

Mr. HERNDON. Yes.

Mr. KASS. And likewise with the blood pressure and pulse.

Mr. HERNDON. There is no set prediction what the physiological response of any given individual will be.

Mr. KASS. If the chart can go up or down on all three of the so-called parameters, how can you determine whether there is even an indication that you have to go forward?

Mr. HERNDON. Because the good polygraph examiner establishes a normal pattern, a normal tracing, somewhere along the line, for the examinee, giving him the benefit of tension and nervousness.

Mr. KASS. How do you establish the normal pattern?

Mr. HERNDON. There are several ways. The use of irrelevant questions will tend to establish a normal pattern, because an irrelevant question should not normally emotionally upset the man. "Is your first name Benny?" "Is your last name Kass?" There should be no problem there.

Mr. KASS. What happens if that did upset me?

Mr. HERNDON. If you had a reaction to that, I would tell you about it, and I would ask you why, and you would probably come up with an answer and I would consider that in my overall interpretation. But in our practice, Mr. Kass, we establish a norm series. During the adjustment of the instrument to the particular examinee, while we are adjusting the instrument, our examiner will run the chart for 2 or 3 minutes without any outside stimuli, such as noise or interrogation. This gives the examiner a good idea generally of what the examinee's normal breathing pattern is, how tense he may be, what his normal tracing should be with regard to blood pressure, and his galvanic skin response.

Mr. KASS. You take a person who just sat in this hearing and he knows this, and he comes into your polygraph examination room this afternoon. He knows you are trying to establish his normal pattern the first 2 or 3 minutes. Is it within the capacity of an individual to regulate the GSR, to regulate the breathing, to regulate the blood pressure and pulse?

Mr. HERNDON. If he attempts to control or supersede the autonomic nervous system, he can in some degree control or change these components. It is possible, yes.

Mr. KASS. Then how can you arrive at a "normal" for a person who is volunteering to take the test but feels he can beat the test?

Mr. HERNDON. By training of the examiner and observation of the examinee. Many of the things a person may do to try to alter his normal patterns are relatively noticeable and easily detected by a trained and skilled examiner.

Mr. KASS. You are talking about possibly the run-of-the-mill criminal-type case. But you also said you used it in selected national security cases. Isn't it possible that the other side, whatever side that may be, could train their personnel so that they could get through without being picked up on the polygraph?

Mr. HERNDON. It is probable. They train some of their people in an effort to counter the polygraph.

Mr. KASS. How do you know it is not done? How can you counteract that?

Mr. HERNDON. By using our best judgment and skill to counteract what we think they might be doing. But here again we are not making