

LOS ANGELES PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY

SPECIAL MEETING

Time: Thursday, November 16, 1961, 7:45 p.m.

Place: 344 North Bedford Drive, Beverly Hills

Minutes of the Meeting

The Special Meeting concerning the resignations of Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross was called to order at 7:45 p.m. Dr. Futterman introduced Dr. Rangell, President of the American Psychoanalytic Association.

Dr. Rangell presented an historical survey of the activities of the American Psychoanalytic Association with special regard to the educational program in its various aspects and with its multiple committees. He included a description of the work done by COPE and by the Consultants, Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross, expressing appreciation and giving due credit to each of the various units for their valuable contributions. He also mentioned the problems and conflicts which had arisen and attributed the difficulties which precipitated the resignation of Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross to the lack of delineation of the powers and limitations assigned to each section. Dr. Rangell referred to the varied reactions from institutes in different parts of the country provoked by the resignations. Dr. Rangell raised a few questions. The meeting was opened to the floor.

Dr. Walsh suggested we learn all that was available to us from this initial experience.

In reply to a question from Dr. Van Dam, Dr. Rangell reassured the group that the duties of Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross would be passed along to the Central Office, that supervision, visits, and co-ordination would be continued by various committees.

Dr. Rosow commented that the situation was irreversible, since Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross had resigned and the resignations had been accepted, but stressed the importance of utilizing this experience; that we delineate limitations, borders, and margins to avoid conflicts in the future. The performance of these tasks, he felt, was the duty of the Council.

Dr. Futterman then asked whether there was validity to the inference that the information obtained by the Consultants could not be obtained by a committee simply because of the nature of the difference between communication with a committee and communication with an individual.

Dr. Rangell replied that the question of confidentiality and ethics was involved but that confidentiality, if carried too far, could create an unhealthy situation.

Dr. Sarlin commented that jurisdictional procedures should be established by the Constitution and By-Laws, that it was impossible for the membership to do this; and he urged that the proper body perform this function.

Dr. Mandel moved that we resolve to accept the resignations with regret and the situation resulting therefrom, that we instruct our delegate to act in such a way as to

further the educational program through existing or newly created channels and that the properly authorized bodies proceed along these lines in an appropriate manner. Dr. Sarlin seconded the motion.

Dr. Friedman then addressed the meeting, expressing his regret that a regular Special Meeting had not been held and requesting that no resolution giving him instructions as to how to act at the Mid-Winter meeting of the American Psychoanalytic Association be passed. He requested freedom to use his own judgment. He continued further that the Consultants had been on the right track, had fulfilled their purpose and had served a great need. He questioned what went wrong and what course would be pursued now. He agreed that it was impossible to set up any organization without definite functions and delineations. He felt that psychoanalytic education was the main function of the American Psychoanalytic Association and questioned whether a full-time person, who would be devoted to this project, who would not be accountable to committees and would not change with the administration, was needed. It was unfortunate that no replacement for the Consultants seemed to be available at present. The positions required great sacrifice, and it was unknown whether anyone would be willing to make such sacrifices. He concluded his remarks by again requesting that no instructions be given him and urged that the members not be concerned with saving the \$100 a year on membership fees which the Office of Education required.

Dr. Rangell responded to Dr. Friedman's comments, pointing out that Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross did not represent good versus bad analysis, that they had resigned despite requests that they continue, that this was an accomplished deed and we had to accept it. He also stated that there is much enthusiasm for the educational program and that the good wrought by the Consultants remains. COPE performs much of the work which Dr. Friedman attributed to Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross, and it was not a mistake not to set limits in the beginning. This was necessary so that there was an opportunity to feel our way, and much benefit is derived from what has happened so far. There is enthusiasm for the continuation of the work, but certain changes will probably be made in the way in which it is carried on. He urged that since there is no one to replace the Consultants now, we take our time and consider all aspects of the job and see that it is properly set up. In regard to Dr. Friedman's request that he be free to act according to his own judgment, Dr. Rangell replied that as Councillor, Dr. Friedman was free to express his own opinion as well as the opinion of the Society, so that instructions from the Society did not preclude free expression.

Dr. Mandel asked whether there was any possibility that the resignations might not be acted on and whether the Council could reopen the issue.

Dr. Futterman also asked why the Executive Committee had not postponed acceptance of the resignations and left this matter to the Council.

Dr. Rangell replied that the Committee carries on to the best of its ability and judgment and considered that acceptance of the resignations was appropriate at the time and therefore accepted the resignations.

Dr. Dorn recalled what great help and inspiration Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross had provided and expressed the hope that it would be possible to find replacements who were as spirited, helpful, and inspiring as the original Consultants. He favored the idea of an Office of Education and suggested that the decision be left to the Executive Council.

Dr. Sperling then modified the motion made by Dr. Mandel as follows:

1. That the resignations of Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross be acknowledged with regret.
2. That we solicit the help of these two people in our futher work.
3. That no replacement be made at present until further thought and consideration are possible.
4. That we await the report of the Committee on Planning and Organization before attempts at continuation and replacement are made.
5. That such a report be made preferably before the next Annual Meeting.

Dr. Mandel accepted these modifications.

There was further discussion:

Dr. Malin commented about the importance of the spirit and inspiration provided by Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross, and Dr. Dorn reiterated his wish that every effort be made to maintain these attitudes.

Dr. Mandel commented that committees are necessary so that we can act as a composite organization, as a unit, and asked that we not underestimate what a committee can contribute. He questioned the advisability of placing such an important position in the hands of a single individual.

A vote as to whether or not to pass the resolution of Dr. Mandel as ammended by Dr. Sperling was taken. There were ten votes in favor of it, twelve opposed. As a result, it was decided that no action would be taken on this resolution at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

Helen Tausend, M. D.
Secretary

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LOS ANGELES PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY
BUSINESS MEETING AND SPECIAL MEETING

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

Place: 344 North Bedford Drive, Beverly Hills

Agenda

1. Minutes of the meeting of September 21, 1961
2. Membership Committee:
 - a. Vote on membership of James M. Mott, M. D.
3. Discussion of the resignations of Dr. Lewin and Miss Ross
4. Announcements:
 - a. West Coast Psychoanalytic Societies Meeting in Seattle, 1962
5. New Business

SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Time: Thursday, November 16, 1961, 8:30 p.m.

Place: 344 North Bedford Drive, Beverly Hills

Speaker: Dr. Ralph R. Greenson

Subject: "Some Technical Problems in Analyzing Transference"

Helen Tausend, M. D.
Secretary

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