

Inventory—by far the most widespread of all such tests—moved into personnel offices.

Last year about seven percent of the 750,000 MMPI tests distributed went to industry. A number also went to Government agencies, like the Peace Corps, which use the test to screen employes for sensitive positions. Not surprisingly, psychological testing used this way raised protests over invasion of privacy.

Whether or not the test has been grossly misused and misapplied as its critics claim, it seems likely the MMPI will be swept out of Government in a comprehensive "Bill of Rights" for Federal employes now before a Senate subcommittee. It was introduced by 53 sponsors, and only 51 Senate votes are needed to pass it.

Psychological testing, however, is only one of 14 provisions in the broad-gauged bill designed to protect Government employes from invasions of privacy and unwarranted coercion. The legislation would prohibit the Government from forcing employes to buy Government bonds, attend political functions and disclose personal finances. It would also prevent agencies from asking employes to reveal their race, religion or national origin.

But there is more than meets the eye on this issue of privacy and race.

Theoretically the Government raises grave constitutional questions in asking employes to disclose race or indicate whether they believe in God.

But lately, the racial questionnaire has become a primary means of detecting discrimination. Prohibiting the question, as principal sponsor Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr. (D-N.C.) does in his "rights" bill, would hamper civil rights efforts to attain equal job opportunities. That charge has, in fact, been leveled against Senator Ervin.

As for asking employes personal questions on sex, religion, and family attitude, agencies hiring people for sensitive jobs are hard put to screen out the deviants without invading their privacy.

Actually, the major professional society in the field, the American Psychological Association, maintains that personality tests have been used with discretion in Government. Popular belief to the contrary, people seeking Government jobs are not normally subjected to these tests, according to reports the Association has received from psychologists in various executive departments.

It has asked the Ervin subcommittee in vain for a case of misuse, says the Association, which believes the uproar over personality testing in Government to be something of a tempest in a teapot, if not an actual red herring.

Apparently, the only agencies to

have used the MMPI as a regular procedure are the State Department, the Central Intelligence Agency and the Peace Corps. The Federal Aviation Agency uses an equally personal test—the Cattell-Eber Personality Factor—for its air control personnel, whose emotional stability is essential.



Sen. Sam Ervin: for restricting tests.

The tests are not appropriate for general personnel use, said Dr. Margaret Ives, chief of psychological services at St. Elizabeths Hospital in Washington, who testified before the Ervin subcommittee holding hearings on the bill. But, said Dr. Ives, for important overseas jobs, "you want to be sure you rule out deviants." The Peace Corps used the MMPI "very successfully," she said.

Mid-Atlantic Fault

A puzzling, 60-mile-wide jog in a line of earthquake locations under the mid-Atlantic Ridge will be one of the first problems probed by America's largest oceanographic research ship on its present globe circling voyage.

The jog is clearly evident when earthquake epicenters are plotted on a map of the ocean, but no paralleling geological feature is known that might account for it.

The Coast and Geodetic Survey's ship Oceanographer will spend about a week criss-crossing a 60-mile square area just southwest of the Azores and directly over the mid-Atlantic Ridge.

With echo sounders, magnetometer and gravity meter it will be probing for any sign of a fracture or fault in the

bottom—the most likely explanation for the seismic observations, according to Dr. Harris B. Stewart Jr., director of the Environmental Science Services Administration's Institute of Oceanography.

Oceanographer left Jacksonville, Fla., on March 31 on an eight-month global voyage that will eventually take it to its permanent base in Seattle, Wash.

Along the way, it will make a number of stops that will do as much to further international relations in science as for science itself. Perhaps the two most important stops will be in Monaco on April 30 and Odessa, on the Soviet Union's Black Sea coast, on May 11.

Monaco is the home of the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco which is headed by oceanographic pioneer Jacques Cousteau. Oceanographer will tie up in Monaco during the conference there of the International Hydrographic Bureau.

Among other scientific programs scheduled for the voyage are heat flow measurements in the Andaman Sea off Burma and an investigation of the possibility that the world's oceans provide a vast sink where dust and debris from the continents settle out of the atmosphere.

The probe of the mid-Atlantic Ridge will be aided by use of a seismic reflection profiler—a sort of high-power sonar rig—and by the precise navigation made possible by the Navy's navigation satellites.

The SRP records sound reflections from the rocks underlying ocean sediments as well as from the sediments themselves.

With its help, scientists from Columbia University's Lamont Geophysical Observatory and from ESSA hope to locate the fault they believe may be associated with the jog in seismic data.

Study of the earthquake line and its peculiarities under the mid-Atlantic is directly related to the theory that the Americas and Europe and Africa were once one huge continent and have slowly drifted apart.

According to the theory, the drifting is still going on as molten material deep in the earth wells up in the mid-Atlantic and spreads out toward the continents, pushing them apart.

Cancer Cells Starved In Enzyme Treatment

What appears to be a basic approach to the killing of cancer cells without harming normal ones is being tried cautiously with humans after 14 years of study.

The enzyme L-asparaginase (SN: