

I wonder, under your new procedures, whether you intend to maintain that safeguard on persons who actually see the test forms?

Mr. BERLEW. Correct. I think with one exception—the test answer sheets will be sent into Peace Corps Washington where they will be opened by Dr. Carp and other professional psychologists.

Dr. CARP. Not me personally.

Mr. BERLEW. For destruction purposes. They will not be interested in looking at them.

Mr. CORNISH. Now, I am going to pose a theoretical situation here, just to get your reaction to it.

Suppose between the time that a Peace Corps volunteer trainee took this test and the time his test answers were destroyed, that a Federal investigator arrived on the scene and wanted to examine the answer sheet. What would be the position of the Peace Corps in that instance?

Mr. JOSEPHSON. Mr. Cornish, if I may answer that question.

Mr. CORNISH. Yes, sir.

Mr. JOSEPHSON. We take the position that files such as the confidential psychological file developed by the psychologist during training, the medical file developed by the doctor during training—since so often they involve matters that are of a personal and private nature, they may even involve information that has been given under circumstances in which the customary privileges apply, is not available to investigators.

You may recall I even made the point that when the Peace Corps considers hiring someone who has been a volunteer, we do not permit those responsible for that decision to have access to any of this information.

Mr. CORNISH. What I am trying to get at here is actually to see there is as little chance as possible of anyone violating the integrity of these answer sheets. Am I correct in that assumption? Can you make that assurance?

Dr. CARP. Yes, sir.

Mr. BERLEW. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. May I ask this one question? Supposing an investigator for an unnamed House committee came around and wanted to see the answers, what would you do?

Mr. JOSEPHSON. Well, that raises one of the age-old matters of friction between the executive and legislative branches. We, I think, would make an effort to deal with a responsible member of that committee, probably the chairman, to ascertain the reason for the inquiry. I think we would endeavor to discover if the information could be made available to the chairman personally on a basis that could insure its confidentiality.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Has this ever happened?

Mr. JOSEPHSON. I can recollect one case in the history of the Peace Corps in which this has happened, and we were able to work out arrangements with the committee which satisfied us that the confidentiality of this information would be respected, and that the committee had a good purpose in seeking the information.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Did you advise the Peace Corps applicant that this procedure was being entertained?

Mr. JOSEPHSON. One of the factors which led us to make that decision was that it was she who had requested the inquiry. If that had not been the case, I doubt if we would have decided it this way.