

LOS ANGELES PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY

BUSINESS MEETING

Time: Thursday, December 21, 1961, 8:30 p.m.

Place: 344 North Bedford Drive, Beverly Hills

Minutes of the Meeting

The Business Meeting was called to order at 8 p.m. by Dr. Futterman, President. Dr. Maurice Walsh presented his scientific paper at 8:15 p.m., and the Business Meeting was resumed at 8:40 p.m. There were thirty-seven members present.

1. The minutes of the meeting of November 16, 1961, were accepted as distributed.
2. Membership Committee:
 - a. Dr. Sperling, Chairman of the Membership Committee, announced the application for membership of Dr. Charles O. Furniss and the request for transfer of membership from the Psychoanalytic Association of New York of Dr. Robert Zaitlin.
 - b. It was moved, seconded, and passed that the membership status of Dr. Gottfried Bloch be changed from Accredited- to Active Membership, since he is now licensed to practice medicine in California.
3. American Psychoanalytic Association - Report on Mid-Winter Meeting:
 - a. Executive Council - Dr. Friedman:

Dr. Lawrence J. Friedman gave a comprehensive report of the proceedings of the Executive Council at the Mid-Winter Meeting. This was followed by a report of the Business Meeting. Both reports are on file in the Society office. The following are abstracts from these reports:

"The most important issue before the Council was the resignation of the Consultants, Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross. They were not present at the meeting and Dr. Rangell, as Chairman, stated he speaks for them. The discussion in the Council was more intense than in the Board on Professional Standards. There were some questions raised about the lack of information available about the issues which led to the resignations. As the discussion went on, it became clear that conflict between the Consultants and the rest of the educational program, especially the Chairman of the Board on Professional Standards, Dr. Fleming, was bitter and irreconcilable. The administration was unwilling to accept and unwilling even to consider any change in its plans.

A motion to appoint a committee to canvass the availability of desirable successors was vigorously opposed by the administration and was defeated by an overwhelming majority. The vote was 21 - 4. This in spite of the fact that there were many voices which expressed the feeling that COPE is no substitute for the Consultants. The administration proposed six points concerning the matter. The points were voted upon separately. Five of them were accepted unanimously, one (No. 4) with two opposing voices. The recommendations were as follows:

- 1) That the Council acknowledge and confirm with regret the resignations on June 29, 1961, of Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross, with a proposed separation date of March 1, 1962.
- 2) That the Council reiterate with profound feeling their appreciation and thanks for the work the Consultants have done and the contribution they have made to the Educational Program.
- 3) That the Council express their confidence in the remainder of the Educational Program, their expectation that it will flourish, and their support of it.
- 4) That the Council express their view that no replacement is in order at present.
- 5) That the Consultants be assisted in the transfer of their activities to the Board, relevant committees, and officers.
- 6) That when their work is completed, suitable expression of thanks and appreciation be made to the Consultants.

Dr. Kairys, Treasurer, reported for the Budget Committee. A reduction of the dues from \$200 to \$165 was proposed and accepted. There were some questions about the reduction of \$35 when originally it was raised by \$100 to take care of the educational program. The answer was that this year some aspects of the program will continue, and the Consultants will be paid for two months. A further reduction by 1963 might be considered. The salary of Mrs. Helen Fischer was raised to \$10,500. She will have to take care of some of the functions handled by Miss Helen Ross.

Dr. Anderson reported for the Committee on Taxation in Psychoanalytic Training. No decisions were made and the Committee might have some definite suggestions at the May meeting. A letter will be sent to every Institute. Any approach for medical expense deductions should be done individually without participation by the American.

The Business Meeting dealt basically with the same problems as the Council. All recommendations of the administration passed by the Council were accepted by the general membership. A motion by Dr. Kurt Eissler that the Consultants should be urged to remain in office for another year or two with the clear understanding that they have autonomy in their function was strongly opposed by the administration and was defeated, I believe, by 80 - 10. A motion by Dr. Ives Hendriks, which I am not sure I clearly understood, to the effect that the Consultants be requested to present a detailed report about the difficulties and their recommendations, was equally opposed and defeated, as I remember, by a vote of 90 - 20.

In my final conclusion, I would like to state the following:

My feelings could be summarized by the statement made by Dr. Kurt Eissler when he said, 'When the Consultants were appointed, it was the first time that the American Psychoanalytic Association approached psychoanalytic education on a higher and broader basis than just the problems of training.' 'When the Consultants resigned and their resignations were accepted, this trend has been reversed.'

All recommendations of the administration were accepted by apparently an overwhelming majority but if we consider that in important issues like this, there were approximately 100 votes making the decisions, representing only 10% of the total membership, I have to express my concern and disappointment with the minimum participation of the membership and I only hope that this will improve in the future."

b. Committee on Public Information - Dr. Harrison:

Dr. Lyman Harrison reported the activities of the Committee on Public Information, enlarging on the report of Dr. Friedman to include what transpired after Dr. Friedman left. This formerly conservative committee now desires to become more active, to talk with reporters about articles before they are published in order to avoid unfavorable publicity, and to issue prepared statements before meetings are held. The Committee would favor the publication of articles, contributed by professionals, for lay consumption and an approach on social issues with seminars for lay groups under such possible titles as Psychoanalysis and Adolescence or Law or Medicine or the Atomic Age. These topics could be discussed at seminars led by able and outstanding speakers who have the ability to capture audiences. Perhaps a formula could be evolved which might be used by other seminar leaders. The establishment of a clipping service to help our public relations was suggested.

It was urged that we not passively permit things to happen to us. Since psychoanalysis is going to be exploited, we should have a hand in the direction of such exploitation and its control.

