

in recent years that it includes all of the kinds of activities that you see on page 2 of my testimony, a list of the various ways in which psychologists have played important roles in serving community needs. Whenever this is the case I think the door is wide open for folks who are not well trained and not of the high standards who might seek this opportunity to line their own pockets, and I would propose that H.R. 10407 is first and foremost a measure to protect the public of the District of Columbia from such unethical and unqualified people. It does not do anything either monetarily or in any other kind of gain for psychology. It is to protect the public of the District of Columbia.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

(The prepared statement submitted by Dr. Cummings reads in full as follows:)

STATEMENT

HEARINGS OF SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 5, HOUSE DISTRICT COMMITTEE, ON HOUSE BILL 10407: TO DEFINE AND REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF PSYCHOLOGY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, MAY 20, 1968, BY DR. JONATHAN W. CUMMINGS, CHIEF PSYCHOLOGIST, VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL, 50 IRVING STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20422

Mr. Chairman, my name is Dr. Jonathan Cummings. I serve as Chief psychologist at the Washington, D.C., Veterans Administration Hospital.

In the following remarks I should like to draw a picture of what psychology is and how it is used by our society. Psychology is both a science and a profession. As a science it involves the study of all aspects of human behavior: how people think, learn, feel, and act in all the areas of human endeavor. These scientific activities of the psychologist tend to be associated primarily with teaching and experimentation in the university setting. However, governmental agencies, business and industry utilize the experimental skills of psychological scientists, too. For example, over half the research grants provided by the National Institute of Mental Health go to support studies in which a psychologist is the principal investigator, and other federal, state and local agencies employ many psychologists in capacities where the main emphasis is on scientific exploration.

Years ago, the great majority of psychologists were to be found in such teaching and experimental situations as those just described. But in the past two decades, there has emerged a new set of functions for psychologists. I refer to the increasing utilization of psychologists in service settings, where the skills and knowledge accumulated in scientific study have been applied to the intensely felt needs of individuals, groups and organizations in the community.

An idea of the extent and variety of these areas of application may be gained from the following chart, in which the titles and brief definitions of several types of psychological specialization are presented:

Counseling psychologists—counseling with young people and adults on vocational and educational plans.

Clinical psychologists—helping individuals understand and solve their personal and emotional problems.

Industrial psychologists—developing methods and programs for selecting, classifying, and training employees, and improving employee morale.

Social psychologists—surveying public opinion and studying group processes.

Experimental psychologists—laboratory experimentation and research on all aspects of human behavior.

Measurement psychologists—developing, administering, and interpreting psychological tests of intelligence, aptitude, interest, personality and motivation.

Educational psychologists—studying improved methods for the education of young people in schools, and helping them with learning and study difficulties.

Rehabilitation psychologists—helping handicapped and disabled persons to readjust to vocational and social life.

One of the most interesting features of this listing is the degree to which it reflects how wide has been the felt need for, and use of, psychologists by society: