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Thank you.

Mr. SISK. Thank you, Dr. Starr, for an interesting bit of testimony, because I think you do bring out some need here and some problems that certainly we will be faced with in attempting to protect the public from unscrupulous operators or from what amounts to actually pure quackery, as you indicate in your statement.

As I would understand, you feel there is a need for licensing; however, as I understand it, in your conclusion you say:

The effect of such legislation as I am suggesting would be to rid the field of the unscrupulous quack, regardless of how he labels himself, whereas H.R. 10407 will simply make it illegal for him to call himself a psychologist.

In other words, you apparently feel there should be some broader control or some way to eliminate the pure quack in the field of counseling and so on.

Is that basically what you are saying?

Dr. STARR. Yes, sir.

The untrained and incompetent person who offers himself on a private fee basis as a therapist or counselor.

Mr. SISK. I appreciate the statement.

Are there any questions?

Mr. JACOBS. I have one question, Doctor.

On the last page of your prepared statement you mention the needed obligation on the part of nonmedical personnel to make appropriate referrals. You finish by saying "when such might be indicated or beneficial".

I assume that that which was indicated in this area would be beneficial but that which was beneficial might not necessarily be indicated. Is that the nub of the problem, establishing some standards to make that determination? Or can we establish any standards?

Dr. STARR. This is part of the problem. The nonmedical therapist is not qualified by his training to evaluate the use of therapy and treatments in which he has no experience or training. But if the burden is on him to refer those who might benefit by such treatment, I believe the competent and ethical practitioner of these other disciplines will indeed seek medical consultation.

Mr. JACOBS. He will not seek it in cases where it is beneficial and not indicated or indicative because of the lack of his understanding of the problem, will he?

Dr. STARR. I am sorry, I am not sure I can answer. I think you are making a distinction that I am sure is necessary legally.

Mr. JACOBS. I think it is necessary as a practical, social matter. I am wondering, the essence of my question, whether it is possible for us to erect legislatively standards by which these referrals can be made.

Dr. STARR. No, sir; I do not think that the legislature can write standards.

Mr. JACOBS. When you get right down to it, you are possibly placing the responsibility upon those who are not competent to make a judgment as to when the referral is necessary. How do we get around that paradox?