

Persons conducting security investigations and inquiries normally have broad latitude in performing these essential and vital functions. This places a high premium upon the exercise of good judgment and commonsense. While it is virtually impossible to establish elaborate rules which will provide satisfactory guidance in all circumstances, there are certain basic principles which have general application.

Care must be taken not to inject improper matters into security inquiries whether in the course of security investigations or other phases of security proceedings. For example, religious beliefs and affiliations or beliefs and opinions regarding racial matters, political beliefs and affiliations of a nonsubversive nature, opinions regarding the constitutionality of legislative policies, and affiliation with labor unions are not proper subjects for such inquiries.

Inquiries which have no relevance to a security determination should not be made. Questions regarding personal and domestic affairs, financial matters, and the status of physical health, fall in this category unless evidence clearly indicates a reasonable basis for believing there may be illegal or subversive activities, personal or moral irresponsibility, or mental or emotional instability involved. The probing of a person's thoughts or beliefs and questions about his conduct, which have no security implications, are unwarranted. Department of Defense representatives always should be prepared to explain the relevance of their inquiries upon request. Adverse inferences cannot properly be drawn from the refusal of a person to answer questions the relevance of which has not been established.

It is requested that your Department review its applicable regulations and instructions, and those portions of its training and refresher courses for investigators and adjudicators, which deal with civil rights and individual private rights, to determine the propriety of their content. We would appreciate receiving within 30 days a description of the steps your Department may have taken in this area. Inasmuch as it is contemplated that the attached list of prohibited questions may be incorporated in a DOD directive, your comments with respect to them would be appreciated. Any suggestions you may wish to offer along these general lines would be welcome.

WALTER T. SKALLERUP, Jr.,  
*Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Security Policy.*

**TYPES OF QUESTIONS REGARDED AS IMPROPER OR IRRELEVANT IN SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS AND ADJUDICATIONS WHETHER DIRECTED TO THE SUBJECT OR ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL**

**A. Religious matters**

1. Do you believe in God?
2. What is your religious preference or affiliation?
3. Are you anti-Semitic, anti-Catholic, or anti-Protestant?
4. Are you an atheist or an agnostic?
5. Do you believe in the doctrine of separation of church and state?

**B. Racial matters**

1. What are your views on racial matters such as desegregation of public schools, hotels, eating places, etc.?
2. Are you a member of NAACP or CORE?
3. Do you entertain members of other races in your home?
4. What are your views on racial intermarriage?
5. Do you believe one race is superior to another?

**C. Personal and domestic matters**

1. How much income tax do you pay?
2. What is the source and size of your income?
3. What is your net worth?
4. What contributions do you make to political, charitable, religious, or civic organizations?
5. Describe any physical ailments or diseases you may have.
6. Do you have any serious marital or domestic problems?
7. Are you or have you been a member of a trade union?
8. Is there anything in your past life that you would not want your wife to know?