LOS ANGELES PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY Business Meeting

Time: Thursday, September 16, 1965, 7:30 p.m.

Place: 344 North Bedford Drive, Beverly Hills

Minutes of the Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Dr. Leavitt, President. There was a quorum present.

1. A request for addition to the minutes of the meeting of June 17, 1965, was made by Dr. Mandel. This pertained to the Committee report which was delivered by him at the last meeting. Since the Committee had an understanding that the official report was to be the only report, and whereas only the section on the conclusions was included in the written minutes, the request was made that the entire report now be included in the minutes.

Dr. Samuel Sperling objected on the grounds that "this request was procedurally improper because it was not adding something necessary to the essential understanding of the matter that had been deleted from the necessary condensed (the Committee's entire conclusions) report of the Secretary, but was a post hoc addition of something that had not actually taken place at the meeting."

After a brief further exchange, the request was denied by a show-of-hands vote. The minutes were then accepted as distributed.

2. Remarks by the President - Dr. Leavitt:

"I should like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the views, hopes, and plans I have been formulating relating to the Society and this administration. This is not exactly a State-of-the-Union speech, although that is a singularly germane title, but only a brief prospectus.

"There have been and are being made several efforts at delineating and diagnosing our difficulties; I shall not attempt still another here. On the other hand, there have been few efforts to assess our positive elements; we tend to take these for granted. We should take cognizance of the latter, which are manifold, and utilize them constructively as well as remedially. I should like to see not so much a soothing of hurts or even efforts at reparation but rather a vigorous, constructive, mutual movement forward capitalizing upon those very aggressive energies which, although sometimes misdirected within ourselves, can be utilized toward memingful common goals. The subject matter of tonight's paper has some bearing, I think, on this problem. I would look forward to a renewal of spirit and the encouragement of a nurturing atmosphere; one particularly of constructive criticism in which ideas will be searchingly questioned without impairing the spirit, in the best traditions of our art and science and reflecting the respect we have for ourselves and our colleagues.

"We must encourage the further development of an open forum, scientifically in particular, advancing our education and scientific investigation. We are a scientific and professional fraternity, and our personal satisfactions should come through contributing to this mutual function, not misusing it for conflicting personal purposes. In general, we must encourage the pursuit of those valued elements in our work and our science

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"Scientific Meetings: to continue to encourage presentations by our own members, especially pertinent contributions from those who have not yet been heard. To continue the participation of younger colleagues in discussion, including candidates. To maintain as open a forum as possible for the presentation of ideas, without concern that giving ear and mind to an idea need imply commitment or threat. The Program Chairman will elaborate upon some of the planning in this direction. In regard to outside groups and organizations, liaison and sponsorship with appropriate groups and functions should be increased. We will need to recognize the legitimate purposes expressed in many such groups and seek to provide support and opportunities for them when congruent with our own rather than permitting unwise splintering and divisions. Diversity need not be divisive.

"Committee on Mutual Problems: to urgently request constructive working proposals from the Committee within the next few months. In the meantime to clarify relations with the Institute in various areas of functioning—postgraduate education, research, financial, personnel, housing, etc. Urgent requirements for revisions should be met as they arise and may even assist in indicating direction for longer-term proposals.

"Committees: I would like to institute a policy of open meetings for all committees and the Board of Directors unless there is a specific need for executive session. We plan the institution of a monthly calendar which will keep the members informed of meetings. Consideration of reorganization of committees, especially toward a Committee on Social Responsibility to supplant and broaden functions of several existing committees. We must clarify where we stand and want to go in relation to community programs and action as well as implementing our more immediate action programs. I will ask all committees, in submitting reports other than interim ones, to include specific recommendations which may be discussed and voted upon so that regular Business Meetings do not become vague committees of the whole. Please indicate your preferences for committee appointments.

"I am appointing Dr. Arthur Malin as Parliamentarian to help in maintaining the efficiency and purposefulness of our meetings.

"There are many other thoughts, but I think this is enough for now. We will give further views and progress reports from time to time. I would like to invite communications from all of you who have ideas and criticism."

3. Report of the Program Committee - Dr. Malin:

Dr. Malin, Chairman of the Program Committee, read the report of this Committee, in which he expressed the desire for the Committee to encourage first presentations by our members and participation by candidates. Some innovations in format are also being contemplated.

Dr. Malin's report is on file in the Society office.

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4. Report of the Treasurer - Dr. Bird:

Dr. Bird is requesting that the Finance and Budget Committee consider the problem of handling accumulated statements for a series of individual services rendered when the total statement rendered then exceeds \$100. The problem is that expenditures of this size must be authorized by the membership.

Dr. Bird's report is on file.

5. Announcements:

Dr. Leavitt announced the following:

- a. The deaths of American Psychoanalytic Association members, Drs. Charles Davison and Nathaniel E. Selby.
- b. The application of Dr. Rita Spies for membership in the Society.
- c. That Dr. Jackson's complaint has been found to be without merit in regard to the suit he has brought against the Society and others; therefore it has been dismissed. Dr. Jackson has been given an opportunity to submit a revised complaint, however. The letter from our attorney is on file in the office.
- d. A letter has been received from the San Francisco Psychoanalytic Society announcing plans for a West_Coast Psychoanalytic Societies' Meeting to be held in San Francisco in October, 1966.
- e. The Southern California Psychoanalytic Society will hold an out-of-town meeting, September 24-26, at the Ocean House in San Diego. All members and candidates are invited to attend.
- f. The Extension Division will hold a meeting on Thursday, September 29, 1965. The theme will be "Responsibility."

Dr. Malin announced that the Extension Division will have a meeting on Saturday, October 2, 1965, for social workers. Dr. Maurice Friend will be the guest speaker. All are invited to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Melvin Mandel, M. D. Secretary

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