

Dr. MELTZER. The problem is not with the technique. It is by whom the technique is employed. This is what differentiates the psychologist from the psychiatrist.

Mr. JACOBS. I shall not belabour the point, but I think the record is amply clear for our consideration in executive session.

I want to ask one further question which is with reference to the bill that is before us, S. 1864.

Mr. SISK. I might say that we have two bills. The House bill is H.R. 10407, and S. 1864 which is identical—or was at the time it was originally introduced—is the Senate bill. It has had some amendments as has been pointed out earlier.

Mr. JACOBS. I am talking about Section 6(B). What did you say, as in Beethoven?

Dr. MELTZER. In Beethoven, yes.

Mr. JACOBS. I see in the bill that it is permissive. I am just wondering whether it should be permissive to appoint a Board of Psychologist Examiners if they have specific duties to perform?

Why would it be a permissive provision?

Dr. MELTZER. Would you explain what you mean by that?

Mr. JACOBS. It says that the Commissioner may appoint a board of psychologist examiners, and, then, as I understand it, the bill goes ahead and requires specific performances from that board which may or may not exist. Can you enlighten me as to why it was “may” and not “shall” as to its appointment?

Dr. MELTZER. I believe that when we discussed this with the city government, we were told that we could not tell the Commissioners that they had to do so; that one “allowed” them to do so. Now, whether or not that is correct, I do not know.

Mr. JACOBS. I think I have something to learn.

Just one final question. This is purely a matter of first impression with me. I have had very little correspondence about it, and very little information about it, although questions have been raised to me.

Has there been cooperation between the Association of Psychiatrists and the psychologists in this jurisdiction in the preparation of this legislation?

Dr. MELTZER. I am sorry to have to talk to this point. We began work on this in January 1965, trying to decide whether or not to have a bill.

In February 1965, we wrote to the Washington Psychiatric Association and asked if they would join with us in writing such a bill.

We got an answer saying “No, we are against such legislation.”

Mr. JACOBS. Can you submit that for the record?

Dr. MELTZER. Yes, sir, I can.

(The correspondence referred to appears at p. 108.)

BACKGROUND OF LEGISLATION

Mr. MELTZER. For two years we have attempted to have some type of communication, and it was not until last May, one year ago or over two years after our first contact with them, that we started to have discussions. This came at the time when the bill was submitted to the Senate. They wanted to modify the bill in some way. The suggestions that were made by the psychiatrists made it totally unacceptable. They