

THE AMERICAN PSYCHOANALYTIC ASSOCIATION

IVES HENDRICK, M.D., PRESIDENT
MAXWELL GITELSON, M.D., PRESIDENT-ELECT
RICHARD L. FRANK, M.D., SECRETARY
ROBERT T. MORSE, M.D., TREASURER

CONFIDENTIAL

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT
55 E. WASHINGTON STREET
CHICAGO 2, ILL.

January 6, 1955

Dr. Ives Hendrick
84 Mt. Vernon Street
Boston 8, Mass.

Dear Ives:

I am rather distressed by your letter of January 4 addressed to Dr. Brunswick, President of the Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Society.

In the first place, the problem is one which does not technically refer to the Society but to the Institute of the Los Angeles Society. But, more important, I feel that it is a mistake to stir up new particular issues at this time when there are so many really important comprehensive problems with which we are concerned and which I think should have priority before particulars are attended to.

I think I have stated my position previously to the effect that I am committed to the ultimate liquidation of lay therapy in the United States. I think I have also made clear my personal opinion that there are transitional situations involving various particular people who do not fit into this long range goal but who are important to the various training facilities with which they are concerned. It happens that they are among our best training facilities in terms of the fundamental ideals which both you and I hold with regard to what psychoanalysis is.

I simply do not see the necessity or the usefulness of standing on technicalities when our final principle is secure and when standing on such technicalities results in injury to good training setups.

For these reasons I do not think it is advisable at this time to open up the matter of the role of lay analysts on the faculty of the Los Angeles Institute. I see nothing but the stirring up of fruitless conflict. I see no possibility of gain.

Finally, I want to repeat what I said to you in my letter of January 3 about this matter; while it was diplomatically necessary for you to acknowledge Dr. Noyes' communication as you did, I look upon that communication substantially as an intrusion into the internal affairs of the American Psychoanalytic Association, and I do not consider that we

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are beholden to react to it as if the American Psychiatric Association somehow occupied a hierarchically superior place. I think we must not forget that the American Psychoanalytic Association is autonomous in its organization and has an autonomous goal, namely, the promotion of psychoanalysis scientifically and as a clinical practice. In this way I do not feel that we should allow ourselves to be answerable either directly or by implication to any other associations, regardless of the fact that we may find it desirable from our own standpoint to collaborate in certain areas with other associations.

This is a larger issue than the one precipitated by Dr. Noyes' inquiry. It touches on the question of whether or not psychoanalysis is an independent discipline or is a sub-specialty of psychiatry. I believe it is the former and that psychiatry is in many of its aspects an application of psychoanalysis. I think this is an issue which is going to take a great deal of thinking in the United States in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Maxwell Gitelson, M.D.

MG:fk

cc: Officers
Officers-Elect
Dr. Bandler
Dr. Fleming
Mr. McVeigh