

tions can be used to forecast the careers of their children in school and in the university and to predict their own careers in work because of two influences: fear of the pseudoquantitative, mental-medical mumbo-jumbo of the psychiatrist and clinical psychologist, and the misleading propaganda of organized psychology in claiming that guesswork and statistical shotgun procedures have medical and scientific significance."

If that is true, maybe what's really needed to bridle the inquisitive testers is not a new law but simply the application of a little horsesense and elementary respect for privacy.

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GALLAGHER STYMIES "BIG BROTHER"

(By James J. Kilpatrick)

Under the fourth amendment, as the country's police officials have been sharply reminded in recent years, the people are protected against unreasonable searches of their "persons, houses, papers, and effects." If Representative Cornelius Gallagher, Democrat, of New Jersey, has his way, the people will be protected also against unreasonable searches of their minds.

Gallagher is a 44-year-old lawyer from Bayonne, now serving his fourth term in the House. His voting record depicts him as a total liberal; in all the right-wing political indices, he rates a dead zero. But in his work as chairman of a special subcommittee on the invasion of privacy, he is defending a great conservative ideal—the protection of the individual from oppression by the state.

The astounding thing is that Gallagher already is getting results. Thanks to the persistence of his able subcommittee, and to the companion work of such Senators as Edward V. Long, Democrat, of Missouri, and Sam Ervin, Democrat, of North Carolina, thousands of Federal employees no longer will be subject to the degrading "personality tests" that have been used in the past to probe the private recesses of their minds. Big Brother will not be watching them quite so closely.

Gallagher is not concerned in his investigation with personnel tests intended to measure an applicant's knowledge of a field or his aptitude for a particular job. These he accepts as proper safeguards to the Federal service. His target is the "personality inventory," in which a Federal employee may be compelled to answer such true-or-false questions as, "I love my father. * * * I hate my father. * * * I would like to be a florist. * * * My sex life is satisfactory. * * * I believe there is just one true religion. * * *"

Last year the Department of Labor administered such a test to 21,000 applicants for positions as youth counselors in neighborhood centers under the poverty program. The prospects were given a list of 158 questions that had to be answered yes or no, "Usually I prefer to work with women. * * * I think Lincoln was greater than Washington. * * * I like poetry. * * * When a man is with a woman, he is usually thinking about things related to her sex. * * *"

The Peace Corps has been making extensive use of the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, known professionally as MMPI, in which the subject answers 566 true or false statements. These then are scored against various scales computed by the answers of control-groups both sane and insane. Dozens of the questions deal with attitudes toward sex, religion, and bodily functions.

Until Gallagher began firing away, the Government had no consistent policy on the use of these tests. Some agencies used them wholesale, with no real security over the answer sheets. Others used them sparingly, as at Bonneville, with better safeguards. Others used them only in medical examinations where mental illness was suspected.

Now things are looking up. The Civil Service Commission has issued a "restatement" of policy—actually it is a new statement—prohibiting such tests as MMPI except under medical supervision. The Department of Labor has specifically abandoned its 1964 mind-searching. The Peace Corps has ordered that all personality answer sheets in its files be destroyed. The State Department will permit its people, in doubtful cases, to be examined by private psychiatrists rather than by Government doctors. In the future, Gallagher believes, it will not be nearly so easy for prying eyes to find out how a secretary-typist has answered so personal a question as "Do you worry much about sex?"

The Congressman's object is to make the practices of Federal agencies a model for private industry. It is estimated that about half of the country's major corporations routinely use such "personality inventories" in their personnel