Dr. Lewy had not voted for himself -- he certainly wouldn't have voted for Miller. I finally decided there must have been a miscount, and with July 7, 1947 in my mind and feelings, I decided to speak up and recommend a re-vote

at the next Education Committee meeting. Dr. Levy agreed that I should make the motion at the next meeting. I did, the motion was accepted, and it turned out that Levy was elected, not Miller.

(Dr. Tidd and Miss Howard had agreed it was possible a mistake had been made in tabulating the votes at the previous meeting.)

I have a rather vivid memory of all this, because I felt that I had partially redeemed myself for my sins of omission on July 7, 1947. And I think the episode is important in the development of the split, showing Charles Tidd taking his stand on the side of classical psychoanalysis and conscientious thorough training as he definitely did in the end, in spite of certain personal conflicts concerning 'the question of lay analysis' and the non-medical analysts.