

LOS ANGELES INSTITUTE FOR PSYCHOANALYSIS  
LOS ANGELES PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY

Date: February 11, 1965

To: All Members of the Society and Institute

From: Leo Rangell, M. D., President of the Society  
Jack A. Vatz, M. D., Director of the Institute

As you may know, and as announced by our Executive Councilor at a recent Business Meeting of our Society, the final report of the Committee on Organization and Planning (COP) of The American Psychoanalytic Association has been completed and has already received two successive distributions. The first distribution was to all members of the Executive Council and the Board on Professional Standards, while the last one, just received, was to the officers of all Societies and Training Institutions and Chairmen of Council and Board Committees. The manner of dissemination and of further discussion of this Report is a subject which has received a great deal of careful attention in The American.

The Report is the outcome of many meetings and much thoughtful deliberation by an active and experienced Committee over a period of about five years. The result is an extensive document of over thirty pages, with careful consideration being given to the most minute aspects of our organizational structure and the principles which underlie them. Many problem areas have been uncovered and analyzed, and recommendations for solution or improvement have been made in each instance.

It is intended by The American that this document be studied in an unhurried way by all local Societies and Institutes since to a great extent it will be from the feedback from local groups that national policy will evolve. The precise manner in which such studies will take place at local levels is to be determined locally and will no doubt vary considerably from place to place. While we wish to avoid the pitfalls of a limitless process, it is our guess that the study of all the facets involved, and certainly of the recommendations and their implementation, will probably run over the course of a considerable period of time.

It is the desire at the Central Executive level of The American, and certainly of the officers of our own Society and Institute, that the individual membership become as informed as possible on this whole subject. There are more than administrative and organizational matters in question, since basic aspects of psychoanalysis with scientific and educational implications are involved. To this end The American wishes us to inform our membership that each individual member can receive a copy of this Report by writing to the Central Office of The American. In addition, there are copies available in our own Society-Institute offices which members may read and which we hope they will do in preparation for the discussion which will follow.

With regard to the immediate and official study to be given to this Report, some local Societies and Institutes will have this done through their respective officers, while others are appointing special Committees to study the Reports and to report their findings and opinions at special Business Meetings. In our own group, as you know, we already happen to have a Joint Committee of Society and Institute to study precisely these same areas of organizational problems from our own local point of view. Whatever other action we may take, it seems natural that our Joint Committee will include this national Report within its scope and relate its findings to our own parallel local needs.

Other groups and structures, however, within our own organization, such as the Board of



Directors of the Society, the officers and Board of Trustees of the Institute, or the Education Committee, may be equally interested in studying this Report from other vantage points. In addition to these definitive bodies, we hope that each individual member will have the interest to familiarize himself with and study the contents of this Report.

While the various individual bodies may take variable periods of time to study their particular points of interest of the Report, we plan to devote a special combined Business Meeting of the Society and Institute to discuss the Report in late March or early April. The purpose of this will be to arrive at whatever preliminary thoughts we might wish our national representatives to convey at the discussion of the Report which will take place at the meetings of The American in May. In addition, this will enable us to comply with a request from the Executive Committee of the American that we send them, if possible, a preliminary statement of our reactions to the Report by April 15. Since the Report is so inclusive, they have suggested that this might be limited at this time to a) an over-all impression and b) somewhat greater detail about Chapters I and II; i.e., Meaning of Membership and Board-Council Relationships. We hope that our proposed meeting will enable us to arrive at such preliminary opinions.

This message is for your orientation in the hope that in the meantime you will each proceed to inform yourselves further in the manner suggested.

LR:jk