

What we have to do is define what optometry is as a whole, what its activity is as a whole, and then make the appropriate exceptions.

Mr. HORTON. The answer is whether or not they are exempt under the other provisions of the bill so that they can furnish frames—

Dr. HOFSTETTER. This is the intent.

Mr. HORTON. Is it there?

Dr. CHAPMAN. We believe it is.

Mr. WHITTENER. Over on page 5, at the top of the page—"An applicant for a reciprocity license may at the discretion of the Commissioners be licensed without a written examination but must be given and pass a practical and oral examination."

That would make it more stringent than the local law for lawyers, medical doctors, and any other profession, would it not?

Dr. CHAPMAN. More restrictive than those?

Mr. WHITTENER. I am a member of the District Bar by reciprocity. No such examination was required of me upon admission.

Dr. CHAPMAN. I am not familiar with the restrictions in the Columbia Bar.

This has been purely a matter of general understanding in the granting of reciprocity among optometrists throughout the United States. We think from a practical standpoint that this is protection for the public of the District of Columbia.

Mr. WHITTENER. Is it really protection of the District or protection of the optometrists?

Dr. CHAPMAN. I think it is protection of the public.

Mr. WHITTENER. At the bottom of that page, on line 21, you state that if he fails to actually practice optometry in the District for one year the Commissioners may revoke this license.

That is more restrictive than any other professional rule in the District. I have been a member of the Bar of the District for seven years but I have never practiced here. Once I am licensed I am licensed forever.

What is the purpose of that?

Dr. HOFSTETTER. I don't know what the purpose is. I am not familiar with it.

Dr. CHAPMAN. As I said earlier, the District of Columbia Board will testify before this Committee, and there are a number of questions which already have been raised on the subject pertaining to the District which they would be perhaps better able to answer than we would.

Mr. WHITTENER. Suppose a young man were permitted to practice here under the reciprocity provision and went into the military service for three years and served in Vietnam? He came back. He would be subject to having his license revoked while he was gone, would he not?

Dr. CHAPMAN. There is no intent in this Act—

Mr. WHITTENER. We are not talking about intent but what it says, what it states. That would be the practical application of the Act, would it not?

Dr. CHAPMAN. If you will give me a moment to read it over perhaps I can give you an answer.

Mr. WHITTENER. If an individual holding a reciprocity license granted under this section fails to actually practice optometry in the