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Jack Clareman, Esq., as attorney
for The Zen Studies Society, Inc.
121 East 61 Street
New York, N.Y.

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Library — Archives

Dear Mr. Clareman:

I suppose at this point I should not be surprised to learn that Sylvan Busch gave me the wrong address when I asked him for your new address on September 10. On the spur of the moment I called your office today to check the address and found that the new address is 121 East 61 Street, not the 122 to which the original of the enclosed letter to you was sent. I would suggest that, in order to understand the contents of this letter, you read first the xerox of my letter of September 11 which is attached. Having done that, you will understand this report on what has happened in the interim.

On Tuesday, September 14, a meeting of the Zen Studies Society, Inc., was held, at which my letter of September 14 to the Board--a copy of which is enclosed--was read. I should, of course, have realized that Mr. Shimano was lying when he assured me that he intended to resign his offices at this meeting and return to Japan. When it was obvious that he and his wife had no intentions of resigning, Mr. Frank LoCicero came forward and moved that they be removed from their offices by the Board. His motion was seconded by Mrs. Peggy Crawford. Mrs. Jean Bankier expressed herself as divided between asking for a clean break with the Shimanos by removing them from office or sending them on an extended sabbatical. She decided in favor of the latter. Mr. Busch, despite his assurance to me at the time of the [redacted] and [redacted] sexual encounters with Mr. Shimano that he would not support him through another scandal and despite the prayer made in my apartment the previous Wednesday that the Shimanos would "resign and leave quietly," did not open his mouth to show any disapproval of Mr. and Mrs. Shimano's activities. But then, with my resignation as president of the Zen Studies Society Mr. Busch resumes the presidency. He was also publicly promised during Mr. Shimano's teisho/sermon the Sunday previous to the Board meeting that he would at some point in the near future be given a special raku in recognition of his twenty years of support of Mr. Shimano (if Mr. Busch continued to be a good boy). Mr. Lee Milton and Mr. David Schnyer, each of whom had been placed on the Board within the last year by Mr. Shimano and each of whom has been living at either Dai Bosatsu Zendo or New York Zendo for the last year and each of whom has no other income than the monthly stipend he receives from Mr. Shimano, not surprisingly chose to support him. Mr. Schnyer's comment was "Well, he hasn't raped anyone yet, has he?": So Mr. and Mrs. Shimano remain in office. As you now know, I resigned from the Board on July 31 of this year in disgust at Mr. and Mrs. Shimano's activities and their treatment of their own teacher, Soen Roshi. Mr. LoCicero has now resigned from the Board, and many other people are leaving the sangha of New York Zendo. Mrs. Crawford has chosen, for the moment, to remain on the Board in order to work for the removal of the Shimanos from within the organization.

I am sorry that I have had to trouble you with these letters, but I feel it essential that what many of us believe to be the true situation be set forward in the records you hold of the Zen Studies Society.

Sincerely yours,


George Zournas

GZ/esh