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Some Political Forerunners of the Split (continued)

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 Simmel, who was elected Honorary President. Charles Tidd was elected Vice-President and Milton Miller (I believe) Secretary-Treasurer. I believe Ernst Lewy continued as Councilor for the American Psychoanalytic Association. Besides Simmel as President and Lewy as Councilor, 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 offices (President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and Councilor). 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 for Secretary-Treasurer <sup>Norman Levy</sup> was the leader and was placed in nomination. As far as I remember, Dr. Lewy was renominated for Councilor and then reelected.

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 Romm, 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 there later. I believe it was Frances Deri 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 Romm).

by D. Brunswick

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: Lewy (Director of the Institute and Dean of the Training School), Brunswick, Deri, Greenson, Grotjahn, Miller, Romm 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 Romm had been the two Fellows from our Institute, and it was now time once more to elect our Fellows.

This time Miller was nominated, as well as Lewy and Romm, 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 Romm 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, Deri, Green-son, 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. Lewy 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.