

part of his pronounced emotional lability is vulnerability to depressive mood swings accompanied by thoughts and feelings of being empty, worthless, and deprived and needful in the extreme. Again, his conscious picture of himself tends very much in the opposite direction; he rationalizes his aggressiveness as being due entirely to provoking life circumstances and thus as essentially necessary, controlled and not really his responsibility; he portrays himself as a man of deep humanitarian, ethical and religious sentiment and purpose, as someone whose greatest ambition is to make a contribution to human welfare and understanding, as a "positive thinker," as someone who is friendly and generous to a fault, and--with a striking lack of insight into himself--as someone who is more normal than the average person. It is apparent that he has a great need to be liked and esteemed--he tried very hard to do the "right thing" and to do "well" in the tests--and he responds gratefully, in a child-like manner, to approval and encouragement. He is also capable at times of noteworthy sensitivity in his perceptions of others and he can be effectively ingratiating. Nevertheless, his capacity to form and maintain firm, warm and intimate relations with others appears to be weak, and his relationships are likely to be shallow and to give way easily to irritation, suspicion, and outburst. It is unlikely that he can be more than momentarily dedicated or devoted in action, however much he ruminates about his high principles and aspirations. His preponderant orientation is self-centered and in the here-and-now. His basic mistrust of others, his tendency to blame his difficulties on others arbitrarily, and a quality of grandiosity in some of his aspirations are pronounced enough to warrant the conclusion that there is a distinct paranoid trend in his personality.

On the whole he appears to rely on external pressures, events and authority to regulate his behavior; internal regulations are weak and not emphasized.

Taken together, his vulnerability to confused and unrealistic thought and to uncontrollable emotion and impulse, his poor judgment and his feeling not fully in possession of his body and its actions, and his mistrustful and grandiose tendencies, all point to the likelihood of his committing irrational acts of violence. And it is not out of the question that under certain circumstances the violence may be directed against himself.

Differential Diagnosis:

On the whole, the test results indicate the presence of brain dysfunction on a physical basis. It is quite possible that Mr. Ruby has some form of convulsive disorder; his test responses are very similar in many respects to those obtained from patients who have psychomotor seizures. His religious preoccupation and his pietistic expressions, his explosive emotionality and his disordered body image fit well the classical picture of persons with convulsive disorders. The responses could also be those of a person with a history of traumatic head injuries or of childhood encephalitis. This diagnostic impression is based on the specific pattern of disrupted mental and emotional functioning, and especially on the waxing and waning of confused thought previously described. (See the attached Appendix illustrations.) The consistent efforts to gain a clearer hold on part of this picture.