

Mr. JACOBS. Could you cite some examples of where other professions that serve the public are hired by profit-making corporations for the purpose of serving the public?

I mean, the members of a profession.

Dr. ROWE. I think, as a general rule, physicians are employed by corporations who represent—

Mr. JACOBS. No, no. You misunderstood my question.

Will you cite other examples where members of your profession are hired by profit-making corporations for the purpose of that professional serving the public in individual capacities, serving members of the public?

Dr. ROWE. I cannot think of any offhand, no, sir.

Mr. JACOBS. Frankly, this is what gives me a little bit of trouble. Whenever I am on thin ice with respect to my own experience and knowledge, I look around for analogies. As Senator Monroney used to say, in Oklahoma, if they wanted to know what a cowboy would do when he gets drunk, they found out what he did the last time he got drunk.

I am thinking that I would be somewhat surprised to find, for example, a doctor employed by a large, we will say, non-medical corporation for profit, merely sitting in an office and administering to the public, the individual members of the public, who come along.

The same thing would be true in the case of lawyers.

Public services such as are in the welfare department or in the Neighborhood Legal Services and that sort of thing are one thing, because there is no private profit implied which might create or tend to create a two-way stretch, or what is commonly known as a conflict of interest, namely (a) he who pays the piper primarily is interested in selling an article, and in this case glasses; and (b) he who plays the tune is primarily, because of his professional responsibility, interested in the individual client-doctor relationship.

Dr. ROWE. And an example might be an attorney employed to administer services to the trust customers of a bank.

Mr. JACOBS. Are you suggesting that any trust company pays an attorney who is personally advising an individual member of the public as to his rights as opposed to that of a corporation or lawyer?

Dr. ROWE. My understanding is that if I went to a bank for the purpose of establishing a trust and I asked for advice from the bank, that they would supply it to me.

Mr. JACOBS. That is a far cry from depending upon that attorney who works for the bank for individual advice to you when you are dealing with the bank—you would not want that, would you?

Dr. ROWE. Of course, what we are really discussing here is optometrists, professionals. I think your question is well put, but optometry is a new field relative to the established learned professions. It is going through a series of transitional steps, from the time when they began to develop, and this is not too long ago, I would say perhaps in 1920 or 1925, when they really began to exist. Since that time, it has increased in its ability and knowledge. I feel that for the full reason that I stated, in the total over-all way, that we are still involved in the business of selling a commodity and he does not quite meet the professional standards, and, therefore, still could be considered to be an occupation, or let us say a highly educated trade, and still have some