

## Hill Panel Opposed to Polygraphs

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The House Government Operations Committee wants all government agencies to stop using polygraphs and other similar devices known as lie detectors because the machines don't tell the truth.

Rep. Bella S. Abzug (D-N.Y.), who heads the panel's Subcommittee on Information and Individual Rights, said she has written to all agencies reported to be using the devices asking them to halt the practice.

"If the agencies are not willing to follow our recommendation, it might be necessary to forbid the practice by legislation," she added.

The full committee issued a report Sunday criticizing the devices. The report said recent research confirmed a 1965 investigation, which it quoted: "There is no 'lie detector,' neither machine nor human. People have been deceived by a myth that a metal box in the hands of an investigator can detect truth or falsehood."

The new report said both federal and private research has "done little to persuade the committee that polygraphs, psychological stress evaluators, or voice stress analyzers have demonstrated either their validity or reliability in differentiating between truth and deception, other than possibly in a laboratory situation."