

psychology. In this wider sense, psychology is a unitary enterprise and the education and practice of psychologists, whatever their specialty, should reflect that unity.

"Legislation exists as a means to protect the public and not as a procedure to strengthen any profession as such. However, we feel that our legislative policies should be carefully stated and implemented so as not to interfere with the free and diverse development of professional practice, or with the activities of psychologists whose primary concern is with teaching and research."

Our Committee also strongly embraces the point of view that legislative problems can and should be worked out to permit both scientific and professional psychologists to perform their respective functions, yet remain unified within a single association, nationally and at the state level. Consequently, we felt it would be a serious setback if either of these groups of psychologists (assuming there are two different groups) splintered off from the present unitary association.

We recognize that the APA Committee on Legislation has a limited function in its relationship to the states. We maintain a consultative role to the state associations which are affiliated with APA. We have served as a clearinghouse for legislative experiences in the various states, the kinds of problems which need to be provided for, and the most satisfactory methods for their resolution—or compromise. In our actions we have been governed by APA policies contained in the following published reports:

"Psychology and Its Relations with the Other Professions," adopted by Council in 1953 and published by APA as a separate in 1954.

Joint Report of the APA and CSPA Committees on Legislation, adopted by Council in 1955 and published in the *American Psychologist*, November 1955, Vol. 10, pages 727-756.

Annual report of Committee on Relations with Psychiatry, adopted by council in 1958 and published in the *American Psychologist*, December 1958, Vol. 13, pages 761-763.

When consulted by those drafting legislation that would license or certify psychologists, we have offered recommendations that the proponents include provisions covering certain critical matters such as reciprocity with other states, privileged communication, consulting by psychologists temporarily visiting the state, lectures, special measures for psychologists trained in related disciplines such as sociology, and injunction authority.

Our specific charge by the Council of Representatives is to "study the effect of current legislation on the scientific and professional activities of psychologists and formulate policies relative to proposed legislation to insure the wise use of psychology in the public interest. The Committee shall inform state associations of what have been found to be workable provisions of existing laws, or unwise or restrictive proposals, and of minimum standards for new laws. It shall encourage mutual help among state associations in legislative and legal activities."

During these 12 years the APA Legislative Committee has served as a consultative resource for states seeking legislation, reviewing with the states their projected laws in the light of official APA policy. It is not the function, nor has it ever been the practice, of this Committee to promote or initiate legislation. It is the Committee's function to collect and transmit to states that request it the experience of the respective states which have adopted legislation, and to make the states aware of any interprofessional agreements on a national level, such as that between the APA and the American Sociological Association. It is also the Committee's function to call to the attention of states seeking legislation projected provisions in state laws which might set unfortunate precedents for psychology as a whole, or unduly restrict or subordinate the professional activities of psychologists, or of other legitimate professions.

In defining the problems which may properly be resolved in legislation, it is important to remember the voluntary nature of each state association's affiliation, the sovereignty of each state, the different approaches to statutory control preferred by the various legislatures, as well as the individual requirements of their existing codes. It has never been possible to prepare a "model bill," but the Committee has attempted to assist each state that has asked for help to find an optimal way of handling its unique problems within the legal framework and tradition of its legislature, and at the same time adhere to APA policies. It is recognized that no current law contains all of the provisions recommended here, and that the likelihood of large-scale amendments endeavor is small. Nevertheless, it is reasonable to expect that state associations planning new legislation, or considering amendments, will find these recommendations helpful.