DR. WILLIAM BIER’S REPORT ON APA COUNCIL MEETING

Eds. Note: Fr. Bier is Division 36’s first elected representative to the APA Council of Representatives. He is to be commended for his splendid work on the Council in behalf of this Division for the past two years. Fr. Bier pioneered P.I.R.I. in its early stages of infancy. In addition to his professorship in psychology, Dr. Bier is Associate Vice President for academic affairs at Fordham University.

The APA Council of Representatives met in Washington, D.C., January 19-20, 1979. This was the second, or mid-winter meeting, of the 1978 Council of Representatives, the first meeting having taken place during the APA convention in Toronto. The meeting was presided over by M. Brewster Smith, who at the end turned the meeting over to Nicholas A. Comings, the incoming President. You did not receive a report on the summer meeting of the Council in Toronto because your Representative was unable to reach the meeting by reason of a strike on Air Canada.

The Council faced a 39-item agenda, some items with sub-dividers, and one item with as many as nine subdivisions. The agenda, with the explanatory and supporting documentation, formed a volume as large as a thick telephone book.

The Council passed a budget of $11,423,800 for 1979, deferred action on the complicated question of the creation of a National Commission on Education and Credentialing in Psychology, and adopted a revision of Accreditation Criteria. A general account of the happenings at the mid-winter meeting of the Council has been provided in the March issue of the APA MONITOR, and the official minutes will be published in the June issue of the AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGIST. It is not the purpose of the present report to duplicate information furnished in these two sources, but to offer a perspective on the meeting from the viewpoint of Division 36.

From our divisional perspective, the most important feature of this meeting was the attempt to exclude from APA accreditation any training program requiring an antecedent credal commitment on the part of faculty and students. Proponents of this position see such a requirement as religious discrimination because persons not subscribing to it would be excluded from the program. They argued sufficiently persuasively to have their position accepted by the Council a year ago at the meeting in January 1978. This position meant that training programs requiring this kind of religious commitment would not even be considered for accreditation, and such programs, if currently accredited, would be dis-accredited. There was such an outcry against this position, because it seemed to many that the APA in attempting to eliminate religious discrimination


had put itself in the position of discriminating against religion, that the matter was reconsidered at the August Council meeting in Toronto. After a long debate the Council reversed itself and reaffirmed its former accrediting criteria. It seemed that the matter was thus settled, but not before. So the close of the Council meeting in Toronto the following amendment to the just-completed action of the Council was introduced by a Representative from California:

The procedures and criteria of the Committee on Accreditation require there should be no discrimination on the basis of sex, race, origin or ethnic background or requirement of a creedal statement or oath on the part of faculty or students. (Emphasis added)

The amendment was referred to the Education and Training Board for consideration and recommendation. The Board, after discussing the amendment, judged it to be inconsistent with the policy adopted by the Council at its August meeting and advised that no further action on the amendment was necessary. The Board of Directors concurred with the judgment of the E & T Board. Thus, the matter came before the Council with the recommendation of the E & T Board and the Board of Directors that no further action be taken on the amendment.

As this item came up for consideration in due order on the first day of the Council meeting, the author of the amendment requested that action on it be postponed until the following day, because he had pertinent material on the amendment to distribute to the Council members, which, he felt, the members should have a chance to review before acting on the amendment. Out of courtesy to the members, the Council agreed to defer action until the following day.

The five-page, xeroxed material distributed was identified as abstracted from Admission Bulletins of Fuller Graduate School of Psychology and Rosemead Graduate School of Psychology. Since the name of Fuller did not appear at all in the xeroxed material provided, when the matter came up for Council discussion, your Representative rose to ask for a clarification on this point. He was assured that, even though the name of Fuller did not appear anywhere on the documents submitted, the material was indeed taken from the Fuller catalogue and that this could be shown to him, if he wished. As to Rosemead, after some hesitancy and uncertainty, it was indicated that Rosemead was in the process of applying for APA accreditation. In the material presented, it was impossible to determine which portion pertained to Fuller and which to Rosemead.

