

prescription from an individual licensed to practice optometry, medicine, or osteopathy”.

Mr. HORTON. That is new?

Dr. CHAPMAN. Yes.

And there is also a new item, (7), line 9, page 15 of H.R. 12276: “a person from selling nonprescription sunglasses or nonprescription protective eyewear.”

Mr. HORTON. That is lines 9 and 10 on page 15, section (7)?

Dr. CHAPMAN. Yes. Then the final change will be item (f), line 16, in H.R. 1283. Adding following “medicine,” line 14, the words “or to write or issue prescriptions for the obtaining of drugs or medicine in any form for the treatment or examination of the human eye.” This is shown as lines 20 to 22 of H.R. 12276, page 15.

Mr. HARSHA. How do you justify that when back on page 2, line 15, you say the practice of optometry means “(a) the employment of any objective or subjective means for the examination of the human eye, including its appendages”? Does that authorize you to use drugs to make an objective examination of the eye?

Dr. CHAPMAN. No, sir, it does not, Mr. Harsha. In fact, that language is in a great number of the statutes defining optometry throughout the nation. That is very common language. In optometry there are two basic systems. The first is the objective method whereby you use instrumentation to make your judgment. It is a little more complicated than that, but that is the simplest way to say it. The second would be the subjective method where you are asking the patient and having the patient respond. No, sir, that does not include the use of drugs.

Mr. HARSHA. Do you interpret this new subsection (7) you just added to limit this subsection (a)? Does it make it quite clear you are not permitted to use drugs?

Dr. CHAPMAN. This subsection is inserted for the purpose of indicating in the section that for the treatment or the handling of the individual patient, drugs or medicines are not to be used.

Mr. HARSHA. Does not this sub-section (a) on page 2 authorize you to get into the pathology of the eyes?

Dr. CHAPMAN. Mr. Harsha, of course one of the prime responsibilities of the optometrist, because of the numbers of patients he sees, is the matter of the care of the patient professionally to make certain there is no pathology present. He is taught and trained in that area, as Dr. Hofstetter, who can amplify if you want him to, can tell you. Because he is the very first line of defense against blindness for the great bulk of the American people, this is part of the responsibility that he must have. This the profession has recognized for a long time and has so trained its people to do.

There is no intent in this Act to expand the philosophy of optometry into the drug field.

Mr. HARSHA. On page 3, subsection (h) reads: “the identification of any departure from the normal condition or function of the human eye.” You do not think that would broaden your field or scope of inquiry?

Dr. CHAPMAN. No, sir, I do not think so at all. I think this is an absolute necessity and requirement.