

Mr. HERNDON. By our very training, we expect our examiners, when they have completed a polygraph examination, to give it the best possible review they can, and then provide for the case agent and the Bureau what we call investigative direction. Based on their skill, their knowledge, and the interpretation of the charts, they can provide indications as to whether or not this person may be involved or may not be involved.

Mr. KASS. Now, you say very careful review of the polygraph charts and the whole procedure. How long a review process is this?

Mr. HERNDON. It will vary with the individual examiner, and the individual case, Mr. Kass.

Mr. KASS. Can you be doing it on a running basis?

Mr. HERNDON. Oh, yes. Obviously, as the man is proceeding with the examination, he is formulating certain opinions at that point.

Mr. KASS. So, in other words, while you are looking at the chart, as it is moving on, you can just by your own visual observation determine whether this is an indication of deception or not?

Mr. HERNDON. Possibly, in some cases.

Mr. KASS. How would you determine which cases are and which cases are not?

Mr. HERNDON. Depending on how the man is reacting to the specific questions that have been prepared by the examiner.

Mr. KASS. Reacting on the polygraph chart?

Mr. HERNDON. Well, Mr. Kass, I know you are somewhat familiar with the technique. As you proceed during the series, you have the so-called control questions, the peak-of-tension series, and, by observing the reactions of the man to the specific questions, the examiner can begin to formulate possible opinions, based on the man's physiological reaction to the questions.

Mr. MOSS. The reactions you seek are those that arise from what? A guilty feeling? What is the impulse that causes a reaction to be recorded? And does the recording occur on all three of the channels of the polygraph, or may it occur on only one?

Mr. HERNDON. There, again, Mr. Chairman, that is a question that could have several different answers, depending on many various factors.

Mr. MOSS. If it is dependent on a guilty reaction, you must assume it is dependent on a guilty reaction, must you not, if you are going to interpret it as relating to truthfulness or the lack of truthfulness?

Mr. HERNDON. I am not sure I follow your question, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MOSS. When you ask a man a question, you have your control questions and then you have questions relating to the subject which you are investigating. As he responds, there are tracings made on a graph, three concurrent tracings reflecting the three channels of physiological reaction?

Mr. HERNDON. That is correct, sir.

Mr. MOSS. Is the assumption of reaction that there is a guilty feeling in the individual which causes, we will say, his palms to start perspiring, his breathing to be a little sharper, or his heartbeat to be a little quicker?

Mr. HERNDON. There may be a specific physiological response, based on the stimulus presented by the examiner, the particular questions, and the man's decision on how to respond to the questions.