

know what type of response to each question would be most likely to create an impression of knowledge or lack of knowledge about the events of interest to the interrogation.

Since the control of autonomic responses must be regarded as feasible, research is required to explore its implications for our lie detection technology. The examiner will not be helpless because new indicators can be added to the polygraph system to observe response systems which may not have been trained. Since enemy agents would also learn about new indicators, this could lead to a cycle where it may become necessary to add still newer indicators and drop older ones from time to time. But before proceeding that far, it is useful to know the extent to which training is possible, whether the current indicators are sufficiently sensitive to remain effective despite training and, then, what additional indicators are most likely to provide useful adjunct information.

It is also of interest to know if drugs or hypnosis can be used to influence a polygraph examination, both from the viewpoint of the person who takes an examination and from that of the examiner. Fortunately, the effects of drugs and hypnosis on interrogation have been reviewed recently on behalf of the Air Force and are described in an excellent book (Biderman and Zimmer (1961)).

A person about to be examined on a polygraph could take a drug, perhaps a tranquilizer, to moderate his responses. There is a danger to him in that the action of the drug is not selective—it would affect many of his responses. A flat record is unusual and tends to attract the examiner's attention; the presence of depressed responses suggests that a drug may have been used. The use of a drug, if suspected, is easily circumvented by detaining a person for a retest after the drug effects have worn off, and prolonged examination and retest is the rule in any nonroutine polygraph interrogation.

Gottschalk¹³ says:

"There is a possibility that tranquilizers could be used by an examiner with selected personnel who are highly agitated and disturbed, and who might give information they prefer to withhold in return for the tranquillity they experience with such a sedative. Under the influence of this drug, the less emotionally upset informant might find that he can better master his anxieties and keep his resolve to remain silent. These are all speculations which require testing and experimentation. . . .

"The popular meaning of being 'drugged' or 'doped' implies that an individual in this state has lost control over his actions and that society will not hold him responsible for them. When the transmittal of information is likely to induce guilt in the source, the interviewer can forestall some of this reaction by the administration of a placebo or drug. In some cases, this will be all that is required to remove the barrier to information transmittal. In the avoidance-conflict between the source's guilt over yielding information and his anxieties over the possible consequences of non-cooperation, the 'inescapable' power of the drug or placebo serves to justify the source's actions to himself."

Whether or not a drug facilitates the interrogator's task, its use provides some people with an acceptable excuse to reveal information and in this sense it could produce useful side effects. Though a drug, such as LSD-25, may make a person more talkative, the interrogator still has the problem of judging the reliability of the information provided through its use since such drugs are also known to incite fantasy, drowsiness, and confusion (Redlich, 1951). To sum it up, though some drugs make a person more talkative, they may also make him more suggestible and less critical, providing nonsense as well as information. There is not, unfortunately, a magic way to the truth.

Orne¹⁴ has reviewed the use of hypnosis in interrogation and arrives at a conclusion similar to that for drugs except that even less is known about hypnosis. The possibility of inducing a trance on a resistant person is extremely doubtful. Hypnosis requires a trustworthy relationship between the hypnotist and the subject and such a relationship does not evolve readily in an interrogation. There is a common (although probably untrue) belief that an individual in hypnosis is not responsible for his actions. If hypnosis can be established in an interrogation (this is not likely) it could, like a drug, be used to relieve a subject of responsibility for his actions and allow him to divulge information he might not otherwise yield. The idea that an enemy agent could be hypnotized to avoid giving indications of deception appears very remote. Again, a more dangerous person appears to be one who practices deception under his own control rather than one who does so with the help of drugs or hypnosis.

¹³ In Biderman (1961), pp. 132-133.

¹⁴ In Biderman (1961), pp. 169-215.