

Mr. MOSS. What is the effect of a tranquilizer?

Mr. HERNDON. A tranquilizer could suppress the physiological reactions for which we are looking.

Mr. MOSS. It could. Would it?

Mr. HERNDON. It depends on many factors, Mr. Chairman: The nature of the man; how much drug he is accustomed to; when he took it last.

Mr. MOSS. Do you have a medical doctor available to make this determination?

Mr. HERNDON. No, sir; we do not.

Mr. MOSS. Do you have anybody who is sufficiently knowledgeable to make this evaluation? What is the effect of three aspirins, taken 1 hour before the examination? That isn't a drug we normally associate in context with the term "drug," but it is a very commonly used preparation that has some effect upon physiological functions.

Mr. HERNDON. To answer your question, I have had such cases where people have come in and said "I took two or three aspirin," and the aspirin doesn't necessarily affect the overall interrogation because if the person is properly interrogated and stimulated enough, his reactions will still show through.

Mr. MOSS. Will aspirin cause the blood pressure to drop?

Mr. HERNDON. I am not a doctor, so I am not qualified to specifically answer that question.

But I would presume aspirin could cause a slight decrease, perhaps, in the blood pressure.

Mr. MOSS. Do you know what the specific effect of aspirin is?

Mr. HERNDON. Medically speaking, I do not, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MOSS. Medically or physiologically speaking. Again I get back to the fact that the committee is concerned with the large voids in this technique, which may only be filled by the highly trained practitioner in medicine, not the psychologist, but the psychiatrist and the physiologist. I recall hearing rumors that people sometimes take aspirin to try to pass tests where they want to avoid having too high blood pressure. I don't know whether it is true or not. But if it is, then it would have some specific effect upon a subject taking a polygraph examination. Does heavy smoking have any effect?

Mr. HERNDON. Not based on my experience, unless a man was smoking so heavily he was disturbing his respiratory pattern—in other words, constant hacking and coughing would affect the chart.

Mr. MOSS. I am a member of a committee that is taking testimony now on the matter of labeling tobacco products and some of the testimony would indicate that cigarettes have a very real effect upon circulation, and heart function. Do we know in the application of the polygraph—which relies heavily upon the blood pressure and upon heart action—what the effect of smoking is? Should we know this?

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. Chairman, I would like, if I may, to respond to the latter part of your question.

Mr. MOSS. Certainly.

Mr. CONRAD. It is quite possible, I think, in some applications of the polygraph, other than those which the FBI makes, that your points might be valid. But with regard to the use which the FBI makes, I believe they are not valid, insofar as they tend to indicate the improper use of the polygraph, or inability to derive benefit from