Dr. Harrison also mentioned the accolade given to Dr. Rangell as President in the form of a motion expressing gratitude and praise for his excellent handling of difficult problems.

c. Report from Dr. Rangell, President of the American Psychoanalytic Association:

Dr. Rangell, as President of the American Psychoanalytic, presented a summary view of the meetings of the Board, Council, and Membership. In so doing he differed sharply from certain aspects of the report as given by Dr. Friedman, both as to the general spirit of the meetings as well as in a good many of the factual details.

Dr. Rangell refuted the report that the administration refused to consider any change in its plans. He felt the discussions were free, open, and everyone who wished to speak did so. The action taken by the Council is summed up in the six points listed in Dr. Friedman's report. Their unanimous acceptance, except for two opposing votes on Number Four, which expressed the view that no replacement is in order at present, demonstrated the unity of opinion held by all three bodies governing the American.

Dr. Rangell related how interesting and difficult were the tasks before them and how well they came out. What was most impressive was the unanimity which resulted and the solidarity of feeling which emerged in the face of the delicate matters being discussed and the charged feelings which existed at the beginning. The successful separation of the issues from the personalities resulted in renewed strength and confidence.

Dr. Rangell urged all the members to watch for the minutes of these meetings when they are distributed and published.

Dr. Rangell described the development and present status of a suggested Committee for Over-All Policy and Directions to think about broad principles prior to being confronted by various recurrent crises. He gave the pros and cons brought out in the discussion of this proposed committee. He reported on the work of the Committee on Taxation under the chairmanship of Dr. Russell Anderson. Dr. Rangell added some of his own personal views about the problems involved regarding tax deductibility.

Dr. Rangell presented an Interim Presidential Address to a Plenary Session on Saturday afternoon, in which he took up the nature of the recurrent divisive issues which keep cropping up as well as many other of the current problems facing us. He attempted to counteract some of the pessimistic and even alarming opinions which are expressed by some and pointed to constructive roads for the future. The address will be published.

Finally, Dr. Rangell described a meeting he attended at Princeton University, which was the beginning of a possible Institute for Advanced Studies in Psychoanalysis. A dozen analysts from over the country participated under the leadership of Dr. Robert Waelder, and there were four days of free and spontaneous discussion on a number of psychoanalytic topics. The material was taped and will be typed and distributed to the participants. It was a gratifying experience for all.

4. Proposal re Nuclear Disarmament:

Dr. Futterman opened the discussion of the resolutions of Dr. Rubin and Drs. Dorn and Walsh by questioning whether we had the legal right to pass such resolutions, whether it was within our province, and quoted from the Constitution.

A lively interchange ensued, with many members participating. They discussed whether or not the By-Laws should be changed to enable us to participate in such problems; what are our duties, rights, and responsibilities as individuals; what has psychoanalysis to contribute to the improvement through understanding of the present state of affairs; etc. The group considered a resolution proposed by Dr. Shiell to supersede that of Dr. Rubin. This also was not completely acceptable. All agreed that whatever was done by the Society should be psychoanalytic and not political in its implications. As individuals, all are free to take whatever course they choose.

Dr. Sperling moved that the President be empowered to appoint a Committee on Social Issues to study such problems as the dissemination and application of psychoanalytic knowledge to matters like those referred to in the resolutions presented by Drs. Rubin, Walsh and Dorn, and Shiell.

Dr. Futterman mentioned that two members had written in objecting to the resolutions as circulated because they were political. This matter will be turned over to the Committee on Social Issues.

The vote in favor of Dr. Sperling's motion was unanimous.

5. Announcements:

a. Dr. Futterman made the following announcements:

- 1) He described the accident that had damaged the Society and Institute offices and passed around photographs of the damage. He prepared the members for the fact that it might be necessary to engage the services of an attorney in order to erect a barrier against further accidents.
- 2) Dr. Maimon Leavitt and Dr. Marshall Schechter were elected to membership in the American Psychoanalytic Association.
- 3) The Olympic Hotel, Seattle, Washington, will be open to accommodate us only for the nights of the West Coast Psychoanalytic Society Meetings and it is recommended that our members should mention that they are members of the West Coast Psychoanalytic Society when making application for reservations. The Seattle Society will help with arrangements for additional nights.
- 4) A letter has been received from the Swedish Psychoanalytic Society welcoming psychoanalysts to read papers or give didactic lectures to this Society while visiting in Europe; they will defray the additional expense incident to including Sweden in an itinerary. This letter is on file.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Helen Tausend, M. D.
Secretary

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LOS ANGELES PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY

SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Time: Thursday, December 21, 1961, 8 p.m.
Place: 344 North Bedford Drive, Beverly Hills
Subject: Psychoanalytic Studies on War
Presented by: Maurice N. Walsh, M. D.

***** BUSINESS MEETING *****

Time: Thursday, December 21, 1961, 8:30 p.m.
Place: 344 North Bedford Drive, Beverly Hills

Agenda

1. Minutes of the meeting of November 16, 1961
2. Report of the Committee on Insurance: Dr. Leventhal
3. Report of the Dean of the Training School: Dr. Friedman
4. American Psychoanalytic Association: Report on Mid-Winter Meetings:
 - a. Board on Professional Standards: Dr. Friedman
Dr. Evans
 - b. Executive Council: Dr. Friedman
 - c. Report from Dr. Rangell, President of the American Psychoanalytic Association
5. Proposal re Nuclear Disarmament: Dr. Rubin
6. Announcements
7. New Business

Helen Tausend, M. D.
Secretary

HT:jk