vidual or group says, "We will give you a free eye examination, but if you need glasses, you must pay for them yourself"?

Dr. HOFSTETTER. In this arrangement, are you proposing that the optometrist can only get that amount which the agency pays, or that the agency merely pays up to that amount?

Mr. WHITENER. I am assuming, for the purpose of my question, that under the contract Mr. Fuqua has with the Whitener-Hofstetter Health Group, Inc., he has the right to have his eyes examined. Of course, there would be other provisions. He would be entitled to outpatient treatment and hospitalization and other things, but let us limit our discussion to optometry. What would be the difference if you and I go out here and organize a health expense indemnity group?

Dr. CHAPMAN. I would like to suggest at this point, Mr. Sisk and Mr. Whitener, I have others of our staff in the room. May I call upon them at this time to answer this question for Mr. Whitener?

Mr. WHITENER. If someone could.

Mr. SISK. If you want to ask someone to comment on that, go right ahead.

Mr. MACCRACKEN. I am ashamed to say I did not get the question.

Dr. CHAPMAN. It is pretty involved.

Mr. HAROLD KOHN (General Counsel, American Optometric Association). I did not quite hear the question accurately, but the purpose of that provision is in the event the Blue Shield wishes or Group Health Association or any similar organization, according to the present philosophy of comprehensive health care, wishes to give an optometric examination, the optometrist be not precluded from joining that comprehensive health care merely because the organization happened to be in corporate form.

Mr. WHITENER. He would be an employee.

Mr. KOHN. No, sir, he is not an employee. In Group Health, that is true. It depends. Being employed by a group health organization or a hospital, that is true, because it is figured and believed by optometry that an optometrist has a place in a hospital, and he has. He is in hospitals. He does have a place in all of these health care programs.

Mr. WHITENER. You are a good lawyer, Mr. Kohn.

Is not a health expense indemnity corporation a private insurance company?

Mr. KOHN. Not in my State, sir, no. A health indemnity group comes under the insurance law merely to give the superintendent of insurance or commissioner of insurance, as he might be called, the opportunity of preventing exorbitant annual charges. That is about the only reason for its being insurance. It is not considered as being an insurance corporation. It is entirely different. The insurance corporation furnishes money. If you have an accident and health policy, you get so much per day, and with that you can buy whatever you want.

Mr. WHITENER. I have a family indemnity policy with the Government of the United States, with Blue Cross or Red Cross or Aetna Life Insurance Company, and it is called health indemnity insurance.

Mr. KOHN. Health indemnity insurance.

Mr. WHITENER. That is right here in the District of Columbia, right through the office of the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives.