

Mr. GUDE. Does the Maryland law give a psychologist the legal authority to carry on psychotherapy?

Dr. LEGAULT. I am not sure of the exact wording.

It does not specifically mention that.

Mr. GUDE. You propose to submit to us an amended version of this legislation which you are going to draft. On this legislation as amended, would you urge its adoption or would this merely be something that you could live with, so to speak?

Dr. LEGAULT. No. We would urge its adoption.

Mr. GUDE. You do urge its adoption and feel there should be some type of registration or certification?

Dr. LEGAULT. Very definitely so.

Mr. GUDE. Thank you.

Mr. SISK. The gentleman from New Mexico.

Mr. WALKER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Over the weekend I did a little research on this bill and the hearings we have had up to now and with the remarks and questions made by my colleagues from this committee. This has enlightened me somewhat.

As a matter of fact, Dr. Legault this morning further enlightened me. For the record and my own curiosity, I would like to ask a few questions I have worked up here.

I take it, number one, from Dr. Brayfield of the American Psychological Association, from his remarks the other day the psychology profession nationwide is in accord, also that the psychiatrists nationwide are not opposing this bill.

What is your interpretation of this, Dr. Legault? Did I make the question clear?

Dr. LEGAULT. I think so. I think if I understood it correctly, you are referring to Dr. Brayfield's comment that he saw no national organizations of psychiatrists represented here and that he implied by this omission that since he represented the National Organization of Psychologists, our local organizations did not have the support of our own national organizations.

Mr. WALKER. That is the point.

Dr. LEGAULT. This is of course untrue. The American Psychiatric Association and the American Psychological Association have long had a standing committee on the matter of regulation of psychologists.

Our position with respect to the legislation which is being proposed is in accordance with the stand of our national organization, which has always at all times emphasized that the practice of psychotherapy should in some way be correlated with some sort of effective medical collaboration.

Now, the position that Dr. Brayfield took, that our national organizations are not in support of our position is really interesting, because of May 13 at the recent American Psychiatric Association meeting in Boston a representative of our very organization in the assembly of our national organization moved, after presenting what the situation was here in the District, that the American Psychiatric Association reaffirm its stand with respect to the fact that when psychologists undertake to practice psychotherapy they should avail themselves of medical consultation, and that was passed not more than a few weeks ago by the American Psychiatric Association.