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August 4, 2003

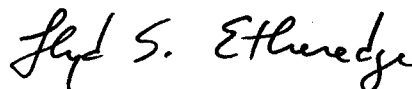
Dr. Virginia S. Cain Ph.D., Acting Director
Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research
National Institutes of Health - Office of the Director
1 Center Dr. - Bldg. 1, Room 256
Bethesda, MD 20892-0183

Dear Dr. Cain:

I am writing to follow-up my letter of August 2, 2003 to you (with a copy to Dr. Thomas Insel at NIMH) concerning new measures of hierarchical images and three-dimensional modeling of human behavior.

I am attaching a summary diagram from Abram Kardiner's and Lionel Ovesey's classic study in The Mark of Oppression (1951). From my own field of political psychology, I would suggest the hypothesis that it is not only Blacks but any lower social status group - subordinated women, Mexicans (today), subordinates in large bureaucracies, etc. - whose psychology and health can be adversely affected in similar ways by the intervening mechanism of vivid and reified hierarchical images. For example, induced passivity, inhibitions of rationality and learning processes, perhaps heightened stress and stress-related behavior, and other symptoms of a similar syndrome.

With best wishes,



(Dr.) Lloyd S. Etheredge, Director
Government Learning Project

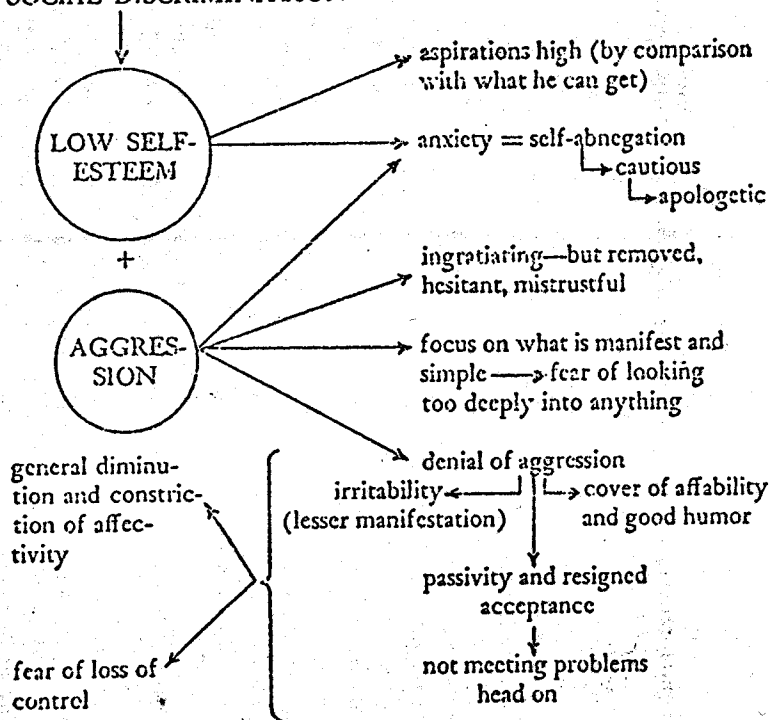
cc: Dr. Thomas Insel, NIMH
Dr. Norman Anderson, APA
Dr. Ronald Abeles, NIH-OBSSR

from Abraham Kardiner &
 Lionel Ovesy, The Mark of
 Oppression, p. 303

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because the individual, in order to maintain internal balance and to protect himself from being overwhelmed by it, must initiate restitutive maneuvers in order to keep functioning—all quite automatic and unconscious. In addition to maintaining an internal balance, the individual must continue to maintain a social façade and some kind of adaptation to the offending stimuli so that he can preserve some social effectiveness. All of this requires a constant preoccupation, notwithstanding the fact that these adaptational processes all take place on a low order of awareness. The following is a diagram of a typical parallelogram of forces:

SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION



In the center of this adaptational scheme stand the low self-esteem (the self-referential part) and the aggression (the reactive part). The rest are maneuvers with these main constellations, to prevent their manifestation, to deny them and the sources from which they