

RCMP interrogation techniques

Roberts' revised rules

CHARLOTTETOWN (CUP) - An RCMP training manual dealing with the interrogation of prisoners urges the use of "brain-washing" methods, lies, threats, and degradation to obtain confessions from suspects.

The manual, called "Interrogation Techniques," originates from the Training and Development Branch of the RCMP in Ottawa.

The document originally became public after being leaked to the Cadre, the student newspaper at the University of Prince Edward Island. The Cadre broke the story on March 25 and later in the day David MacDonald (PC-Egmont) raised the issue in the House of Commons in Ottawa, demanding an explanation.

Solicitor-General Warren Allman denied knowledge of the document but said he would "get a copy." The Cadre had earlier confirmed the authenticity of the document by having their local RCMP detachment check with Superintendent R.G. Moffat in Ottawa.

The author of the manual, A.R. Roberts, formerly Chief Inspector of the Calgary city police, and now head of security for private business in Calgary, stresses in the introduction that the techniques outlined are "simply exploiting those tendencies which are common to most people."

is reached in every interrogation when you still may not have that statement and you know if you go any further in the specific technique that you are employing that your statement will be ruled inadmissible."

It says the interrogating officer must decide whether to leave the room without a statement or go ahead with "other techniques." These might not produce admissible evidence, but might lead to other information.

"I suggest that, at this point, the Marquis of Queensbury (boxing) rules go out the window and the interrogator must open up his bag of tricks and go for any evidence which may be placed in court, regardless of the method employed to secure that evidence."

The techniques outlined in the paper are given a number of descriptive names.

Everybody's Doing It

"In the case of a perverted or indecent assault or any other crime where sex is involved," the booklet suggest confessions be induced by making the suspect think the crime was a natural impulse. "And anyway, this broad was probably asking for it," the booklet suggests as one approach.

A similar approach is suggested for child molesters under what is called the Blame the Victim Technique.

This approach shows the suspect how bad things might get. Loss of job, respect and family are "all possibilities held up to the prisoner. "Then the interrogator offers him a glimpse of heaven, or reward as it is known in the brainwashing technique." The suspect is then induced to believe that the horrible things which were suggested may not happen.

Heaven and Hell Technique

With this technique the manual says: "... the subject is interrogated at all hours of the day or night; he has been kept in isolation and has had most of his clothes taken away from him. He is dressed in a sloppy pair of coveralls. He does not use his own shoes but instead is given a pair of shoes too large for him so that they slop about. There are no shoe laces in the shoes. He has no belt to hold his pants up."

"In the brainwashing technique this is an assault on his dignity. By the very fact of being stripped of his own clothes it is an assault upon his own identity. He now feels forsaken and forgotten due to

the lack-of-familiar surrounding and the refusal of his custodians to allow him any contact at all with his friends and loved ones," it continues.

Hot Confession Technique

This gives suggestions for obtaining scene of the crime confessions.

"After placing the accused under arrest, and while still in the possession of your revolver, you inform the accused that he is no doubt the party that is responsible for over fifty housebreakings or fifty shopbreakings or a great number of armed robberies in that particular district."

"While the suspect is still in the throes of emotion from his present predicament he is most liable to answer that he has only committed ten shopbreakings or maybe just four or five armed robberies."

Instruction on how to break down suspects and force them to confess to crimes using less than "Marquis of Queensbury" rules, concludes with Roberts advising: "We as police officers must constantly remind ourselves that we are servants of the public and not its master and we must never overstep the boundaries pertaining to the human dignity of man."

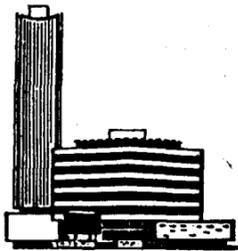
Physical Force No, Brainwashing Yes

"None of the techniques which are discussed in this paper will employ physical force of any kind. The techni-

ques outlined hereunder do however employ a hidden battery of 'hsi nao' (brainwashing), techniques to influence the emotional attitude of the subject or suspect," Roberts says in the report.

It initially says that in any interrogation "we are going to do everything that is legal and right," to obtain a statement, employing no tricks that might be considered illegal.

"But, there is a point which



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