The communication addressed to Council members accompanying the above-mentioned documents, read as follows:

The documents make clear that these programs do indeed discriminate against both students and faculty in that participation in the programs is conditional upon acceptance of a particular religious philosophy. Of equal concern is the specific content of the "creedal" statements to which both students and faculty are required to espouse if they are to participate in the training programs. The documents specify the contents of the "creedal" statements and make clear the limits of intellectual freedom imposed by the creeds.

Underlining highlights some of the relevant content.

As indicated, some of the content was underlined, and it was annotated in two places as follows: This is man? This is freedom?

The material created quite a stir among Council members and when the matter came up on the agenda next day there was a consensus that the amendment could not simply be voted down, but that the entire question of the accreditation of training programs requiring this kind of religious commitment would have to be reconsidered. The Council then agreed to function as a Committee of the Whole to discuss the matter once again, but since so much time had been given to the question in August, it was agreed that the discussion should be limited to half an hour.

Your Representative was one of the first to speak on the issue and he made the following three points.

(1) The only sound and defensible basis upon which APA can evaluate training programs is in terms of the quality of the programs themselves and their ability to produce academically and professionally well-trained psychologists.

(2) Fuller had an approved program for some years which means that, until the present issue was raised, the E & T Board and the Committee on Accreditation was satisfied that the program met the academic and professional criteria for accreditation.

(3) If the only reason why these religiously affiliated programs cannot be considered for accreditation, no matter how excellent on academic and professional grounds, would be by reason of the antecedent creedal requirement, then it would seem that APA as a matter of policy would be discriminating against religion.

Gradually, other Council members, including several members of the Board of Directors, rose to speak against the amendment, which was finally defeated by a rather convincing majority. In the opinion of your Representative, this is the only sound position which the APA could adopt in terms of accreditation. Any other would be utterly indefensible.

William C. Bier, Division 36 Representative

MINUTES, MINUTES, MINUTES

Please take time to acquaint yourself with operations and decisions which in some way involve each and every member of Division 36:

Minutes of the Business Meeting, Thursday, August 31, 1978, 4:00-4:50 p.m. at Pier 2, Harbour Castle Hilton, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

The Chair, Dr. Vyattas J. Bieliauskas, called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

I. The Minutes of the 1977 Business Meeting were unanimously approved.

II. Announcements and Communications

In the absence of Dr. Bier, our Council Representative (who was prevented from attending the convention because of the Air Canada strike), Dr. Bieliauskas represented Division 36 at Council on Wednesday, August 30th. He presented to Council a statement expressing Division 36's strong opposition to Council's action of January 1978 in which APA accreditation
would be denied those graduate training programs which utilize religious requirements in staffing and in student admission. He urged that this motion be rescinded. Dr. Bielaukas was pleased to report that Council has rescinded this motion.

Dr. Bielaukas has appointed Dr. David Hellkamp to serve as our divisional representative on the APA Task Force on Descriptive Behavioral Classification.

Some other Council matters of interest:

APA dues will be increased in 1979.

Three APA Fellows instead of the current two will be required to endorse an applicant for Fellow status.

The new Division of Health Psychologists has been approved — Division 38.

A committee to study the proposed reorganization of APA has been appointed by Council.

III. Reports

1. Election Committee (V.S. Sexton)

2. Secretary-Treasurer (M.E. Donnelly)

Part I — Secretary’s Report
1. The Executive Committee convened for the mid-winter meeting on February 25, 1978 at Fordham University, New York City. The items discussed related to reports from the officers and committee chairpersons. Please consult the Minutes for the meeting details.


Division 36 now has two Council Representatives: Dr. William C. Bier and Dr. Mary E. Reuder.

3. The Secretary-Treasurer received a letter from Dr. Vytautas J. Bielaukas, President of Division 36, a letter dated 2/13/78 from Mr. William Hauer, Counselor at Law, who was negotiating the legal disincorporation of PIRI, Inc. This letter stated that PIRI, Inc. has now been formally dissolved. All Division 36’s debt to PIRI, Inc. has been paid.

4. As of June 30, 1978, Division 36 has a total of 633 paid members. At $7.00 per person, this gave us an income from dues of $4431.00.

