

a store and he shows—he has signs outside his establishment which plainly constitute advertising.

I don't believe the optometric society would claim that Dr. Berlin has been corrupted.

I should also refer to Governor Rockefeller's veto message of similar legislation in New York. Governor Rockefeller vetoed that legislation at the recommendation of the Department of Commerce of the State of New York, the Department of Insurance of the State of New York, the Mayor's Council of the City of New York, the AFL-CIO Central Trades Council and many others. In that message Governor Rockefeller said that legislation such as this would merely increase costs with no commensurate benefit to the public.

In conclusion, I should merely like to say that if the optometrists are sincere in their desire to uplift the profession, Dr. Warren provided the answer. Don't prohibit corporate employment, don't prohibit advertising, don't prohibit practice in a commercial location. Deal with the core of the problem. License optometrists and give the commission or the council or the board of optometry the right to revoke for certain stated meaningful reasons, such as unprofessional conduct—that is, gross incompetence.

Thank you.

Mr. SISK. Thank you, Mr. Stein, for your statement.

I must say I am sorry we don't have more members of the committee here, Mr. Stein, because actually your statement, as I interpret it, is the best argument we have had for the bill. I appreciate your remarks, and and I hope my colleagues will read the record. It seems to me the whole purpose of your statement is really indicative of the fact that we need desperately to upgrade optometry from the standpoint of the visual care of the people of our country. It does give me some real concern if the quality of a lot of our optometrists is as low and as poor as your statement would indicate.

Do I understand that you actually oppose the use of the word "Doctor" even with the O.D. after his name?

Mr. STEIN. May I respond to that and also to your first observation, Mr. Chairman?

First, with respect to your question, I object to an optometrist using the title "Doctor" unless he has a proper degree from a recognized institution qualifying him to use the title "Doctor."

Mr. SISK. If I can just stop you right there, this is exactly what we hope to begin. I might say in my own state of California, optometrists wear with a great deal of pride the title "Doctor" and we are proud to refer to them as such because of the requirements. The qualifications in the States of New Jersey, Florida, Kentucky and a number of our States are high requirements and the optometrists have professional status. Unfortunately this apparently isn't true here in the District. I will not make any comments with reference to New York where apparently the situation could stand a little correction.

Mr. STEIN. May I respond to this? In New York an optometrist may lawfully use the title "Doctor" if he has a degree, if he has a doctorate degree. And I submit that an optometrist in the District of Columbia should also be privileged to use the title "Doctor" if he has the degree. Page 15 of the bill 1283, however, would permit an optometrist to use the title "Doctor" even though he does not have a doctorate degree.