

STATEMENTS OF DR. MILTON MELTZER, PRESIDENT; DR. RICHARD STIENBACH, PAST PRESIDENT, REPRESENTING WASHINGTON PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY; DR. OSCAR LEGAULT, PRESIDENT, WASHINGTON PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY; AND DR. JOHN HUGHES, MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MEDICAL SOCIETY

Dr. LEGAULT. Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, I am Dr. Oscar Legault and I represent the Washington Psychoanalytic Society, an organization of psychoanalysts in Washington, D.C., representing over 100 physicians. We are all psychiatric specialists and have had subsequent specialty training in a particular branch of psychiatry known as psychoanalysis.

To my right is Dr. John Hughes, a member of the District of Columbia Medical Society; and Dr. Milton Meltzer to my immediate right, President of the Washington Psychiatric Society; and Dr. Richard Stienbach on my left, who is the immediate Past President of the Washington Psychiatric Society.

In addition there was to appear with us this morning a representative of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of the District of Columbia. They apparently are delayed. I am authorized by the President of that Society to join their endorsement of this statement that I am about to make.

Mr. SISK. You may proceed.

Dr. LEGAULT. The District of Columbia Medical Society, which Dr. Hughes represents, is the local constituent body of the American Medical Association. Its 2300 members constitute the overwhelming majority of medical practitioners in the District of Columbia. The Medico-Chirurgical Society of the District of Columbia represents the Negro physicians of the District of Columbia and its environs and is a constituent body of the National Medical Association.

The Washington Psychiatric Society consists of over 400 psychiatrists practicing in this area. It is the local constituent body of the American Psychiatric Association, as the Washington Psychoanalytic Society is the local constituent society of the American Psychoanalytic Association, these being the two principal professional organizations of medical psychiatrists.

OBJECTIONS TO BILL

Our memberships favor regulation of the practice of psychology in the District of Columbia. Unfortunately, H.R. 10407 does not regulate the practice of psychology. To the contrary, with respect to those activities of psychologists in dealing with the mentally ill, this bill would eliminate the existing regulation of practice under the Healing Arts Practice Act of the District of Columbia. We understand that there are many provisions of this bill which do not enter into the sphere of our concern, which is treatment of the mentally ill by psychologists. But to the great extent that the bill does affect the treatment of mentally ill members of the public in the District of Columbia, we must oppose it in its present form.