

Mr. DELLENBACK. They used them to indicate certain things that are of a beneficial nature. And some of your remarks would look in the direction of discrediting some of the approaches you have indicated. As I read you, as saying that you didn't like the interviewer approach. I am not quite sure that I understand what it is you are criticizing, or whether you are really feeling that the Harris polls are invalid.

Dr. SMITH. No; I don't mean to suggest that the Harris polls are completely invalid, but what I am suggesting is that it seems to me that critic and protagonist alike are using these statistical procedures as definitive rather than an indication. The statistics show some of the mistakes made in the early days of the program but are not as relevant today. The use of the statistics, also, seek to prove things which I do not think are provable from the statistics. The Harris group went too far.

I think the interview technique for the boys that had just entered the Corps was faulty.

If you interview them, they will tell you. "Oh, yes, I had a job, and I was paid so much," but if you investigate further such is not the case. The Harris survey states in their fourth volume that they had not taken this fully into account.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Are you saying that the interview technique is invalid, then? Or that they did not follow through on the polls accurately?

Dr. SMITH. No, I think that the interview technique is invalid if you stop there. If you don't do spot checking of what you get when you interview these kids. Most interviews were taken of the enrolees that were just coming into the camp. They hadn't been there over a period of time. There were the so-called entrance class, which the Harris poll picked up, for the most part. This was an effort to keep current, and try to find out whether they came from, such as a job opportunity. I think that is very inaccurate.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Well, but the thing that I don't really still quite understand as to what you are saying is do you feel the interview technique is an improper technique? Do you feel that they did not use the technique properly, and didn't ask the right questions, or didn't follow through, or do you feel that the sample that they were attempting to interview was poorly chosen?

Dr. SMITH. No; I think as I understood their sample, it seems to be as reasonable as any series of alternatives.

Mr. DELLENBACK. It isn't the latter, it is the sample?

Dr. SMITH. I would say it is doubtful whether you should use interview technique on boys just coming into the camp, because in many instances the problem of communication is great. In the second instance, there has not been a "civilization process," and they are as apt to tell the polltaker one thing as they are another.

Mr. DELLENBACK. What techniques should you use with them?

Dr. SMITH. I don't think you can get at this kind of problem through an interview technique.

Mr. DELLENBACK. What should you use?

Dr. SMITH. Well, there is the assumption here that you have to use a technique involved. I think you have to find out at the time of the screening operation the background of these boys, and I think you