

October 8, 1982

Mr. George Zournas
Theatre Arts Books
153 Waverly Place
New York NY 10014

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Library — Archives

Dear Mr. Zournas:

Thank you for your letter of September 29, and for the enclosures. I have read all this material and mused upon it with mixed feelings--relief that the matter is finally coming to a head, and concern for the many people involved.

I have written to Dr. Ogura giving him the names of the two psychiatrists involved in the 1964 affair, together with the name of a third psychiatrist who was supervisor of one of them, doing his residency at the time. I also furnished him with addresses and phone numbers of two of these doctors, the third having moved away. I also offered to write up the entire matter if necessary. I felt this was as much as I could do without hearing from him directly.

I have also heard from Adam Fisher, whom I met without remembering at Daibosatsu in 1976. Apparently my piece in Ten Directions, "The Mind of Clover," was helpful to him in his process of deciding to leave Shōbōji, and he wrote thanking me, mentioning in passing that there had been a new flareup at Shōbōji, and that it with earlier scandals might be written up in The Village Voice. Whew! Fasten your seat belt.

Fisher asked my opinion about the possible formation of a sharing group which might be a source of support for Zen Studies Society old-timers who are really suffering at this time. I wrote back endorsing this idea:

I think it would be very important, as you say, for people going through the trauma of a "death" to gather weekly or fortnightly for sharing as well as for zazen. The format at such a sharing meeting and the skill of the facilitator would be quite important, I should think. The National Training Laboratories model of sharing in a circle without "talking across," and then sharing when recognized in turn by the facilitator, is an excellent one. I suggest that the facilitator be someone you trust who is not particularly involved in the uproar.

I hope that something of the kind might be set up. The emotional health of a lot of people is involved here, and I feel quite concerned. Please keep in touch.

Gasshō



Robert Aitken