

the primary motive. If I buy stock in a corporation, I am going to expect that corporation to make a profit. That becomes the predominant thing.

This committee, as I have indicated before, is concerned about the care of the public. In the public health field, eyes are the most precious commodity that I think any of us have. Do you still maintain—and I know that the question was asked by my colleague from Indiana, Mr. Jacobs—that there is no conflict of interest involved in things that cause men to attempt to bribe examiners? As I say, we have had charges of solicitation of people to practice in the corporate firms. When you sum this all up, is it in the interest of the American public to permit this kind of a practice?

Dr. ROWE. We are engaged in the process of selling a service and a product that is necessary to the public. They must have these things, eye care and eyeglasses, to fill the requirements of their eye care. We feel that there is every right to sell the product, because it is a product that has more implication than just the eye care. It affects the appearance; not just the condition of the eye. It takes care of visual problems and it still has other effects. So, it is a necessary item, and it is sold as a general practice throughout the United States, whether it by us or by opticians or by optometrists. All of these disciplines sell eyeglasses.

Mr. SISK. The gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. JACOBS. If you will yield, Mr. Chairman.

I have some questions about my own state of Indiana, Dr. Rowe, with reference to your organization. Do you, in fact, have a subsidiary in my state of Indiana?

Dr. ROWE. Yes, sir.

Mr. JACOBS. Colston?

Dr. ROWE. Yes.

Mr. JACOBS. Is it a subsidiary of your organization?

If I have got it straight, it is contrary to the state law for a corporation to hire an optometrist?

Dr. ROWE. Yes, sir.

Mr. JACOBS. However, I suppose that a corporation under the law of my state can hire an optician?

Dr. ROWE. Yes, sir.

Mr. JACOBS. Is that correct?

Dr. ROWE. Yes.

Mr. JACOBS. Does your subsidiary in Indiana in any case arrange leases for optometrists in the premises of a business corporation?

Dr. ROWE. Yes, sir.

Mr. JACOBS. I naturally wonder about that, because I recall from the letter that I read into the record that there was some talk about a lease one moment, and then a guarantee of an income to the lessee in the next, and I just wondered whether any of the leases that your organization in Indiana arranged had similar terms whereby the lessee through some kind of an arrangement is guaranteed some kind of an income as a result of the lease?

Dr. ROWE. In Indiana, we lease space and accept this lease and put in the equipment for the optometrist for his use. He pays rent on that. He collects his fees for the examination and gives the patient the prescription.

Mr. JACOBS. Excuse me. He collects his fees from the patient?