

C o p y

1324 South Ramona Street
San Gabriel, Calif.
April 2, 1951

Dear Miss Haerter and Miss Linné,

On March 17 my wife and I together with my eldest son Tom and his wife, all T.S.members, went to T.S.Headquarters at Pasadena and had a 2-hour interview with Mr.Long and several members of the cabinet. Yesterday (April 1) the same party of four went to Covina and had an interview with Mr.Hartley, and I will now, speaking for my wife and myself, state the facts as we see them.

There is no question but that the late Leader, Col.Conger, appointed Mr.Hartley as his successor, and nothing has been brought out to show that Col.Conger later revoked this appointment. Some doubt has been expressed that the original document exists, but I have it from Mr. Hartley direct that it is not missing and that he can and will produce it when it shall be proper to do so. Since the T.S.Constitution states that the Leader shall appoint his own successor, it seems to me that morally and legally Mr.Hartley is the new Leader.

The only thing I can see in favor of Mr.Long's claim is that the majority of the members at Headquarters have decided to follow him. Among them are many old, trusted and faithful workers for Theosophy, and they seem convinced that they serve Theosophy best by supporting Mr.Long. It is this fact that has made it difficult to disregard Mr.L. entirely. I admit that I have hesitated, for how can we ignore the judgement of so many sincere Theosophists? But the majority is not always right, and the fact of Conger's appointment has not been contradicted.

Mr.Hartley is an elderly, gentle and quiet man with kindly eyes, and gives an impression of absolute sincerity and honesty. My wife thinks he reminds you a great deal of Col.Conger. According to our limited judgement he is a spiritual type of man. - Mr.Hartley tells us that he is taking steps that will clarify the situation, and suggests that in the meantime we have patience and wait.

These are the facts as we see them. If there are any further questions you would like to ask we will try to find the answers. It has been a very trying time for all of us. My wife is feeling somewhat better now, and we hope the strain has lifted for you, too.

With all good wishes,

Fraternally yours,

(Gez.) Nils A. Amneus