

Dr. CHAPMAN. I think the trend will be shown if we can get the statistics, and I think they are available at other places, that the trend is for the ophthalmologist dispensing through his own optician. That is true in my city. All of them do, as a matter of fact.

Whether it is the majority over the nation it is another story, but historically the caring of human vision as cared for by the optometrist has been interpreted to require the use of the finest in optical systems and devices we can utilize for the purpose of correcting these problems, and therefore the training that the optometrist receives includes a great deal of this area as well as the other studies that are necessary to do this job as we think it should be done.

Therefore you also have to remember, and this would make you talk in my language and that would be hard to do because you would have to be an optometrist to do it, that we don't think in terms of selling eyeglasses. It is not the sale of the eyeglass that is the important thing. It is what is in it. It is the prescription within that eyeglass which is the important thing and what the optometrist is selling is vision and not eyeglasses.

Mr. HORTON. My constituent, Bausch and Lomb, is interested in selling eyeglasses.

Dr. CHAPMAN. He should be because I use a lot of his eyeglasses, too.

Mr. HORTON. That is why I am asking this question with regard to the reference of your purchase of eyeglasses. What difference does it make what the frames look like or anything like that? As long as you get the prescription this can be referred to someone else. Why should you be concerned about the sale of eyeglasses as long as they have the proper prescription and so long as the prescription is controlled by an ophthalmologist or an optometrist?

Dr. CHAPMAN. The concern of the sale of eyeglasses in this instance is the way they are being sold in the District of Columbia in the commercial establishments, and we have been through that.

Mr. HORTON. Then we come back to what I said before—if we have somebody who has the training and ability what difference does it make?

Dr. CHAPMAN. Because he doesn't utilize that training and ability as he should in these circumstances.

Mr. HORTON. He would under this bill where you raise the standard. That is the point I was trying to make.

Mr. GUDE. It would seem to me that you license pharmacists, you license people who grind glasses to be sure they are doing an accurate job on the prescription of the optometrist.

Mr. HORTON. That is the thrust of what I was getting at.

Mr. GUDE. It would seem to me the most important thing is to be sure that glasses that are ground are ground according to the prescription of the optometrist. You don't expect a physician to mix up the medicine he prescribes for a particular disease.

Dr. CHAPMAN. As I indicated it is purely a matter of the philosophy of the practice of optometry which maintains that that part of the service is important enough that he makes that determination. That is the way we started at the beginning. That is why we existed at the outset—to be able to take these devices and be certain they were