

Mr. HERNDON. Normally they would flatten out to both types of questions.

Mr. KASS. You stated earlier you try to develop a person's norm on the chart so by asking relevant questions you can get some sort of rising or lowering on the chart. When a person becomes desensitized, is his norm still the same as it was before on the chart?

Mr. HERNDON. No, sir.

Mr. KASS. It changes?

Mr. HERNDON. It usually changes. In other words, he would become somewhat immune to the technique and you wouldn't have the same tracings. It is possible with some people when they become desensitized the tracings could become erratic. I can't say flattening out is the only sign of desensitization. Should people show signs of fatigue we terminate the examination.

Mr. KASS. What do you mean by "flattening out"? Is there nothing on the chart?

Mr. HERNDON. The tracings would become somewhat insignificant. There would be no discernable reaction.

Mr. KASS. What about his norm, where there were no significant variations?

Mr. HERNDON. That is usually established in the early part of the examination while the man is relatively fresh and the questions are fresh in his mind.

Mr. KASS. What causes a person to be desensitized?

Mr. HERNDON. I think it is the very fact that physiologically, in due time, the physiological system will tend to either not respond or will in some cases become irritated and the person can't sit still any more.

Mr. KASS. But there can be responses?

Mr. HERNDON. Yes, sir.

Mr. MOSS. Now, if it is irritating, can it not produce very definite responses, responses that would be very similar to those which might occur because a person is emotional?

Mr. HERNDON. Very true. We are very careful in that regard. We specifically train our people to insure that the blood pressure cuff is not on a person for too great a length of time.

Mr. MOSS. What is too great a length of time?

Mr. HERNDON. This will vary again with the physical condition of the person being examined. Usually the average examiner will not run a series beyond 3 to 4 minutes.

Mr. MOSS. And then he relieves the pressure on the cuff?

Mr. HERNDON. That is right, completely relieves the pressure and usually there is an interruption or break period between series. Normally the FBI polygraph examiners will not use long multiple series of questions on the polygraph. As Mr. Kass mentioned, the Ruby case was a highly unusual and unique case and the technique used there would not be considered normal procedure.

Mr. MOSS. Are there any physical conditions where a person could actually experience pain from the application of the cuff?

Mr. HERNDON. If the cuff had been applied, Mr. Chairman, an excessive length of time, there could be physical discomfort.

Mr. MOSS. In normal application, I mean, are there physical conditions where the cuff could be painful?

Mr. HERNDON. Some people don't like the cuff pressure on their arm. In that regard, we would discontinue the examination if they