

Mr. SISK. Are you speaking of the licensing procedure under the grandfather clause?

Mr. STEIN. I hadn't gotten to that, but I submit, Congressman Sisk, that if we are going to have legislation here which threatens to put businesses out of business, notwithstanding their substantial investment, there certainly ought to be a grandfather clause and there ought to be a grandfather clause for employed optometrists who have vested employee rights which they will lose if they are denied the opportunity to continue in their present employment.

Mr. SISK. I believe we do have that. The bill clearly has from the standpoint of present practicing optometrists. I think that was pretty well covered under the grandfather clause.

Mr. STEIN. They are not permitted to continue in this employment. The employers are not permitted to continue employing them.

Mr. SISK. The witness may disagree with me but the intent of the bill is to eliminate corporate practice. I am sure the gentleman understands. I say without reservation because of the experiences we have had here in the District and in other areas where corporate practice has been permitted.

Do I understand, Mr. Stein, that you are discussing primarily optometry as you have experienced it in the corporate field?

Mr. STEIN. And by virtue of the expansion of privately practicing optometry in the seven-week trial in Albany and other investigations I have made. For that reason, when you speak of correcting evils, I point out that this bill does nothing to prevent a Dr. Berlin or others like him from charging \$23 for a \$7 pair of glasses.

Mr. SISK. If I walked into Sterling Optical today and indicated that I was having a problem with my vision and asked for an examination, do you mean to say that they are prepared to give me a proper examination and fit me with glasses for \$7?

Mr. STEIN. They will charge you \$3 for an examination.

Mr. SISK. How much time are they going to spend on an examination? I just recently had an examination out in California. I recall pretty vividly that examination.

Mr. STEIN. As much or as little time as that optometrist feels necessary in his professional judgment. Under no circumstances at no time have any of the Sterling-employed optometrists been told how much or how little time they must give to an examination. I refer to the profession, to the canons of ethics of the American Optometric Association which specifically states that no one can tell an optometrist what procedures he must use during an examination.

Mr. SISK. Mr. Stein, I don't want to argue with you. I can see you and I are probably far apart in our views.

Mr. STEIN. I regret that.

Mr. SISK. I am concerned about the public. I am not concerned about the optometrists. They can take care of themselves. I am concerned about the care my grandchildren are going to get when they have some eye problem in school. I am concerned about the kind of care they will receive. I am sure that the mothers and fathers of the District of Columbia are, too.

Does the gentleman believe a professional man qualified to render a service to the patient for the care of his eyes could adequately check