

Yesterday I had a conversation with Admiral Rickover, who was discussing the psychological personality type test, and it was his opinion that if he had to take the MMPI as a prerequisite to entering Annapolis, that he would never have made it, and therefore that would have been one individual that would have been precluded from service in the U.S. Navy, and the country would have suffered a great loss. In fact, he had a suggestion on personality testers, that we put them all on an island, give them a lot of red crayon to play with and test each other and let the rest of the Government get on with its business.

So the concern is, if this does affect one or two people, that we are then concerned. But I wonder whether or not you can totally rely on this aspect of questioning, and allow that to be a prime consideration of the Bureau of the Budget, or whether in fact it should not be a prime consideration of the agency itself.

Mr. TAEUBER. Let me add one other element in this.

Having gone through this review process, which takes many, many hours of discussion, both within the staff and with this advisory committee and with the Department of Agriculture in detail, we then put together a trial schedule. We take it out into the field, and test it. We did this in 12 different parts of the country. We simply selected sample counties. We hired enumerators, and we went out as observers, and tried this out, just to see what are the reactions of the people who are going to be asked to answer these questions. In the light of that, some questions are dropped, some are modified.

If we run into real resistance or objection or misunderstanding, misinterpretation, other difficulties, this would lead to a reconsideration on our part before the thing is made final.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Do you run into any resistance?

Mr. TAEUBER. Very, very little.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Would this be due to apathy or that people are conditioned to answering questions?

Do you view this as a healthy thing or an unhealthy thing, that people do not resist Government intrusion?

Mr. TAEUBER. We have not put that type of question to them.

Mr. GALLAGHER. I think if I were boarding in a house on a farm, and the farmer came down and said "Friend, I want a full disclosure of all of your assets, all of your income, everything about you," I think that I would find that objectionable, and 3 percent of the farm population are subjected to this.

Mr. ECKLER. Mr. Chairman, I think I would like to withdraw from defending that particular element of the farm schedule.

I think that this is the kind of thing that did not get to my personal attention as a detail. Some of these things do come up as a result of this kind of inquiry and others. I believe that we ought to have that kind of mechanism for direct reporting as you suggest if we must collect that.

I have a personal question I would raise as to whether that needed to be a part of the census of agriculture. It was put in there, and there were very few objections, as I said before. But in this particular case it is much harder to defend. And the mechanism ought to have been available so that the boarder or lodger could have reported directly.