

great decisions based solely on this examination. We are still trying to get an interview going with this man, and we might get some worthwhile information.

Mr. KASS. What happens if the individual just doesn't believe in the polygraph, if he doesn't think it is infallible?

Mr. HERNDON. Well, if he doesn't believe in the polygraph, doesn't want to take the test—

Mr. KASS. No; he takes it.

Mr. HERNDON. We just continue with the interview.

Mr. KASS. Are you going to get a response then?

Mr. HERNDON. It would depend. I couldn't answer that question unless I knew what type of questions we are discussing with the man and depending on his physiological makeup.

Mr. KASS. How do you determine the person's physiological makeup at the time of the interview?

Mr. HERNDON. When he is first connected to the polygraph and during the first series of questions, the examiner obtains a good insight into whether the person is capable of a response.

Mr. KASS. How do you determine whether he is capable of a response? That is the basic question.

Mr. HERNDON. Here again, going into the technique itself, you have such things as the control question, guilt complex, peak of tension, and some other techniques which will establish a significant reaction.

Mr. KASS. By the way, in the report on the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, it was reported that, just before you gave the polygraph examination to Jack Ruby, you snapped your fingers.

Mr. HERNDON. That was done to adjust the GSR. The visual or auditory stimulus of snapping the fingers would be picked up in his mind and it would cause a physiological response which is very noticeable on the GSR.

Mr. KASS. How valid or reliable is the GSR?

Mr. HERNDON. The GSR component is just one of the three that we normally use. For our purpose we wouldn't want to depend on the GSR alone in making any findings. In laboratory research work, psychiatrists and psychologists have been using GSR for a number of years and it is reported to be fairly reliable. We have no percentage figures concerning its validity, because we don't use GSR solely. We use it to corroborate the other two tracings.

Mr. KASS. But will there always be identical tracings, up and down, of GSR, blood pressure and respiration?

Mr. HERNDON. No, sir.

Mr. KASS. Is it possible when a person is lying or is emotional, that one of those three components will give you an indication?

Mr. HERNDON. That is correct. Some people tend to respond in one, two or all three.

Mr. KASS. Is it possible they will respond in one index at one point and in another index at another point?

Mr. HERNDON. It is possible.

Mr. KASS. How do you know whether they are deceiving or not?

Mr. HERNDON. By the examiner comparing the critical responses with the normal patterns and responses we have established with so-called control questions.