

Mr. Moss. I am trying to get to the basic motivation. Are human beings inherently truthful? Or are they truthful in relation to the cultural background in which they are raised, their environment? Are they by nature, by instinct, truthful?

Mr. HERNDON. Mr. Chairman, that is a question perhaps a doctor of philosophy could answer better than I could.

Mr. Moss. Let me make it clear. I think of all the groups we have studied, that the FBI comes the closest to using this with the care I feel it requires. There isn't the broad reliance upon it, at least there doesn't appear to be, in my studies so far. But I think these are questions which an operator must be able to answer if we are to rely upon this device to the extent it is relied upon today in private business, and in some of the departments of government, where it is an essential part of the screening procedure in the hiring of personnel.

Now, you are a well-qualified, well-trained operator. And this is not in any sense an effort to embarrass you. But certainly, the nature, the inherent nature or the instinctive reaction of a human being to truth is essential to an understanding of whether or not a fluctuation on a graph has significance.

Mr. HERNDON. I see what you are getting at.

Mr. Moss. Now, you must assume if he is telling a lie, there is some guilt reaction, something that causes a stimulation.

Mr. HERNDON. That is a generally accepted fact. In general people when they attempt to deceive—and I think many here sometime in their lives have experienced a sensation under a specific circumstance, where they have had to hedge or deceive—feel inner sensations. I think those of us who are investigators certainly know when you interrogate people, and you don't have to be an investigator very long before you can observe certain manifestations in individuals, that when they are deliberately lying they give themselves away.

Mr. Moss. Truth is not an absolute, is it?

Mr. HERNDON. There are certain people who are pathological liars, who are so calloused and hardened that they could lie all day.

Mr. Moss. Where would we find those, normally, with the greatest frequency? In the criminal element?

Mr. HERNDON. Not necessarily, but there are a number in the criminal element.

Mr. Moss. Would you say they probably represent a larger percentage of those involved in crime than those not involved in crime?

Mr. HERNDON. I wouldn't venture a guess on that.

Mr. Moss. But you can encounter them?

Mr. HERNDON. You can encounter them in most walks of life, I believe.

Mr. Moss. I suppose all of us resort to a little untruthfulness on occasion. I may regretfully decline an invitation stating I have a prior commitment, when I haven't a thing in the world to do; I am just tired.

Mr. HERNDON. I think that is the best answer. Many people experience a certain sensation when they practice a falsehood.

Mr. Moss. All right. But there are certain things that you tolerate as slight deviations, the "white lies." Do they cause the same reaction in an individual that more serious untruths cause?