

In my opinion, there is no better course in psychology than criminal investigation—practical, on-the-job training. This is where you learn more about human nature and psychology than you do anywhere else.

Mr. MOSS. All right, Mr. Montague, you have had many years of this. I want first to stipulate for this record that I have a very high regard for the postal inspection service. I believe that it operates with great efficiency in practically all areas.

I am not attempting to detract at all from its very fine record. But what do you know about human psychology as it produces physiological reactions in a human being?

Mr. MONTAGUE. Well, you do learn that when you talk to another person, with or without a polygraph, you can pretty well size up whether or not he is telling the truth, and you can evaluate persons. This comes from experience.

Mr. MOSS. When his hands start to sweat, what deduction do you make?

Mr. MONTAGUE. It might mean he is nervous.

Mr. MOSS. It might mean he is nervous?

Mr. MONTAGUE. Yes.

Mr. MOSS. Might it mean that he is ill?

Mr. MONTAGUE. It could mean that he is ill, yes.

Mr. MOSS. Might it mean that he has taken some medication? You have been measuring this for almost 13 years and taking it as an indication of truthfulness. What does it mean?

Mr. MONTAGUE. I have not been operating a B. & W., but I will ask Mr. Baleiko to answer.

Mr. MOSS. What does it mean?

Mr. BALEIKO. Well, I guess they are looking for the answer to that, Congressman.

Mr. MOSS. We do not know what it means, do we?

Mr. BALEIKO. Nobody really knows. There are many theories.

Mr. MOSS. All we know is that the man appears to be perspiring in the palms of his hands. I am doing it right now. I feel that I am very truthful. But I would probably get a pretty good reading on one of these devices, would I not?

Mr. BALEIKO. I would think so. You might be susceptible to it.

Mr. MOSS. And this might make you, if you were interrogating me, bear down much more heavily, and—in effect—say, "All right, Joe, come along now. You know very well you are guilty." Is that not right?

Mr. BALEIKO. That could be a mistake that somebody could make; yes, sir.

Mr. MOSS. There is a high degree of probability that such a mistake would be made. So let us relate this value, and I do not question the value of experience in criminal investigation, in understanding the outward signs, readily discernible to the eye, of human behavior.

But I question very seriously that it gives you any insight into physiological functions of the human body. They are extremely complex. Would you agree?

Mr. MONTAGUE. I agree.

Mr. MOSS. And this is essentially a device reading physiological function. That is all it does. Even the polygraph, even the nine phases that Dr. Lacey has in his machine at the Fel's Institute.