

by us, rejected by other group

PROPOSED STATEMENT TO CANDIDATES CONCERNING
THE REASONS FOR A CHANGE IN THE PSYCHOANALYTIC
INSTITUTE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The members of the Education Committee at a meeting on February 2, 1950 unanimously decided that a change in the structure and function of the Education Committee and Institute is necessary. This decision was reached after much thoughtful contemplation and discussion, since all realized the seriousness of this move. This change will undoubtedly cause additional hardship and difficulties to all concerned and every member of the Education Committee carefully weighed the many possibilities before reaching their final conclusions.

At this meeting it was decided to consider ways and means of forming a new institute. The main reasons for this decision can be formulated as follows:

The functions of the Education Committee and the Training School of the Institute have been impeded and complicated by a series of important controversies. These controversies concern certain major problems in the theories and techniques of psychoanalysis. It is well known that different members of the Education Committee have disagreed upon such questions as brought forth by the Alexander-French and the Kardiner schools of thought. There has been a difference of opinion as to the importance of such concepts as the libido theory, the need to recover the infantile neurosis, the length of time required for the working through, the frequency of visits, and the optimum gratification or deprivation. Furthermore, there has been controversy concerning the use of innovation and experimentation in the treatment of patients. Some have felt that recent changes in theory and technique represent advances and the conservative attitude represents rigidity; whereas others believe that recent changes contradict established values in psychoanalysis, and do not constitute scientific advances.

These differences of opinion have not been influenced or modified during the several years that the members of the Education Committee have worked together. In addition, personal and subjective reactions have added to the difficulties of scientific controversy, so that at times the training program was impeded as a result.

Since every member of the Education Committee believes that it is of paramount importance to increase our teaching facilities and better the training program, and since members of each group feel obliged to teach what they believe with scientific candor and frankness, it is felt that this can best

be achieved by the formation of a new institute. Two separate teaching institutes would make possible a more cordial scientific atmosphere and would do away with much of the latent suspicions and hostilities that have existed until now.

During the difficult transition period, it will be arranged that the training activities and administrative activities shall go on as usual, so that the candidates will not have to suffer for this new development. Additional information will be given to all candidates as soon as the organization and personnel of the new institute has been worked out. All candidates have the right to decide with which institute they would prefer to continue their training.