

Before concluding, I wish to call attention to the efforts which opticians and the District of Columbia Government are making toward the regulation of opticians.

Briefly, here is the story: The Corporation Counsel's Office has given an opinion that the Commissioners have the power to issue regulations for opticians. This opinion dated July 27, 1966 is submitted as Exhibit D. The Department of Occupations and Professions has drafted a proposed set of regulations for opticians and has forwarded them to the Commissioners as an attachment to a memorandum dated April 5, 1967. A copy of this memorandum and attachment is submitted as Exhibit E. Our groups have worked closely with the Department of Occupations and Professions in drawing up these regulations and together we have ironed out most of the major problems. Our revision of the proposed regulations was prepared by Robert W. Burton, Counsel for the Guild of Prescription Opticians of Washington, D.C., and is submitted as Exhibit F. In this exhibit there is the method I referred to earlier for establishing the qualifications of opticians who fit contact lenses and for regulating the fitting of contact lenses by opticians.

I am submitting these exhibits I have mentioned for the record.

Mr. SISK. They will be made a part of the record following the insertion of your prepared statement in full.

(The prepared statement, accompanied by Exhibits A through F, submitted by Mr. Miller reads in full as follows:)

STATEMENT OF J. A. MILLER ON BEHALF OF GUILD OF PRESCRIPTION OPTICIANS OF AMERICA AND GUILD OF PRESCRIPTION OPTICIANS OF WASHINGTON, D.C., AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION OF DISPENSING OPTICIANS

I appear in opposition to bill H.R. 12276 and other substantially similar bills relating to the practice of optometry in the District of Columbia.

My name is J. A. Miller. I speak as Executive Secretary of the Guild of Prescription Opticians of America, Inc. on behalf of our national association and our Washington, D.C. affiliate, the Guild of Prescription Opticians of Washington, D.C. The Guild of Prescription Opticians is a national non-profit membership corporation representing skilled and ethical dispensing opticians throughout the United States, including the District of Columbia.

With me today are Paul Pattysen, President of the Washington, D.C. Guild, and Mr. Alfred Teunis, Chairman of the Board of the Washington, D.C. Guild. Mr. Pattysen is also President of the District of Columbia Association of Dispensing Opticians. These opticians have asked me to speak for them, and for other opticians similarly situated.

These opticians are engaged solely in the dispensing of eyeglasses, and/or contact lenses and other optical materials. They and their employees do not refract eyes nor are they in any way associated with any refractionist, whether he be physicians, surgeon, osteopath or optometrist.

Also with me is Joseph Stoutenburgh of the firm of Dawson, Griffin, Pickens and Riddell, special counsel for our national association, and Robert W. Burton, counsel for our local organization.

Since it is my understanding that the transcript of the hearings last year on H.R. 12937 and similar bills will be made part of the proceedings of this hearing, I will direct my remarks primarily to the new provisions contained in H.R. 12276, which has been referred to as a cure-all. Gentlemen, it is *not*.

At this time, however, I wish to submit for the record a copy of my letter of March 31, 1966 which was hand-delivered to the Committee and to each member of the Committee but which was not printed in either edition of the transcript of the hearings on H.R. 12937. This letter, which was prepared in response to a request by the committee, contains our suggested amendments which are equally applicable to the bills under consideration as they were to the bills considered by the 89th Congress. Mr. Chairman, will this letter be made part of the transcript? (Exhibit A)