

Mr. WEINMANN. In the Governor's Message, he also pointed out that low cost eye care was adversely affected by that bill.

Mr. HARSHA. I thought I understood you to say, Mr. Weinmann, that 75 per cent of all the income of optometrists is acquired by selling eyeglasses?

Mr. WEINMANN. That is correct.

Mr. HARSHA. How do you arrive at that?

Mr. WEINMANN. I have seen that statistic and will be happy to furnish the evidence of it to this subcommittee.

Mr. HARSHA. Can you recall where you got this information?

Mr. WEINMANN. In a memorandum which I believe was submitted in a case which may now be pending in the *State of New York called People vs. Sterling*, I believe, and I would be happy to submit that memorandum to this subcommittee.

I think the basis for that figure is included in that memorandum.

Mr. HARSHA. Is this a case involving optometrists?

Mr. WEINMANN. No, it is a case involving corporations which practice optometry. In fact, the main corporation involved in this case, Sterling, also is located in the District of Columbia.

Mr. HARSHA. Does this involve the income of corporations involved in the practice of optometry or does it involve an individual involved in the practice of optometry?

Mr. WEINMANN. The case primarily concerns itself with advertising and the right of corporations to advertise. That is what the case is about. The corporation employs optometrists. In fact, those optometrists are represented by this union. Our union, Local 408, represents hundreds of optometrists.

Mr. HARSHA. I don't see how you can quote a figure of 75 per cent of all optometrists' income is gained by the sale of eyeglasses.

Mr. WEINMANN. That is a correct figure. You can get that also from Medicare and Medicaid, both.

Mr. HARSHA. If that figure is very far off, it isn't a very substantial statement.

That is all I have.

Mr. WEINMANN. As a matter of fact, I think some of the other witnesses who intend to testify against this bill will have much more data on it. Perhaps witnesses who are present in this room today. I see Sterling listed on the schedule of speakers, and I would assume that the speaker for Sterling will have some information on that.

Mr. SISK. The gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. GUDE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Weinmann, yesterday Dr. Chapman, speaking on behalf of the American Optometric Association, stated that in regard to House 1283, the purpose of the bill is simple; to elevate the practice of optometry in the District of Columbia to the level of professions recognized in the other states. Could you comment on that statement?

Mr. WEINMANN. Yes. The State of New York, for example, does describe optometry as a profession. There is no dispute about that fact. At the same time, in that statute there is reference to the corporate practice of optometry, almost in the same paragraph. So that it is clear that by using the term "profession" in the statute, it is not meant to classify it as a learned profession such as the law, for example. Ob-