

LOS ANGELES PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY

BUSINESS MEETING

Time: Thursday, November 16, 1961, 7:30 p.m.

Place: 344 North Bedford Drive, Beverly Hills

Minutes of the Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Dr. Futterman, President. Thirty-two members were present.

1. The minutes of the meeting of September 21, 1961, were accepted as distributed.

2. Membership Committee:

Dr. Sperling, Chairman of the Membership Committee, reported that Dr. James H. Mott was recommended for membership; he was elected to the Society.

3. Announcements:

- a. Dr. Futterman announced that the West Coast Psychoanalytic Societies Meeting is planned for August 17-19, 1962, in Seattle, Washington, at the Olympia Hotel. A circular concerning the meeting will be sent to the membership; and it is urged that reservations be made early, since it is anticipated that because of the World's Fair which will be held in Seattle at that time, there may be difficulty in securing reservations.
- b. Dr. Futterman expressed the sympathy of the Society for Drs. Newhouse, Kandelin, and Carson on the loss of their homes in the recent fire. He expressed thanks to the Society members for their contributions and announced that the surplus had been sent to the Post-Disaster Center.

4. New Business:

Dr. Kenneth Rubin requested that the Society consider a formal resolution concerning the rejection of the use of nuclear force. Dr. Futterman announced that this resolution will be mailed to the membership and discussed at the next meeting; he also suggested that Dr. Friedman might bring this matter up at the Mid-Winter Meeting of the American Psychoanalytic Association and report back to the Society.

A copy of Dr. Rubin's resolution is included with these minutes.

The Business Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Helen Tausend, M. D.
Secretary

LOS ANGELES PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY

To: All Members

From: Samuel Futterman, M. D., President

For your information we are enclosing a copy of the report summary concerning the study of the international crises and in this way indicating what another group feels a resolution about this topic should contain.

We hope in this manner you will be prepared for the discussion on Dr. Rubin's resolution, which will be taken up at the next Society meeting.

SF:jk

REPORT SUMMARY OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

As a consequence of international stresses and the mobilization of anxiety the population already shows evidences of a breakdown in morale such as: 1) a tendency to rely on rumor instead of fact, 2) a tendency toward impulsive, emotionally motivated and purposeless action, 3) in some instances paralysis of action and apathy, 4) an avoidance of the thinking through of problems on a logical level, 5) a tendency to seek an all powerful leader to whom a solution of problems may be shifted, 6) an attempt to seek immediate, easy and oversimplified solutions to international problems.

The following suggestions are made in an attempt to reverse the above trends:

1. Since the facing of a painful reality is so much less dangerous than a resort to rumor, panic and impulsive action, it is essential that the present danger be faced realistically.

2. It appears essential that a full and scientific evaluation be made of the adequacy or inadequacy of the various types of shelters with special reference to the factors of intense heat and oxygen supply.

3. As medical men we should foster the study of the epidemiology of war, considering it as a plague threatening the destruction of mankind.

4. It is essential that we foster the employment of knowledge and objective thinking instead of ignorance and emotionalism in understanding and reacting to the present international situation.

Submitted by: Co-Chairmen
Maurice N. Walsh, M. D.
Robert M. Dorn, M. D.

Dr. Rubin's Proposal for a Resolution to be Adopted by the Society
and Brought Before the American Psychoanalytic Association

1. We reject nuclear war as an instrument of national policy because in the event of a nuclear war no conceivable civil defense measures could prevent the loss of millions of lives, even under the most favorable of circumstances.
2. We agree with President Kennedy's statements to the United Nations that nuclear disarmament is an essential first step toward the lessening of the danger of a major war. Furthermore, we reject the further testing of any nuclear device in order to prove that we insist on a non-nuclear solution to world problems.
3. We believe these measures can be implemented by strengthening and utilizing the United Nations. We have to bring about just that degree of a world police force and world judicial body to make lasting peace feasible.
4. We do not believe this policy weakens our bargaining power with the Russians at all. We do not believe that these measures will be unilateral. We believe the Russians, and all nations, will be forced to these same commitments by the same fears that beset us. The question is: are we scared enough to do this before World War III?

KR:jk

KENNETH RUBIN, M. D.
435 NORTH BEDFORD DRIVE
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA
CRESTVIEW 4-1838

November 17, 1961

Helen Tansend, M.D.,
Secretary
Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Society

Dear Helen,

Enclosed is a copy of the proposed resolution I submitted last night.

I would suggest a copy be circulated to the membership prior to the next business meeting, in order to stimulate the maximum response and participation.

Sincerely,

Ken

Dr. Rubins's proposal for a resolution to be adopted by the Society and brought before the American -

1. We reject nuclear war as an instrument of national policy because in the event of a nuclear war no conceivable civil defense measures could prevent the loss of millions of lives, even under the most favorable of circumstances.
2. We agree with President Kennedy's statements to the United Nations that nuclear disarmament is an ~~necessary~~ ^{essential} first step toward the lessening of the danger of a major war. Furthermore, we reject the ^{further} testing of any nuclear device in order to prove that we insist on a non-nuclear solution to world problems.
3. We believe these measures can be implemented by strengthening and utilizing the United Nations. We have to bring about just that degree of a world police force and world judicial body to make lasting peace feasible.
4. We do not believe this policy weakens our bargaining power with the Russians at all. We do not believe that these measures will be unilateral. We believe the Russians and all nations will be forced to these same commitments by the same fears that beset us. The question is: are we scared enough to do this before world war III?