

To show briefly the kinds of subjects that are covered, I have selected only a few illustrative questions:

A. Questions relating to private thoughts.

"I think of things too bad to talk about."

"I dream frequently about things that are best kept to myself."

B. Questions relating to religion.

"I believe there is a God."

"I believe in the second coming of Christ."

"Christ performed miracles such as changing water into wine."

"I go to church almost every week."

"I believe there is a devil and hell in afterlife."

C. Questions relating to sexual matters.

"I am worried about sex matters."

"I wish I were not bothered by thoughts about sex."

"When a man is with a woman he is usually thinking about things related to her sex."

"There is something wrong with my sex organs."

D. Questions relating to family matters and social life.

"Some of my family have habits that bother and annoy me very much."

"My relatives are nearly all in sympathy with me."

"My parents often objected to the kind of people I went around with."

"I loved my father."

That last question raises an interesting issue as to the quality of this kind of test and the suggestion that Congressman Rosenthal made earlier that the testmakers themselves may be in need of psychological help. The question is true or false, I loved, in the past tense, my father. It is possible to say no, that you never loved your father. It is possible to say yes, I loved my father, implying that you do so no longer. It is impossible to answer that question in such a way as to indicate you have always loved your father and still do.

Let me assert emphatically at the outset that the supporters of this kind of examination have failed to carry the heavy burden of proving that such questions have any significant relationship to fitness for Government, or any other employment.

Although they talk in terms of scientific knowledge, there has been no true scientific support of these tests by means of control studies or test validation. Moreover, not a single supporter of the tests has had the candor to reveal to the subcommittee the ease with which most—probably all—of such tests can be coached or faked. Perhaps most important, the testers can never tell us the number of sensitive, decent, self-respecting citizens who are lost to Government employment because they prefer not to subject themselves to the indignities of psychological testing, and who therefore do not apply.

I have heard too many psychiatric experts under oath in court disagree with each other's diagnosis, each relying upon individual psychiatric interviews, to put any faith in the accuracy of short-answer written tests, which are admitted inferior to interviews.

Even in the few short statements presented in these hearings the scientific experts have disagreed in their scientific conclusions.

Dr. Al Carp of the Peace Corps, for example, while admitting that the questions relating to religion and sex are "not only personal but unpleasant as well," nevertheless defended these questions as necessary to psychological testing.