

March 11, 1950

Robert Fliess, M.D.  
137 East 38th Street  
New York 16, New York

Dear Robert:

I am going to the Detroit meeting and I appreciate very much your invitation to take part in a panel on Character Analysis. However, before I make any decision, I would like to know a little more in detail what it is going to be about and what my particular part in it would have to be. I feel that I would have to be very well prepared and the time until then is not very long and in addition to this I have been busier than ever with my extra-therapeutic activities due to the turbulence of the local situation about which you may have already heard.

As far as other experienced Freudians on the West Coast are concerned, I would like to name the following: In Los Angeles, Hanna Fenichel and Ralph Greenson; in San Francisco, besides some you probably have thought of yourself, Emanuel Windholz, Anna Maenchen, and Macfarlane; in Seattle, Dr. Edith Buxbaum.

I would like to mention to you just very briefly the aforementioned local difficulties because I assume that rumors, distortions and slogans are abroad. I am sure you know all about the split-up in Philadelphia and the causes that led to it. Our problems are chiefly the same and started when Simmel and Fenichel were still alive. My friends and I became increasingly concerned about the problem of how to preserve and to maintain good psycho-analytic training and teaching at our Institute. Since the situation had become intolerable due to bad teaching, frictions and political maneuvering, I had come to the conclusion that something had to be done to eliminate as much of this as possible. Back last summer, I had conceived the idea of a solution along the lines of the re-organization that had taken place at the London Institute a few years ago. We wanted to avoid a complete split-up on principle grounds and out of consideration for our candidates. On February 2nd, I proposed a re-organization of our Education Committee and Institute and Training School in the form of what I called the "London Plan". This, however, was met with flat rejection on the part

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of those whom I sometimes call the "recent advancists". They insisted on a complete split-up and we are now in the throes of trying to effect this in a way that will do no harm to our teaching and to the candidates and their rights. In contrast to the situation in Philadelphia, we are having a slight but significant majority over the others. The representatives of our faction in the Education Committee are, besides myself, Ralph Greenson, David Brunswick, Charles Tidd and Mrs. Deri. The representatives in the Education Committee on the other side are Milton Miller, May Romm, and Martin Grotjahn.

With kind regards to you and your wife from Maria and me,

Sincerely yours,

Ernst Lewy, M.D.

EL/ab