

Mr. QUIE. What about eyeglasses? Do you furnish them free at the centers like you do in drugs?

Dr. ENGLISH. If that were necessary in a given center, the people doing the program would ask for that kind of authority from us. If that was important in the giving of care, and we would certainly include that in what could be provided by the center; yes.

Mr. QUIE. How do you pay for eyeglasses now?

Dr. ENGLISH. The center itself would pay out of OEO funds for eyeglasses if, for example, title 19 or some other source of support for poor people were not available.

Mr. QUIE. So the present neighborhood health centers that are in operation, OEO pays for them, but they go to a private concern to secure them.

Dr. ENGLISH. I would have to check that out. There are many variations. I think what you say is true in many of them.

Mr. QUIE. What about dentures? That would be another example.

Dr. ENGLISH. Yes, sir; it would be the same thing. We would try to provide that care right at the center as a part of the dental program.

Mr. QUIE. So they would receive their dentures from a dentist who was hired by the center and not be able to go to a private dentist. Is that right?

Dr. ENGLISH. That would be true in many programs. There are other programs that I can think of where they in effect do go to a private dentist for that service because of the situation in the particular local community.

The other thing I would want to emphasize, Mr. Congressman, is that in a target area where a person has help for title 19, it is their choice where they go. They may go to a private practitioner, or to a center, or get the drugs at the center pharmacy, or if they choose to go to a pharmacy outside where, under title 19, they would be eligible for this kind of help, they could do that.

Mr. QUIE. That is the title 19, but the remainder do not have that choice, do they?

Dr. ENGLISH. If there are no other types of programs that would help a medically indigent person other than the center, that would be the only place they would receive care.

Mr. QUIE. Isn't that the only place the beneficiaries who are not title 19 beneficiaries can receive their drugs? They would not be reimbursed for those that were purchased at the private vendor?

Dr. ENGLISH. A person who was eligible for title 19 and came to the medical center for care could receive free drugs there, and the title 19 reimbursement would be to the center.

Mr. QUIE. You do not permit this for the patients who are not title 19 beneficiaries?

Dr. ENGLISH. I see your question. I cannot tell you the practice on the operating centers in that. We will be glad to check it.

Mr. PUCINSKI. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. QUIE. Yes.

Mr. PUCINSKI. Regardless of what the practice is, it is one that is established by the local community. You don't set the criteria. A local community comes to you with a grant request, and they spell out the procedure and the mechanics for carrying out the medical health center under the poverty program, and the local advisory board—the local