

June 30, 1950

G. Henry Katz, M.D.
111 North 49th Street
Philadelphia 39, Penn.

Dear Doctor Katz:

In the process of separating from the other group, we have run up against a difficult problem and we wonder whether you in Philadelphia have had a similar experience. This concerns the difficulty for a new group or a new institute to obtain recognition from the V.A. It appears to us — unless we are misinterpreting the regulations of the V.A. — that it will be impossible for the seceding group — in this case in Los Angeles, the other group — to obtain recognition from the V. A. because they were not recognized as a non-profit institution in June, 1944. If this is true, our institute will have to continue to carry the names of the teaching staff of the other institute indefinitely on its official lists, its pamphlet, etc. If you have any information on this problem, we would be most appreciative if you would let me have your experiences on this point, at your very earliest convenience because we have to make quick and important decisions and need clarity on this point immediately.

I should like to state for your information about the present Los Angeles situation whether this is exactly pertinent or not, that there exist already two officially recognized psychoanalytic societies, but the application for recognition for another institute has not been obtained by the seceding group. We are, therefore, abiding by the suggestion of the Committee on Institutes of the Board on Professional Standards by having the other group officially and for administrative purposes still within the old institute, whereas the training activities proper, that is the teaching program, is set up by each group independently. Our group organizations which correspond to yours, are the Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Society and the Los Angeles Institute for Psychoanalysis. The new society is the Society for Psychoanalytic Medicine of Southern California.

I wonder how the process of separation is getting along in Philadelphia, and whether you are still in the throes of the birth of the new society and institute. The conditions here in Los Angeles have cleared up to a considerable degree, but we cannot say yet that we are completely out of the woods.

I hope that this does not take up too much of your valuable time and hope to hear from you soon.

Cordially,

Ernst Lewy, M.D.

EL/abm