5. Because of ambiguities in Division 36’s current Bylaws, the Secretary-Treasurer recommends establishing an ad hoc committee to study necessary amendments.

6. Central Office, APA, has approved as Fellows Drs. Eugene Kennedy, Bernard Spilka, and Orlo Strunk. The Fellowship Committee of Division 36 is recommending for acceptance as Fellows in this Division, Drs. Darwin Dorr, Mary E. Reuder, and Gertrude J. Williams who currently are Fellows in APA.

The Secretary-Treasurer wishes to thank the members of the Executive Committee and the Chairs of the various committees for their cooperation during the past year.


BALANCE on hand Sept. ’77 .................................. $532.51

RECEIPTS .................................................. $4448.00

Dues Allotments: 634 at $2. each ................................ $1268.00

Special Assessments: 1 at $3.00 ................................ 3.00

Special Assessments: 633 at $5.00 .......................... 3165.00

Other Receipts: .............................................. 12.00

TOTAL ...................................................... $4980.51

EXPENDITURES ............................................... $2250.52

Contributions to Coalitions .................................. $50.00

(Public Interest and Research/Academic)

Contribution as corporate Sponsor of AAP ............. 100.00

NEWSLETTER (Two issues, Nov. and March) ............ 622.20

Office Expenses (Sec.-Treas.) ........................... 123.22

Midwinter Executive Committee Meeting ................ 807.86

Council Representative Expenses ...................... 117.99

Nominations Committee and Apportionment Ballots .... 332.24

Students in Psychology (Office Expenses) ............... 9.88

Program Committee (Balance Outstanding) .............. 37.13

Attorney for PIRI, Inc. (Office Expenses) ............... 50.00

BALANCE on hand .............................................. $2729.99

IV. Actions

1. The motion to approve the continuation of the five dollar ($5.00) assessment for 1979 was unanimously carried.

2. The motion to approve the proposed budget for 1979 was unanimously approved.

3. Motions to continue our support in the amount of twenty-five ($25.00) dollars each to the Public Interest Coalition and to the Coalition of Research/Academic Psychologists, and to continue as a Corporate Sponsor ($100.00) of AAP were approved unanimously.

4. The motion to approve the appointment as Member-at-Large of Dr. Sheridan P. McCabe to fill the unexpired term of President-Elect, Dr. Paul J. Centi, was unanimously carried.

The President, Dr. Vytautas J. Bielaukas, thanked the officers and members for their support during his term. He then introduced the incoming President, Dr. Eileen A. Gavin, who adjourned the meeting at five p.m.

Margaret E. Donnelly, Division 36, APA
September, 1978

At the mid-winter meeting, the Executive Committee principally receives and discusses progress reports of its various committees. The following are brief statements covering such matters of importance.

Dr. Gavin (President) reported that the results of the apportionment ballots again allocate to Division 36 two Council representatives. Currently, our Representatives are Dr. William C. Bier and Dr. Mary E. Reuder. Bier noted that the issue of APA accreditation of church-related graduate training programs which utilize religious requirements in staffing and in student admissions was once again on Council's agenda (January 1979). He planned speak at Council meeting in support of such accreditation where these institutions meet the basic criterion of providing sound professional training in psychology. (NOTE: Council later reaffirmed its 1978 convention motion to so accredit these institutions.)

Dr. Bielaukas (Chair) reported that the slate for the coming Division elections was in preparation.

The financial status as of January 1, 1979 is as follows: (Dr. Donnelly, Secretary-Treasurer)
Income for 1978 $4506.00
Expenditures for 1978 $3015.27
Balance for 1978 $1490.73
Carry-over from 1977 2.17
Balance, Jan. 1, 1979 $1492.90

The Bylaws revision (Dr. Sexton, Chair) is under way and the convention program (Dr. Meadow, Chair) is shaping up into an attractive series of presentations. Dr. Kahoe, Membership Chair, informed the Committee that he had distributed Division 36 membership application forms among members of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and that he plans to place invitations to join Division 36 in publications reaching psychologists with religious interests. Dr. Nelson, Chair for Regional Meetings, has contacted several Division 36 persons in various geographical regions of the Country to have incorporated matters of psychological/religious concerns into the programs of these associations' meetings.

