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U.S. Judge
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**Rules for
 Lie Detector**

Washington

A federal judge ruled Wednesday that the results of polygraph or lie detector tests will be admitted as evidence in court for the first time in the District of Columbia.

The decision by United States District Judge Barrington D. Parker runs counter to the refusal of judges here and across the country to admit the results of lie detector tests, except where both parties in a case agree to its admission.

Parker's decision follows by only days a ruling by a federal judge in Michigan allowing the conditional use of the results of a polygraph test. In his decision, Parker said that polygraphy has become "an established field of science and technology."

If the rulings by Parker and Judge Charles W. Joiner of the federal court in Michigan indicate a trend, the admission of lie detector tests could have a profound effect on the nature of the trial process.

The ruling involved Errol Zeiger, 32, a Food and Drug Administration scientist convicted in January of assault with intent to kill a government secretary. Zeig-

er's conviction later was set aside, however.

Parker, alluding to the possible effect that polygraph testimony could have on a jury, concluded that "polygraph testimony . . . is both compatible with the system of trial by jury and possessed of a demonstrated evidential force which strikes the balance in favor of its admission."

Parker said that it is the duty of the trial judge to prepare the jury before the polygraph examiner is permitted to state his conclusions. The examiner, Parker said, will not be allowed to state his opinion on the guilt or innocence of the accused "but will be asked to assess the truthfulness of the defendant's answer to factual questions."

In addition, Parker said that "vigorous cross-examination of the examiner and other expert witnesses will expose inadequacies which may have affected the results of a particular examination."

The polygraph machine uses a number of indices, including changes in blood pressure, pulse rate, respiration rate, breathing and

the resistance of the skin to electrical current.

Parker noted that polygraph tests are used extensively by law enforcement agencies, governmental security organizations and private industry.

In his opinion, Parker referred to the 1923 Circuit Court of Appeals decision that has served as the basis for excluding polygraph tests from trials except when both sides agree to its admission. In that decision, the court said that a "twilight zone" existed between the time "a scientific principle or discovery crosses the line between the experimental and demonstrable stages."

"Today," Parker said, "polygraphy has emerged from that twilight zone into an established field of science and technology."

Associated Press