

Favorable testimonials may be found in seminars held by the Academy for Scientific Interrogation (Leonard 1957, 1958) and throughout the *Journal of Criminal Law, Criminology and Police Science*. Alva Johnston (1944) wrote an entertaining series of articles on "The Magic Lie Detector" for *The Saturday Evening Post* about the work of an early exponent of lie detection, Leonarde Keeler, who is highly regarded by other polygraph examiners.

The polygraph also has detractors, three of whom may be briefly mentioned. Senator Wayne Morse (1952) regarded with disfavor the use of the lie detector in testing job applicants for the Defense Department because some interviews probing for homosexual tendencies appeared to be salacious in nature. Dwight MacDonald (1954) wrote two critical articles in *The Reporter* (a magazine) which emphasized the point that unethical practices in lie detection could constitute an abuse to civil liberties. Burack (1955) is concerned with the lack of professional standards in polygraph work and the lack of reliable data on the accuracy of the method.

There have been several surveys of opinions about the accuracy and value of lie detection tests. Cureton (1953) reports a poll of 88 psychologists conducted in 1926 by Dean C. T. McCormick of the University of North Carolina Law School. Replies were received from 43 percent of those who were polled; about half of these believed that lie detection tests furnished results of sufficient accuracy to warrant consideration by judges and jurors; about one-third indicated lack of belief.

In 1941, Dael Wolfe prepared a memorandum for the National Research Council on the use of lie detection equipment by the Federal Government. The memorandum is based on a survey of published literature, correspondence, and discussions with six expert polygraph examiners, nine research psychologists with some (but less extensive) experience in crime detection, and on observation of the work of the Chicago Police Laboratory and of some private laboratories. Thirteen of the 15 men (87 percent) felt that lie detection equipment in the hands of highly trained and experienced examiners provides accurate results where real criminal behavior is involved. Wolfe concludes that "with highly competent and well-trained operators a record of approximately 80 percent correct can be predicted."

In connection with a symposium on lie detection at the University of Tennessee College of Law, Cureton (1953) sent questionnaires to all groups and individuals known or believed to have some competence with polygraph procedures; i.e., polygraph examiners, psychologists, and criminologists. Analyses reported in the study are based on 711 completed questionnaires; i.e., 42 percent of 1,682 which were sent out. The data are shown in table 1. The belief that the polygraph is a highly valid device for recording physiological reactions may be found in decreasing order of agreement among polygraph examiners, polygraph examiners who are also psychologists, and psychologists who have observed polygraph tests. No appreciable portion of any group considers the polygraph invalid or useless when in competent hands. Psychologists who are not familiar with the device have a lower esteem for it than do those who are familiar with it.

TABLE 1.—*Opinions of polygraph examiners and psychologists as to the validity of polygraph procedures*

This table shows the replies of 711 persons. Numbers in parentheses indicate the size of each group; the total exceeds 711 because of some overlap.

Opinion	Percent of group holding opinion			
	Polygraph examiners (199)	Psychologists who have conducted polygraph tests in class or who have observed tests on suspects (230)	Polygraph examiners who are also psychologists (35)	Others (289)
The polygraph is highly valid for recording physiological reactions.....	83	63	63	15
Recommend court testimony on polygraph tests by competent examiners.....	47	51	60	42
Recommend periodic examination of certain personnel in business and industry.....	83	28	51	17