

Dr. CARP. Remember, we did not say we discerned a psychosis. We did not say that this individual was psychotic. We did say that——

Mr. REUSS. I thought you said in this case history——

Dr. CARP. No, sir.

Mr. REUSS. The words I jotted down were "adolescent" and "psychotic." Would you refer back to those?

Dr. CARP. Yes, sir, I will. "They confirm the presence of a psychotic process in the subject rather than the identity diffusion of an adolescent." This does not mean this is an individual who must be immediately institutionalized and classified as legally psychotic or legally insane.

Mr. REUSS. Well, but that is entirely different. The word "psychotic" does not mean that one has to be institutionalized.

Dr. CARP. Right.

Mr. REUSS. Well, I invite you to file for the record any additional case histories in substantially the form that you have here presented which tend to show, as I agree case history No. 5 tends to show——

Dr. CARP. We have half a dozen or so which we have prepared. But this is by no means exhaustive. These particular cases were arrived at by phoning psychologists who had had contact with recent Peace Corps programs and asking them to indicate cases in which they had felt it was useful.

Mr. REUSS. Will you file whatever you have, whatever the basis for your assertion that this is a good discoverer of potential psychosis, which would not otherwise be discovered—cases analogous to case No. 5.

Dr. CARP. Yes.

CASE STUDIES ILLUSTRATING THE USE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTS IN PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER SELECTION

GROUP A: MMPI FLAGGED A SERIOUS PROBLEM THAT MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN MISSED

Case No. 1

This trainee, a 22-year-old, male, college graduate, was invited to a teaching program where his performance was adequate but not outstanding in the first half of the program. His peers tended to ignore rather than reject him, and while a number of them nominated him as adaptable on the peer nomination form, he ranked close to the bottom of the group in terms of number of nominations for success.

He made a generally good impression on the FAO in his initial interview, although the FAO had some concerns about his stability because of the nomadic pattern of his life. His MMPI profile was bizarre, featuring extreme elevations on the schizophrenic, psychopathic, femininity, and depression scales. Because of this unusual test record, the FAO referred the trainee to the psychiatrist for an early interview.

The psychiatrist was impressed by his flat, unemotional responses and depressed air. The interview revealed that he had experienced much family strife and had turned away from his father to identify with a rather unstable teacher, whose wandering career he was seeking to emulate by entering the Peace Corps. He had experienced a period of depression as a student for which he had been treated in a university counseling center.

At the midboard, the psychiatrist disqualified him, with the FAO concurring, saying that he had a history of depression, was currently depressed, and had a significant potential for depression and psychosomatic disorders in reaction to the stresses of an overseas assignment.

Because contact had been established early, the trainee had developed a comfortable relationship with the psychiatrist and was able to discuss his future plans realistically both with him and with the FSO.