

Executive Registry

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11 AUG 1969

The Honorable Sam J. Ervin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

My dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in reply to your letter of 1 August 1969 requesting a clarifying report on the extent to which the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency use personality tests which would be affected by the three limitations contained in S. 782. In your letter you also ask whether there have been any changes in the policies of either agency regarding the use of such tests since 1966.

We have been in touch with NSA regarding your inquiry and they will reply separately. What follows therefore pertains only to CIA.

Our standard personality (or, as we refer to it, psychological) test battery for applicants for employment is basically designed to measure intellectual, verbal and reasoning abilities, foreign language aptitudes and vocational interests. These tests are not affected by the three limitations contained in S. 782. The data derived from these tests are the basis for an initial overall judgment of the applicant's suitability for Agency service.

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It should be noted, however, that the psychological test is only one phase of a series of examinations and investigations regarding an applicant's background. These other examinations and investigations would be seriously affected by the limitations of Section 1(e) of S. 752, as would similar examinations and investigations of employees already on duty.

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There have been no changes in the policy of the Agency regarding the use of psychological tests since 1966.

Sincerely,

~~Mr~~ Richard Helms

Richard Helms
Director

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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August 1, 1969

Honorable Richard Helms
Director of Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Helms:

In continuation of our recent discussion about S. 782, I should appreciate your supplying the Subcommittee a clarifying report on the extent to which your agency and the National Security Agency use personality tests on applicants or employees which would be affected in any way by the three limitations contained in S. 782.

Have there been any changes in policies of either agency regarding use of these tests since 1966?

With all kind wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Sam J. Ervin, Jr.

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Sam J. Ervin, Jr.
Chairman