Division 36 is in the process of developing criteria for the acceptance of Student Affiliates. Dr. Becher (Chair) reported many applications from students expressing interest in joining the Division.

The Awards Committee (Dr. McCabe) has designated a nominee for the 1979 William James Memorial Award. The announcement of the recipient will be made at a later date. The Committee on Fellows (Dr. Lyman, Chair) is in the process of screening and preparing documentation for applicants for Fellow status.

Finally, the Executive Committee received with appreciation statements from our Liaison to the APA Committee on Women (Dr. Rayburn) and from Dr. Gorsuch, Liaison to the Association for the Scientific Study of Religion.

Margaret E. Donnelly, Secretary-Treasurer, Division 36 — APA
March, 1979

SPEAKING OF MEMBERSHIPS

Professional Affiliate membership (non-voting) is available to you as a psychologist, in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. Contact: Doris McGuire, Administrator, American Association of Pastoral Counselors, 3000 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008. Such membership allows a psychologist who has a serious interest in religious issues to keep abreast of the movements and activities of ordained clergy who devote their time to the field of pastoral counseling.

It may be of interest to note that Drs. Gavin, Bier, Nelson and Stern met with several representative members of the AAPP during the mid-winter Executive Committee meeting. The purpose of the gathering was purely informational and did not get into the possibility of cooperative scientific and professional projects. Perhaps these will come about at another time depending, of course, on mutual interest and willingness.

PRESIDENT-ELECT PAUL CENTI WRITES:

Dear Mark:

Just a note to let you know that my article, "The Problems of Diocesan Priests", appeared in the January, 1979 issue of The Priest.

Also I have a larger investigation of the problems of religious women being published by CARA.

My regards: Paul Centi

Editor's note: Anyone wishing reprints ought to write directly to Dr. Paul Centi, 166 S. Manning Blvd., Albany, New York 12208.

NEW BOOKS BY MEMBERS' DEPARTMENT

The Human Puzzle: Psychological Research and Christian Belief by David G. Myers published by Harper and Row, looks at human nature from the perspectives of Christian belief and research in social, cognitive and physiological psychology. It asks, what insights into human nature have been discerned in recent psychological research? What insights into human nature have been independently discerned by biblical scholars and theologians? And how well do these two realms of insight connect with one another? Myers concludes that while there are points of tension (e.g., research on illusory thinking raises troubling questions about popular beliefs in the efficacy of prayer), the ancient biblical view of human nature is remarkably adequate to the facts, as research psychologists see them.
Matters of the Heart: A Modern Spiritual Seeker Dialogues with the Great Sages of History by J. Andrew Canale, published by Paulist Press. An absolutely beautiful book by a Jungian psychologist who takes his reader on a journey through meaningful trends in history. Dr. Canale takes side with the ongoing feud between Eastern and Western philosophic and psychologic "systems." For him... the feud itself makes ongoing, personal demands. One such demand is for "radical commitment" backed by the mandate to achieve self-knowledge. This book is richly illustrated by Ann Dalton.

A WELL DESERVED RETIREMENT

As of December, 1978, Richard L. Gorsuch completed a four year term as editor of the Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion. Typical papers published in the Journal in the past four years included analysis of the determinants of church commitment and participation. Studies concerned with religious phenomena in other countries were also often published as well as analyses of the nature of religious beliefs and the impact of religious phenomena in contemporary life.

A REALLY HELPFUL RESOURCE ON ALCOHOLISM

in the form of a pamphlet entitled Alcohol and Responsibility by Divisional member James E. Royce of Seattle University. This remarkable pamphlet by a specialist in alcoholism addiction appears to be the first attempt at a thorough treatment on morality and alcoholism since the writing of Jesuit John C. Ford nearly three decades ago. This 21 page booklet is published by the Hazelden Foundation in Minnesota, but will appear as one chapter in a college textbook on alcoholism which Dr. Royce hopes to have published by the end of the year.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST

A study by psychiatrists Marc Gallanter and Peter Buckley of the Department of Psychiatry, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, N.Y., on Evangelic Religion and Meditation, Psychotherapeutic Effects:

Galanter and Buckley administered a multiple choice questionnaire to 119 members of a religious sect founded in 1971. The responses by the members of the Divine Light Mission reflected a significant decline of neurotic symptoms and of alcohol and drug use from the period prior to joining to that immediately after joining. Responses relating to ritual meditation indicated frequent transcendent experiences, while symptom decline was found to correlate significantly with group-related activities and attitudes as well as with specific aspects of the ritual meditation.

