

Biographical Note: James W. Prescott, Ph.D.

James W. Prescott, Ph.D. is a developmental Neuropsychologist and cross-cultural psychologist who received his doctorate in psychology from **McGill University**(1964)

Assistant Head Physiological Psychology Research Branch Office of Naval Research 1963-1966);

Psychopharmacological and Psychophysiological Research: NIMH Psychopharmacology Research Branch; Department of Psychiatry, George Washington University Medical School (1961-1962).

Health Scientist Administrator, Developmental Behavioral Biology Program National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, NIH (1966-1980).;

President: Maryland Psychological Association (1971-1972)

CINE Golden Eagle Award: for contributions, as Scientific Director, Time Life Documentary Film, "Rock A Bye Baby" (1971)

The 55th Annual Packard Lecture: The Philadelphia Pediatric Society (1971)

State-Of-The-Science Address: Eastern Psychological Association (1975)

Outstanding Contributions To Psychology Award: Highest Award of the Maryland Psychological Association (1977)

Visiting Scholar: Wesleyan University, College of Science In Society (1978)

Distinguished Science Address: American Psychiatric Association (1983)

Senate of Canada Testimony: Childhood Experiences as Causes of Criminal Behavior (April.11.1978) Senate of Canada. *Testimony: Standing Senate Committee on Health Welfare and Science. Subcommittee on Childhood Experiences as Causes of Criminal Behavior.* Senator Fred A. McGrand, Chairman, Ottawa, Canada. Issue No. 15, pp. 1-34.

Testimony on Child Abuse and Neglect Research at the National Institutes of Health. U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-Health and Human Services 98th Congress (May 10, 1983). Wm. Natcher, Chair.

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- Berman, A.J., Berman, D. & Prescott, J.W. (1974). The effect of cerebellar lesions on emotional behavior in the rhesus monkey. In: *The Cerebellum, Epilepsy and Behavior.* (Cooper, I.S., Riklon, M.V. & Snider, R.S. (Eds) Plenum, NY
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- Prescott, J.W. (1990): Affective bonding for the prevention of violent behaviors: Neurobiological, Psychological and Religious/Spiritual Determinants. In. *Violent Behavior Vol. I: Assessment and Intervention.* (L.J. Hertzberg, et. al., Eds). PMA Publishing NY pp. 110-14
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<http://www.violence.de/prescott/truthseeker/genpl.html>

<http://ttffuture.org/bonding/blog/breastfeeding-bonding-prevents-infant-mortality-and-suicide>

21 January 2015

1. NAME (CA/FS) LAST-FIRST-MIDDLE PRESCOTT JAMES W		MR-MISS-MRS. Dr. MR	2. (FOR AGENCY USE)	3. BIRTH DATE (Mo. Day, Year) 01-21-34	4. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. [REDACTED]
5. VETERAN PREFERENCE 2 1-NO 2-10 PT DED 3-10 PT COMP 4-10 PT OTHER		6. TENURE GROUP 1		7. SERVICE COMP DATE 02-28-62	
8. FEGLI 4 1-COVERED (Regular only - defined Opioid) 2-INELIGIBLE 3-WAIVED 4-COVERED (Reg & Opioid)		10. RETIREMENT 1 1-GR 2-ICA 3-F 4-NON 5-OTHER		11. (FOR CSC USE)	
12. CODE NATURE OF ACTION 002 CORRECTION 357 REMOVAL		13. EFFECTIVE DATE (Mo. Day, Year) 04-11-80		14. CIVIL SERVICE OR OTHER LEGAL AUTHORITY	
15. FROM: POSITION TITLE AND NUMBER HLTH SCI ADMIN (SOC SCI) CH1224		16. PAY PLAN AND OCCUPATION CODE GS 00601(12)		17. (a) GRADE (b) STEP OR LEVEL OR RATE 14 08	
18. NAME AND LOCATION OF EMPLOYING OFFICE PHS, NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, CENTER FOR RESEARCH FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, HUMAN LEARNING & BEHAVIOR BR				HN-T35	

20. TO: POSITION TITLE AND NUMBER		21. PAY PLAN AND OCCUPATION CODE		22. (a) GRADE (b) STEP OR LEVEL OR RATE		23. SALARY	
24. NAME AND LOCATION OF EMPLOYING OFFICE							

25. DUTY STATION (City - County - State) BETHESDA MARYLAND		26. LOCATION CODE 24-0130-031	
27. APPROPRIATION 08320935		28. POSITION OCCUPIED 15740	
29. APPROPRIATION		29. APPORTIONED POSITION	
30. REMARKS <input type="checkbox"/> A. SUBJECT TO COMPLETION OF 1 YEAR PROBATIONARY (OR TRIAL) PERIOD COMMENCING <input type="checkbox"/> B. SERVICE COUNTING TOWARD CAREER (OR PERMANENT) TENURE FROM <input type="checkbox"/> C. DURING PROBATION		SPEC PROC ID 00	

