

the UAW—that is the United Automobile Workers—the Building Service Employees International Union, the Laborers International Union. All of these international unions have, as American labor history has developed, have local unions in the optical field and all of these are in opposition to a bill which would—to this bill, because of the fact that it primarily has concerned itself with the elimination of the corporate practice of optometry. They are all in opposition.

Mr. SISK. Are you saying that all these internationals have taken a definite position by resolution against this bill?

Mr. WEINMANN. Well, this National Optical Workers Conference, as far as I know, has. I have been so advised.

Mr. SISK. Let me briefly read some excerpts from a statement of the United Optical Workers Union No. 878, in St. Louis, Missouri, affiliated IUE, AFL-CIO. I will just read some brief excerpts because I don't want to take a lot of time:

For a period of more than ten years King, Lee and Douglas Optical Companies along with a few more "Cut-Rate" price advertising Retail Optical Houses have been a plague to the Optical industry generally.

These companies are particularly harmful to the ethical Doctors of Optometry and the ethical Dispensing Opticians who are trying to provide good eye care and fair prices or fees for the public.

The King, Lee and Douglas Cut-Rate price advertisers are also harmful to the Independent Optical Wholesaler because of the laboratory work of these companies is sent out of town to be fabricated.

I understand they would be concerned about that.

The struggle against the "Cut-Rate" retail advertisers is not just the problem of Optical workers unions, but should be the concern of everyone in the optical industry. If the ethical Doctors and Dispensing Opticians do not believe this is true time will teach them it is true.

Unless there is an objection, I am going to ask that the full statement signed by Mr. Thomas E. Andert, President and Director of Local 878, be made a part of the record.

(The document referred to follows:)

AOA—H.R. 1283, ATTACHMENT #6

UNITED OPTICAL WORKERS UNION No. 878,
St. Louis 1, Missouri, June 30, 1964.

To Whom It May Concern:

For a period of more than ten years King, Lee and Douglas Optical Companies along with a few more "Cut-Rate" price advertising Retail Optical Houses have been a plague to the Optical industry generally.

These companies are particularly harmful to the ethical Doctors of Optometry and the ethical Dispensing Opticians who are trying to provide good eye care and fair prices or fees for the public.

The King, Lee and Douglas Cut-Rate price advertisers are also harmful to the Independent Optical Wholesaler because of the laboratory work of these companies is sent out of town to be fabricated.

The shop people who work in the Optical Laboratories are being harmed because these outfits take work out of the shops of the companies that employ them. This applies to non-union and union workers alike.

The Doctors of Optometry and Ethical Dispensing Opticians will get little help from the big national optical wholesalers. They do a big business with Daltex and others who supply these "Cut-Rate Retailers" with merchandise at lower prices than you pay. This helps to make it possible for these "Cut-Rate" outfits to beat the ethical Optometrists and Opticians into the ground.

This affects the Independent Wholesaler and his laboratory workers, they too are handicapped because they probably pay much higher prices than Daltex and others that supply these chiselers.