The New York Institute of Metapsychiatry, 15 West 72nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10023, is engaged in the study and exploration of modes of being in the world, their meanings in terms of qualities of consciousness, cognitive processes, and how these can be altered through educational methods emphasizing prayer and meditation, spiritual values, and existentially valid metaphysical principles.

Psychiatrist-Director Thomas Hora explains that metapsychiatry is a scientific discipline based on a metaphysical concept of the person and universe. Person is understood to be a spiritual being reflecting the consciousness of cosmic Love-Intelligence.

The work of the Institute is structured in the form of individual lessons, study groups, and selected readings from relevant literature.

The Institute consists of the Director-Supervisor, an Administrative Assistant, and a number of Research Associates conducting a variety of projects under coordinated supervision.

The accreditation process at the Institute is not academic but existential. This means that a student's qualifications are validated by the level of consciousness attained and by the fruits of his participation.

Dr. Hora's books Existential Metapsychiatry and Dialogues in Metapsychiatry may be obtained from the publisher: The Seabury Press, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017. Another book by Dr. Hora In Quest of Wholeness is available from the Christian Counseling Service, 12141 Lewis Street, Garden Grove, California 92640.

Two-2 week Leader's Training Courses for ministers and other leaders interested in setting up lay caring ministries in and around their congregations will be held in St. Louis, June 17-20 and August 9-17, 1979. The course will cover the STEPHEN SERIES system and will include all the details, organizational/administrative and clinical, for implementing the entire Stephen Series model. Faculty includes the Rev. Kenneth Haugk, Ph.D., clinical psychologist and member of Division 36, the Rev. William Winkler, M.D., the Rev. Edgar M. Roschke, the Rev. Carl Graesser, Ph.D., and other supplementary faculty. All materials for training laity and for implementation of the entire system are included. Cost of congregational enrollment is $875. For further information, contact Dr. Kenneth Haugk, the Stephen Series, 7120 Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63130 or call (314) 725-0991.
WELCOME TO THE A.P.A. CONVENTION IN NEW YORK — REMEMBER THE DATES, SEPTEMBER 1 – 5. AS USUAL MUCH HAS BEEN PLANNED, BUT TO KEEP YOU ABREAST WITH DIVISION 36, HERE IS A BRIEF PROGRAM OF OUR PRESENTATIONS. SOME OF THE PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN CO-SPONSORED BY OTHER DIVISIONS, OTHERS HAVE NOT. MOST EVENTS TAKE PLACE IN THE WALDORF–ASTORIA (indicated on this program as W.A.) WHILE THE REMAINDER WILL BE AT THE NEW YORK HILTON (NY.H.):

SEPTEMBER 1 (Saturday):


Conversation: W.H. Clark – 12–12:50, Louis XVI W


EXEC. COMM. (Outgoing) E.A. Gavin (ch) – 8–10 Louis XVI Cent, W.A.

SEPTEMBER 2 (Sunday):


Business Mtg.: E.A. Gavin (ch), 3–3:50 Conrad W.A.


SEPTEMBER 3 (Monday):


Invited Address: A Biological Understanding of Mysticism. V.S. Sexton (ch), T.X. Barber – 2–2:50 Basildon W.A.

Invited Address: "What is Man . . . 3" V.T. Bieliaskas (ch), H. Feifel – 4–4:50 Basildon W.A.

Social Hour: M.E. Donnelly (ch) 5–6 J.J. Astor W.A.

SEPTEMBER 4 (Tuesday):


Poster Session: Papers on Religious Issues. 1–1:50 Starlight W.A.


EXEC. COMM. (Incoming): P.J. Centi (ch) 7–9 Louis XVI Cent W.A.