

There is a considerable amount of that in the State of New York and I suspect it is true down here. I might say when it serves the purposes of the privately practicing optometrist, they seem to countenance corporate employment.

Mr. SISK. Where the law is as lax as it is here, I can understand that.

Mr. STEIN. It is not that lax in New York and it still continues. As a matter of fact, we proved in that case that the New York State Optometric Society itself organized a corporation known as Vision Services, Inc. That corporation employed lay persons to solicit business for the corporation so that members of the Optometric Association could perform optometric services for a fee. That is as close to corporate employment as I can imagine.

I also discovered that the New York State Optometric Society had a contract with the Teamsters Union to provide optometric services. That is pretty close to employment. I also discovered that the Optometric Center in the City of New York, which is sponsored by the New York State Optometric Society and manned by prominent members of the New York State Optometric Society, performs optometric services and sells eyeglasses to the public. The optometrists who perform those services get paid a fee. That is pretty close to corporate employment. Yet the optometric societies countenance that kind of practice.

As I say, it depends on whose ox is gored.

Mr. SISK. Mr. Gude from Maryland just came in.

This is Mr. Stein representing Sterling Optical. Do you have any questions?

Mr. GUDE. Not at this time.

Mr. SISK. All right, Mr. Stein, thank you for your statement. The committee appreciates your testimony.

I believe we have gentlemen from the Board of Trade whom we have promised to hear this afternoon, Mr. Becker and Mr. Weir. If they will come forward to the witness stand, we will hear them now.

I might say to other witnesses, upon the conclusion of this testimony the committee will have to adjourn for tonight and unless otherwise notified the committee will reconvene at ten o'clock next Friday morning.

STATEMENT OF OSBY L. WEIR, GENERAL MANAGER, WASHINGTON AREA, SEARS, ROEBUCK AND COMPANY, AND SECRETARY OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON BOARD OF TRADE

Mr. WEIR. Mr. Chairman and members, I am Osby L. Weir, General Manager, Washington Area, Sears, Roebuck and Company. I appear here today as the Secretary of the Metropolitan Washington Board of Trade, to voice that organization's opposition to H.R. 595, H.R. 732, H.R. 1283 and H.R. 10075, also H.R. 12276 and H.R. 12297—all bills to amend the Optometry Law of the District of Columbia.

In the interests of time, if you prefer, I will summarize it very quickly. If you have any questions I will be glad to answer them.

Mr. SISK. Your entire statement will be made a part of the record. If you can, please summarize it.

(The statement follows:)