

Also a statement from Dr. John D. Schultz, Associate Director.
 These two gentlemen are both here in the room.
 (The statements follow:)

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Executive Office,
Washington, May 17, 1968.

The Honorable JOHN L. McMILLAN,
Chairman, Committee on the District of Columbia,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. McMILLAN: The Government of the District of Columbia has for report H.R. 10407 and S. 1864, bills "To define and regulate the practice of psychology in the District of Columbia."

Both bills seek to protect the public welfare by requiring all persons who offer psychological services to the public for a fee to obtain a license from the District. The bills define the practice of psychology and set forth the qualifications which an applicant must have. They also provide for examination and related administrative considerations. Further, they each contain a provision allowing for the licensing by endorsement of psychologists moving to the District from jurisdictions where at least comparable controls over the practice of psychology exist. Finally, the bills list those actions which would constitute violations of the proposed Act, and the procedures for investigating and punishing those who violate its provisions.

The District government is of the view that the public should be protected by the licensing of psychologists, and believes that S. 1864 is the better bill for such purpose. While H.R. 10407 is in large part identical with S. 1864, it has certain features which the District considers undesirable. We believe that legislation licensing psychologists should emphasize more strongly the non-medical character of the profession and the necessity that a person with organic disease complications to behavioral problems must be referred by the psychologist to a medical doctor. In addition, the District believes that social psychologists should not be treated differently from other psychologists, that the Commissioner should not be bound, in selecting members of the Board of Psychologist Examiners, by lists submitted by the Psychological Association, and that a certificate of registration should not be issued to an association, partnership, or corporation, but only to an individual. The District also believes that the District of Columbia Council should have authority to make regulations to carry out the purposes of the legislation and to fix fees for services rendered in licensing by the District. Since S. 1864 meets the foregoing requirements better than does H.R. 10407, the District prefers the former bill.

If, however, the Committee desires to report out H.R. 10407, the District recommends that the bill be amended as follows:

- (1) Amend section 4 by striking out "physical" in line 18 of page 3 and inserting in lieu thereof "medical";
- (2) Strike section 5 (D);
- (3) Amend the first sentence of section 6(b) by striking "to be selected from a list of psychologists submitted by the District of Columbia Psychological Association" in line 25 on page 5 and lines 1 and 2 on page 6;
- (4) Amend section 12, lines 5 to 17 on page 10, to read as follows:
 "Sec. 12. The District of Columbia Council is authorized to make regulations to carry out the purposes of this Act, and, after public hearings, to fix, increase, or decrease fees to be charged for services performed by the District government pursuant to the provisions of this Act in such amounts as may, in the judgment of the Council, be reasonably necessary to defray the approximate cost of administering this act."
- (5) Amend section 13 by striking the second sentence.

As I have indicated above, the District favors the enactment of S. 1864, as being the preferable bill. However, if the foregoing amendments be made in H.R. 10407, the District would also favor its enactment.

Sincerely yours,

(S) Thomas W. Fletcher,
 THOMAS W. FLETCHER,
Assistant to the Commissioner.
 (For Walter E. Washington, Commissioner).