

I then took intensive training in retinal detachments under Dr. Harrell Pierce, the Johns-Hopkins Hospital, for the next six months.

Following this I began practicing ophthalmology in Washington with Dr. E. Victor Simpson. During this same year I took the American Board of Ophthalmology examinations and became certified by the Board.

During the past year as President of the Section of Ophthalmology, I became much more aware that optometry was trying to equate itself with medicine by legislation. This should only be done by education, not by legislation. Ophthalmologists have a total of 12 years training after high school compared to six for optometrists. If Congress enacts an optometry law, the amendments submitted on behalf of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia should be adopted by Congress. We state our reasons therefor briefly:

Optometry is a mechanical art which requires skill and a knowledge of the use of certain mechanical instruments and appliances designed to measure and record the errors and deviation from the normal found in the human eye, but is not a profession and the courts in the District of Columbia have so held.

In the *Silver vs. Lansburgh Brothers* case, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia held "optometry is not a learned profession comparable to law, medicine and theology, notwithstanding standards of education that are prescribed by the statute and rules of the Board. It certainly has nothing in common with law or theology and until recently it never claimed to be a part of medicine."

In affirming so Fourth United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, in *Silver vs. Lansburgh and Brothers*, held that "Optometry is a mechanical art which requires skill and a knowledge of the use of certain appliances designed to record the errors and deviations from the normal in the human eye, but is not a learned profession comparable to law, medicine or theology. Optometry is not a part of medicine."

The provisions in the present bill would forbid doctors of medicine and their nurses and technicians acting under the doctors' direction from performing any of the procedures defined in the bill. Doctors have such rights and our District Court so held in *Silver* above. Physicians and surgeons may practice optometry without being licensed. Neither the medical profession nor the public questions the propriety and need for X-ray and laboratory technicians, dental assistants, nurses, physical therapists and many other vital ancillary medical assistants.

This section of the bill is discriminatory as it forbids the utilization of technical assistants by doctors of medicine in rendering care. It would disrupt vitally needed teaching and screening procedures now being utilized and properly so in this community in schools, universities, hospitals and voluntary health programs.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

This provision in the bill conflicts with the government's proposal to train additional paramedical personnel because of the critical shortage of trained medical personnel. We recommend amending Section 2