

Dr. CHAPMAN. I have for the record if you would like me to submit it, or I will answer it verbally, a breakdown of the differences between the two groups as they are defined.

Mr. HORTON. If you do have this breakdown I think it would be helpful to insert it in the record.

Dr. CHAPMAN. We have such a breakdown.

Mr. HORTON. Can that be supplied?

Mr. SISK. Without objection the statement will be made part of the record.

(The statement follows:)

THREE EYECARE VOCATIONS AND PROFESSIONS

Some confusion exists with regard to the types of persons serving the vision care needs of the public. There are three such groups and they can be simply defined as follows:

(1) *An optometrist*.—is a person licensed to independently examine the eyes and related structures to determine the presence of vision problems, eye diseases or other abnormalities. He prescribes and adapts lenses, contact lenses, or other optical aids, and utilizes vision training to preserve, restore and enhance vision efficiency. His doctorate degree is O.D., an abbreviation for Doctor of Optometry.

(2) *An ophthalmologist*.—is a duly licensed physician who specializes and is certified by a Board of his peers in the pathological and surgical care of the eyes. His doctorate degree is either M.D. or D.O. These abbreviations stand for Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathy.

(3) *An optician*.—is a skilled technician, auxiliary to either the optometrist or physician, who grinds, supplies, and fits glasses or other optical appliances only on the doctor's prescription.

Generally, the optician acquires his trade by apprenticeship in an optical shop or by training in a technical school. Only a few states provide for the licensing of opticians and generally this license can be acquired by the simple expedient of securing the signature of several physicians, who may be from the general population and who certify to his competency. This is the procedure used in California for example.

An optometrist is required to have completed at least high school, two years of collegiate-level pre-optometric curriculum, and four years of graduate level professional training in one of the ten U.S. accredited schools or colleges of optometry. He must pass written, practical, and oral examinations to be licensed in any one of the states or territories of the United States of America.

An ophthalmologist acquires approximately sixty hours of specialized training in the eye by the time he graduates from medical school. The largest part of his specialty training is received when he is a hospital intern or resident following his graduation. Any physician, regardless of his medical specialty, can practice in the field of vision care by his exemption from the optometry licensing requirements found in all state laws.

Mr. HORTON. That is all I have at this time.

Mr. SISK. The gentleman from New Mexico, Mr. Walker.

Mr. WALKER. I have no questions at this time.

Mr. SISK. The gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. HARSHA. Dr. Chapman, as I understood you, you said you were here in behalf of H.R. 1283 and H.R. 12276. Is that correct?

Dr. CHAPMAN. Yes, sir.

Mr. HARSHA. What is the difference, if any, between those two bills?

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN H.R. 1283 AND H.R. 12276

Dr. CHAPMAN. H.R. 12276 was only just recently introduced and I cannot give you all the differences. There are several changes in that bill over H.R. 1283 but I do not know how I would be able to describe those to you unless I went page by page through the bill, Mr. Harsha.