LPB
 CORRECTS ITEM 30 TO READ:
 REASON: REMOVAL FOR IMPROPER USE OF OFFICIAL POSITION AND RESOURCES TO PROMOTE RESEARCH ON 'DEVELOPMENTAL ORIGINS OF VIOLENCE' AND 'CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT', SUBJECTS THAT ARE NOT WITHIN THE MISSION OF THE NICHD, AS PART OF THE PROGRAMS OF THIS INSTITUTE.
 FORWARDING ADDRESS: BENNEKON PINES, 13500 QUERY MILL ROAD, DARNESTOWN, MARYLAND 20760
 FLSA EXEMPT

31. DATE OF APPOINTMENT AFFIDAVIT (Accession only)		34. SIGNATURE (Of who appointed) AND TITLE Barbara C. Hughes BARBARA C. HUGHES APPOINTING OFFICER	
32. OFFICE MAINTAINING PERSONAL FOLDER (If different from employing office)		35. DATE 04-25-80	
33. CODE EMPLOYING DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY HF38 DEPT. OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE		1616	

1. EMPLOYEE COPY

NIH Hatchet-Job on Distinguished Scientist

WASHINGTON, D.C. — One of the Government's foremost experts in the field of child abuse soon may be railroaded out of his job at the National Institutes of Health unless NFFE's urgent appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board is promptly heard and upheld.

Dr. James W. Prescott, a distinguished psychologist who has spent the past 14 years studying violence against children and ways to curb it, has come under bitter attack from officials at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development because he blew the whistle on their violations of law, abuses of authority and gross mismanagement. His proposed notice of removal from Federal employment already is in hand.

To head off the agency's groundless vendetta against Dr. Prescott, who also serves as Local 1967 President, NFFE Staff Attorney Susan Gilbert has submitted all the facts of the case to the Office of the Special Counsel for fair consideration. The motion calls for a stay of NICHHD's dismissal action, a thorough investigation by the OSC and a complaint to be filed against the agency for engaging in a prohibited personnel practice.

"Management has trumped up charges against a man whose weighty contributions to social science are a matter of record," said President Peirce. "This case presents a perfect opportunity for the Board to forcefully assert its independence and establish its respect for employee rights."

The controversy at NICHHD first stirred several years ago when leadership at the agency changed hands — and then changed direction as well. Pioneer research in the origins of violence, along with its practical application to the battle against child abuse, was pushed to the back burner.

Dr. Prescott, aware that a wide range of studies conducted at great public expense was being undercut even before its relevance to social health could be established, decided that someone would have to step forward and hold management accountable.

"Aside from the potential benefits to society that were being deferred by the change of emphasis at our agency, I was also concerned that Congress eventually would call upon us to justify in practical terms all of our costly research," said Dr. Prescott. "After all, we have an obligation here, a job to do."

Consequently, the GS-14 Health Scientist Administrator filed a formal grievance with NIH in which he detailed the indefensible policies put into place by the NICHHD Director. Submitted a year ago, the document cites:

- Obstruction of science, in that the agency head falsely claimed that child-abuse research is outside the scope of agency responsibility.
- Contract maladministration, in that the Director regularly delayed or rejected valid research contracts simply because Dr. Prescott was involved.
- Discriminatory personnel practice, in that Dr. Prescott was denied administrative leave to attend various seminars

and legislative hearings pertinent to his work at NICHHD, while his colleagues were not similarly shackled.

"There followed the customary series of threats, letters of reprimand, and finally the dismissal note," Dr. Prescott



Dr. James W. Prescott

said. "But the union has stuck right beside me the whole way."

Little wonder. A veteran of the U.S. Navy with a Ph.D. in psychology from prestigious McGill University in Montreal, the NFFE member's professional standing is unimpeachable. In 1977 he won the Maryland award for Outstanding Contribution to Psychology. He is also a past president of the Maryland Psychological Association.

Fortunately, the bulk of evidence before the Special Counsel clearly demonstrates that reprisal is the only possible explanation for the agency's decision to fire Dr. Prescott. Documents submitted to OSC, among other things, show support from the scientific community that NICHHD's work in child abuse has been both useful and ongoing for years. More importantly, they reveal that agency directives and Congressional intent call for such research.

"We're determined to see that MSPB is not impressed by the agency's lame pretexts for firing Dr. Prescott," said President Peirce. "Management cannot be allowed to trample the rights of any employees, be they GS-4s or 14s!"



FEDERAL SERVICE IMPASSES PANEL Deputy Executive Director Linda Lafferty and her assistant, Susan McCluskey, visited NFFE Headquarters to offer new techniques of impasse resolution to members of our Legal and Labor Relations Department.



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TRANSFER plans were discussed at NFFE Headquarters when Health, Education and Welfare staffers met with Civilian Agencies Branch Director Charles Bernhardt, at far left. Proposals to move HEW employees into the new agency meet NFFE standards so far, and affected Locals will be informed as further details are available. Shown with Mr. Bernhardt are HEW Director of the Division of Labor Management Relations Richard Hacker, Director of the Office of Special Initiatives Anne Elledge, and Assistant Director of the Division of Labor Management Relations Henry Hobek.

NICHD Memos Child Abuse 4.15.75--5.14.75

1975. Memo: April 15, 1975 New Director Kretchmer, NICHD removed NICHD of its agency responsibility to support research on child abuse and neglect and violated the Directive of Secretary Caspar Weinberger to the NICHD. "NICHD decided not to publish conference proceedings on child abuse and neglect." [View Document](http://www.violence.de/history/doc2.gif) <http://www.violence.de/history/doc2.gif>

1975. Memo: May 22, 1975

"The Director, NICHD, has decided not to commit the funds necessary to publish the proceeding of the above indicated research conference. In lieu of this effort, the NICHD has concluded an agreement with NIMH to supply up to \$15,000 for a collaborative study of abuse and neglect of adolescents. Dr. Ira Lourie, of NIMH, will be in charge of the study." -- *signed* Jehu C. Hunter, Acting Associate Director for Program Planning and Evaluation, NICHD, NIH

[View Document](http://www.violence.de/history/doc2a.gif) <http://www.violence.de/history/doc2a.gif>

1975. May 14, 1975

NIH Memo to Jehu C. Hunter from Joseph Bobbitt, Ph.D. It explicitly states that DHEW Secretary Weinberger is upset by the lack of response from various federal agencies to his directive to increase activity and research on child abuse and neglect. "He finally said that perhaps the Secretary would have to remind the agencies and set fiscal obligations as he did for FY [fiscal year] 74." Bobbitt stated "that specific requirements were never set for FY 75 (but that NICHD had maintained its FY 1974 mandate level)".

[View Document](http://www.violence.de/history/nihm2.gif) <http://www.violence.de/history/nihm2.gif>

1975. Memo: April 15, 1975 New Director Kretchmer, NICHD removed NICHD of its agency responsibility to support research on child abuse and neglect and violated the Directive of Secretary Caspar Weinberger to the NICHD. NICHD decided not to publish conference proceedings on child abuse and neglect. [ViewDocument](http://www.violence.de/history/doc2.gif) <http://www.violence.de/history/doc2.gif>

1980. Letter: April 25, 1980

NICHD Health Scientist Administrator Dr. James Prescott is removed from service. Reason: **"Removal for improper use of official position and resources to promote research on 'Developmental Origins of Violence' and 'Child Abuse and Neglect', subjects that are not within the mission of the NICHD, as part of the program of this institute."** [View Document](http://www.violence.de/history/doc5.gif) <http://www.violence.de/history/doc5.gif>

NICHD Bobbitt Memo October 4, 1973

1974. June 17, 18, 1974 NIH Bethesda, Md.: "NICHD Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect: Issues in Developmental Research"

Response of the NICHD to a memo on child abuse and neglect from Secretary Weinberger. The NICHD will fund a conference in 1974 and will contribute a budget of \$200,000 for fiscal year 1974 to the examination of the problem.

[View Document](#)



Fig. 5. Self-biting and self-mutilation of an adult isolation reared rhesus.



Fig. 6. Motherless mother crushing 20 day old infant to the floor.

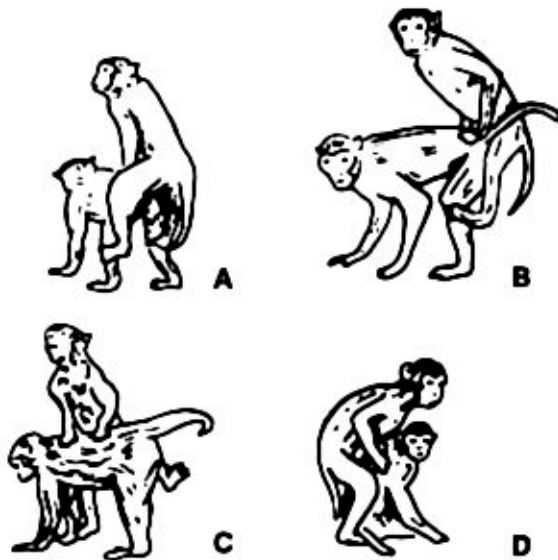


Fig. 7. Normal sexual posturing in the normal male & female rhesus (A, B). Abnormal sexual posturing in the isolation reared male & female rhesus (C, D).



Fig. 8. Physical pain in child abuse: 3 month old child with scaled milk thrown on its face.

