

tometric services, known as the Optometric Center of the National Capital, Inc. It is a not-for-profit corporation, providing vision services to the poor of the nation's capital. The Center's trustees, comprised of leading members of the community, include leaders from organized labor who contribute their valuable time in guidance and supervision and provide funds for purchase of ophthalmic materials required to care for patients of the Center.

Some of the larger donations have been made by the local Teamsters Union, a group which also has a prepaid vision program sponsored by our Society through another not-for-profit corporation known as Vision Care Services, Inc. Another large contributor is the District of Columbia Public Health Department, which contracts with the Center for vision services for its beneficiaries. A news story about the opening of the Optometric Center of Metropolitan Washington is shown on attachment 9.

When I. Philip Sipser, counsel for the United Optical Workers Union Local 408 of the International Union of Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO, testified on behalf of that group in favor of S. 260, the "Medical Restraint of Trade" bill, his testimony closed with this statement:

"* * * we see the Hart bill as a necessary measure limiting doctors, including ophthalmologists, to the practice of medicine, and as a measure dampening their ardor for lucrative earnings in commerce by medical shortcuts, use of untrained personnel, business sales and otherwise."

While Mr. Sipser did not mention the practice of optometry, we feel the same restraints should apply to its practice in the District of Columbia, and we hope the United Optical Workers Union will join us in support of the bills you are considering to accomplish these purposes.

We in optometry have policed our own insofar as the present law permits. Governmental intercession is now needed for the regulation of the practice of optometry if the residents of the District of Columbia are to receive the protection to which they are entitled. The Optometric Society of the District of Columbia urges you to pass this legislation.

Mr. SISK. Thank you, Dr. Berlin.

I might ask you, and I think I did to start with, your membership here in the District. How many members do you have in your Society?

Dr. BERLIN. The District Society has 48 members and associate members.

Mr. SISK. The gentleman from New York, Mr. Horton.

Mr. HORTON. No questions.

Mr. SISK. The gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Whitener.

Mr. WHITENER. How many licensed optometrists are there in the District?

Dr. BERLIN. I would say there are 57 or 60 that are practicing here in the District. Maybe Dr. Warren can help me out.

Mr. WHITENER. How many are alive and licensed and actual residents here in the District?

Dr. WARREN. I think he meant 67 practicing. We have about 180 who are licensed, but a great many of these have licenses in other States