Associated

Press Writer PRINCETON, N.J. (AP) — More and more people are asking questions about the profes-

sional question askers. Who gives the tests that permit or deny entry to colleges and professions for millions of people each year? Are the tests fair? Are they misused?

The questions become more important as interest rises in minority admissions to college and as it becomes more difficult each year to get into law and medical schools. Many of the questions - from parents, educators and lawmakers — are di-rected at the Educational Testing Service, the titan of the testing

industry.
On a bucolic 400-acre campus outside this well-heeled university town, its 2,000 employees go quietly about their business, constructing and processing the multiplechoice exams that can raise or dash the hopes of several million people

a year. Success or failure on the flagship ETS exam, the Scholastic Aptitutde Test, can determine whether a student attends the college of his choice. Other tests help choose entrants for dozens of occupations, from podiatry and police work to architecture and auto mechanics. The State Department uses an ETS test for Foreign Service officers. And ETS, with questions supplied by the Central Intelligence Agency, even tests prospective spies.

Among those who question the ETS tests is Peter J. Liacouras, dean of Temple University Law School. He says ETS is becoming "the cradle-to-grave arbiter of social mobility in

America. Its tests inhibit "wellroundedness' and re-ward "the skilled testtakers, hip-shooters and crossword puzzle whizzes," Liacouras says. He thinks law schools put too much emphasis on ETS' Law School Ad-

mission Test scores. William W. Turnbull, 58, a Canadian-born psychologist who joined ETS shortly after its creation and became president in 1970, bristles at the notion that ETS is America's "arbi-

ter of social mobility."
"That's nonsense," he says. "We are makers of gates, and other people have to decide whether to open them or not. Gates serve to get people through fences, as well as to keep them out.

"The people at Temple and other universities have to make the admissions decisions. We have zero to say about who gets in anywhere.

Some criticisms apply to all standardized testing. Minorities generally fare worse than whites on these tests. and some minority groups say the tests are biased.

Blacks and certain other minorities score 100 points or more below the national average on the LSAT and the widely-used Scholastic Aptitude Test, familiarly known as SAT.

ETS officials screen test questions to eliminate overtones of race in five forms, and the LSAT five times in separate editions. The al or sexual bias. And they insist that the difference stems not from cultural or racial bias in their tests, but from the more sweeping bias of poverty and inferior schooling. Turnbull calls it a "bias

psychologist

against their abuse and making distorted and exaggerated claims about what they show.

He says the value of ETS' tests depends upon "how skillfully, intelliuse almost anything in an idiotic, exclusionary and way.''

Test critics forget that errors also are made in grading students' essays, interviews, references and classwork, Turnbull says. The SAT gently and humanely says, interviews, referthey are used. You can ences and classwork, Turnbull says. The SAT ic, exclusionary dehumanizing dehumanizing colleges in the 1940s because it "provided a

Columbia Prof. Diane ments continue to de-Ravitch says the end of cline, and as colleges has fallen to 1.4 million from a peak of 1.6 million from a peak of 1.6 million from a peak of 1.6 million to compete to recruit stu-"As school enroll-

The number of SATs

bigger role. The student work to become lawyers rejected by one college and doctors. usually can go elsewhere, but those re-

out in the cold.

ion in 1970.

But the competition for every space in firstremains intense to get year law and medical professional classes, and academic schools, where the test experts agree that many scores traditionally who are rejected are have played an even capable of doing the

Congress and several state legislatures have jected by a medical or begun considering ways

Two students compete about their tests. Rep. Michael Harrington, D-Mass., wants standardized test questions released with the correct answers 30 days after the exam date. He also has proposed denying federal funds to any school that uses test scores as cutoff points for admission.



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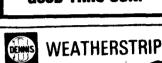
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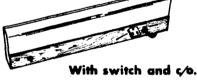
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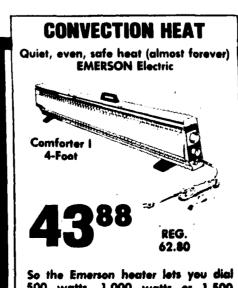
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of opportunity."
Kenneth B. Clark and educator, says the problem lies not with the tests, but with how they are used.

"I'm not against exams," he says. "I'm





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