

Mr. KOHN. I do not recall that. Was section 14 deleted?

Mr. WHITENER. I am looking at the hearings, page 134. You will find there that it was deleted. That is one about which we had a great deal of discussion. You still think it should be retained, do you?

Dr. CHAPMAN. I will be glad to answer. We do think it should be retained, yes, sir.

Mr. WHITENER. In view of the Virginia evidence we had last time, I wonder if you think it should be retained.

Dr. CHAPMAN. The Virginia evidence?

Mr. WHITENER. That the school folks over in Fairfax County sent a note home with the child to his parents to see his family physician about his eyes.

Dr. CHAPMAN. This section is in there, not to create the problem for the patient to go and get care, but simply it is a matter that he be given freedom of choice to choose one or the other.

Mr. WHITENER. Were you here last time, Dr. Chapman?

Dr. CHAPMAN. Yes, I was here last time for most of it.

Mr. WHITENER. On page 189 of the 1966 hearings of Subcommittee No. 4, it is stated that in Virginia they sent a little note to the parents reading:

The results of the routine vision screening at school show that your child may need an eye examination. We suggest that you discuss this with your family physician and get his advice about an examination by an eye specialist.

The Virginia Optometric Association wrote to Earl C. Funderburk, head of the schools in Fairfax County, and said:

It is our sincere hope that the situation, if it does exist, will be remedied locally for we certainly do not wish to seek relief through the courts.

Would you object to the principal or the director of health and physical education sending a note to the parents saying, "We suggest you discuss this with your family physician and get his advice about examination by an eye specialist"?

Dr. CHAPMAN. Yes, sir, we do in that sense. We certainly do.

Mr. WHITENER. Why?

Dr. CHAPMAN. Particularly because the patient then is not given any freedom of choice in selection.

Mr. WHITENER. Why isn't he? Your schools are turning out eye specialists, are they not, Dr. Hofstetter?

Dr. HOFSTETTER. It depends upon what you mean by eye specialists. In the vernacular, "eye specialists" is often interpreted as eye surgeons or a physician engaged in the treatment and care of the eyes. We are in perhaps a more meaningful sense general practitioners in vision, just to bring out the distinction.

I think these advices on the part of school personnel, principals, nurses and others, specifically to send the child to a physician who in turn must almost in every instance refer him to an optometrist or an ophthalmologist, introduce one additional expense to the parent. I think it is not justifiable for a school official to do this unnecessary steering toward the general physician, because the general physician, as I pointed out earlier, has almost no specific training in the field of vision.

Mr. WHITENER. I guess I am an average parent. I hope I am at least