

TRAINING

Mr. ZWACH. Just one question, Mr. Chairman.

I notice that you gentlemen all have the title of doctor. Is this a Ph.D. in psychology?

Dr. MELTZER. Yes, sir.

Mr. ZWACH. Will you present to the Subcommittee the curricula of studies that you have pursued? I would be very much interested in the course of studies that you have pursued to earn this doctorate.

Dr. CUMMINGS. Most definitely, we can supply that.

(The information requested appears in the appendix at p. 109.)

Mr. ZWACH. Are there in the District of Columbia people using the same title of doctor without having earned the degree? And are they hanging out their shingle calling themselves "Dr. So and So"?

Dr. MELTZER. That is correct.

Mr. ZWACH. That is all, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SISK. Mr. Whitener.

Mr. WHITENER. I would like to ask this question, gentlemen: Do you know who prepared the bill, the original bill? Did your lawyers do it, or somebody here on Capitol Hill?

Dr. CUMMINGS. We did it; I think with the help of the lawyers and with the help of the folks who have assisted in writing similar legislation.

Dr. MELTZER. And the amended bill, too.

Mr. WHITENER. My question will not relate to the merit or the demerit of your proposal as much as to the draftsmanship of the bill.

On page 1 of the Senate bill, lines 8 and 9, you say "to protect the public from the unauthorized and unqualified practice of psychology". To me "unqualified practice" might have many meanings. What you mean there is the practice of psychology by unqualified persons, do you not? Is that what you are getting at?

Dr. CUMMINGS. Yes, sir, I think that is it, sir.

Mr. WHITENER. I understand that you have never attended law school.

Dr. CUMMINGS. That is correct, sir.

Mr. WHITENER. I think it could have an entirely different meaning from what I understand your intent to be, and I would think that you would want to amend that language to say "practice by unqualified persons", because the words "unauthorized to practice" means that person is not authorized. It may not even need the word "unqualified", if you are setting up an authorization system and saying anyone who did not meet the requirements of that authority would not be eligible to practice, and if they do so they would be violating the law. Apparently, you are dealing in confusing surplusages of language.

Now, on page 3, lines 5 and 6, your definition of the practice of psychology includes "teaching or lecturing in psychology and doing research on problems relating to human behavior."

"Teaching or lecturing" later on in the bill, as I read it, is permitted if it is certain educational institutions, but I am wondering if you are not getting into dangerous ground when you try to proscribe the teaching and lecturing in psychology, whether it be by qualified or unqualified people—or is it unauthorized persons?