

# THE ENCOUNTERER

An Information Service for Group Psychotherapy Professionals. Published under the Auspices of the Golden Gate

FOUNDATION for GROUP TREATMENT, INC.

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Editor, FH Ernst Jr MD

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**CONFERENCE, Annual:** Los Angeles Group Psychotherapy Society, Saturday, March 15, 1969, Beverly Hilton Hotel, Beverly Hills, California--workshops, papers. Write, John S Peck, MD, 16550 Ventura Blvd, Encino, CA, 91316.

**NOTICE, Seminar:** Workshop in Group Dynamics, March 21-23, 1969, Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles. Write, Director, Leon J Fine, PhD: SEMINARS IN GROUP PROCESSES, 8475 S W Bohmann Parkway, Portland, Oregon, 97223.

**Re the B for G-W of DEPRESSION, Vol 1 No 1, Jan 5, 1969:** "Touch Molar teeth (together; lower jaw against upper)."

**FORMULATION:** "Being-On-the-Level": The least angle of the countenance found to date to correspond to an angle-in-mind is seven degrees. For one particular individual the change of the head position to a tilt of seven degrees "off level," when it was held for 30 seconds corresponded with the inception of a lowered pitch to the voice, muffling of his words and the introduction of opinionated "should, shouldn't, right?" and "..., right? RIGHT!" transactions. On-the-level, straight-forward objective (Adult), unbiased listening and talking is visibly manifested as such, in 95-98% of instances. The "angles-in-mind" include: for laughs, for persuasion, suggestion, cynicism, skepticism, coyness, compliance, defiance, nurturing, prohibiting, convincing, believing, etc. Head-waggers in an audience are wig-wagging from a tilted countenance--see "The Activity of Listening," FOUNDATION publication.

## SUCCINCTISM:

1. "PROGRAMMED SPONTANEITY!"

(See Jan 20, 1969 Issue)



## SUCCINCTISM:

2. The THWITS:  
"To-Hell-With-It (you)"  
repeatedly heard:  
"He is having a case of the THWITS!"

**ENCOUNTER:** Gladys and Glen in treatment for a better conjugated marriage. She to her potential nocturnal gladiator: "I used to think no orgasm was the worst thing. Now I know something worse. No orgasm is better'n nothing!"

**STATISTICS:** Group therapy attendance: One therapist using transactional analysis in a correctional treatment group reports gross patient attendance of 93.6%. Group of 12 members randomly selected; sessions--one hour twice weekly; interval covered--first 20 weeks.

**FORMULATION:** In the Script Snow White and the 7 Ds, "Okay" is equated with Desirable(ness), Attractive(ness) (see THE E, Vol 1 No 3, 2/5/69--"Positions in Scripts"). The story's characters are located in the four major position categories as follows:

<u>Get-On-With</u>	<u>Get-Away-From</u>
KING: father of the Prince	SNOW WHITE: gets own Oks from others
QUEEN: mother of the Prince	THE SEVEN Ds
<u>Get-Rid-Of</u>	<u>Getting-No-Where</u>
(BITCH)QUEEN: Step-Mother of S-W: "Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the fairest..."	RESCUING PRINCE
	WITCH: ugly, S-W undesired
	HUNTSMAN: ugly job to bump off S-W, Bad Queen is ugly

--Many of the script stories as told in collections of fairy tales, are synopses, condensations which do not explicitly refer to certain characters in the plot. Being a Prince as in "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" does imply a living King and Queen. Those who have read these stories to four-year-old children will recall questions about these unmentioned persons.

**B for GOW Marriage:** "Duet Talking 5-30 seconds per day." GOW is Get-On-With, is same as Get-Winners, Get-Well-Of.

**MEETING:** Golden Gate Group Psychotherapy Society Annual Conference: June 13-14, 1969, UC Med Center, S F, CA. Submit outline for papers, workshops by Mar 25, 1969; CONF CHM. GGGPS. P O Box 18102. San Francisco, CA. 94118.

**ENCOUNTER:** At the close of a conference on "Social Crisis," which to that point, had not produced a crisis, the workshop leaders formed a panel to summarize. Ten minutes into this closing part of the program, PROFESSOR PAUL, manifestly out of turn, usurping the time of the speaking panelist, was seen rising, putting coat over forearm. In a stage whisper to the chairman, "I'm terribly sorry but I have another engagement I am late for already"(this, after committing himself to attend).

Chairman: "Oh! Professor Paul could you please give us your thoughts then before you leave."  
PAUL: (Continuing to be the only one standing, briefcase now on conference table, coat still on forearm, tipped his tilted head ten degrees back): "Well, I really must be leaving; but there is just one little thing I want to say...(the "just-one-little-thing" maneuver will reliably subvert an agenda and turns out to be more than two tangential items. In group treatment this "li'-ole-me" maneuver can be handled by "want to bet:"-that it is just one thing).

Then holding forth for three minutes in tones sonorous and pious about his "concern for human beings," this erudite gifted person's tones waxed eloquent in passionate fervor for the assembled audience to "act on the basis of your feelings, if you feel the way I do." Seemingly, his closing words were; "What is needed is more action in the social (community)...We all sit around and talk...and don't get anything done...now, don't get me wrong...I'm not for violence...and if you feel this as strongly as I feel it, YOU (sic) will take action and stop collecting information..." picking up his briefcase as if leaving the scene of the "action" which predictably would follow this parting remark.

**THOUGHTFUL-AUDIENCE-MEMBER:** "You would have us stop gathering data?"

**PROF. P:** "Yes...we have collected enough data...We don't need to plan and think anymore...We have done enough of that and it has gotten nowhere...I believe you (sic) should blow up the memory banks (of the computers)... (as if computing were the trouble). Then taking a one-half second pause..." I have to leave, now; you know, another engagement (again looking at his watch)... but he continued to talk. By this second use of the "doing-you-a-favor" maneuver, he seemingly was being imposed upon if his last words were queried.

**TAM (musing):** "Don't collect anymore data? No more thinking to do on this! Hum!"

**PAUL:** "No...we've thought too much," etc., repeating. Further inquiry by THOUGHTFUL AM about PP's degrading of cool headed solutions was variously handled with tones of piety, contempt, reverence and sneering.

Finally PP, tipping his head further back, index finger shaking at TAM, snarled: "Are you for real?"  
**TAM** in clear, unintimidated, level voice: "Yes, I am talking straight, sir!"; generalized audience laughter!

To summarize Paul's (game) moves:  
1. Stage whisper to usurp floor,  
2. Use the maneuver "I'm-doing-you-a-favor (by staying)" and "I-have-just-one-little-thing-to-say" to gain and to hold center stage,  
3. Decry thoughtfulness in fervored tones, thus stimulating audience restlessness, in order to  
4. If possible, get himself and his ideals "kicked," as he left the scene.

This describes one sequence of conversational (game) moves played out in some therapy groups, leading then to "group crisis." If Pious Paul had, in fact, been able to get a return snarl or a "cussing at" from an audience member then a social group crisis would surely have followed. And, after all, who could have blamed PP. All he did was to grant a favor and "throw-out to (throw up on?) the audience his parting thoughts" to then be "mistreated-for-his-efforts." Who among the subsequent arguers would have admitted to being promoted into a fighting mood (either for or against) by someone else, let alone a person no longer present.

**GAME:** "Now-let's-get-our-problem-ironed-out-here!"

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