

I am referring here to those licensed and practicing optometrists, members of the Optometric Society in Washington, D.C., as against those referrals in so-called corporate practice.

Dr. ALPER. I do not think we have any official registry of such a thing.

Mr. SISK. Don't you feel that this information could be somewhat helpful to the committee?

Dr. ALPER. I think it would be a good idea. I think this would be a very good idea; yes, sir.

Mr. SISK. Do you have a record of any referrals, or do any of you know of any referrals from one of the corporate practice places?

Dr. ALPER. I do not think anyone has every kept such records in the Medical Society, to my knowledge.

Dr. ALBERT. Could I speak personally?

Mr. SISK. Yes.

Dr. ALBERT. I think half of the referrals I get from optometrists, fifty percent of them, are from those who work in the corporate practice and fifty percent in private practice. That is my personal——

Mr. SISK. Could you produce any figures? I said I think this would be rather interesting if we had a factual survey on these referrals. I am sure, Dr. Albert, you agree with me that we have some, if I can use the word, atrocious cases. In fact, as recently as the last few days, and I guess this is news to some of our corporate friends, we checked certain places in Washington which sold glasses to people who, very frankly, are not in need of glasses.

In other cases, there is a question as to whether or not they were properly fitted. Naturally, this creates concern in our minds as to the type and kind of care that people who come in off the street may receive.

It becomes rather important to me to determine the health and assistance of the Medical Society in this area helping us to clean up some of this situation. It is my understanding that you gentlemen recognize the profession of optometry as being a necessary part of this practice here in this country, is that right?

Dr. ALBERT. Yes, sir.

Mr. SISK. I have a number of questions, but first I will recognize my colleagues.

Mr. SISK. The gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. GUDE. Thank you, Mr. Sisk.

You made the suggested amendment which Mr. Sisk referred to that optometrists be required to keep a registry of their examinations and to report those which are not correctable with a certain degree of——

Dr. ALBERT. I think the essence of it was more than a requirement to refer for medical evaluation those patients whose visual acuity could not be improved beyond the 20/30 level.

Mr. GUDE. In other words, you do not suggest that a registry necessarily be kept so that negative tests would also be on such record? I am wondering, is it a proper requirement that a registered optometrist keep a register and perform certain routine tests where individuals go to have their eyes examined and unknowingly they feel that they are getting their eyes checked and that everything is in order if they