

This goes to the question of who controls the optometrists. This is the type of corporate or lay practice of optometry that this bill is designed to get at.

And I say, again, it goes to the very discerning observation of the Congressman from Indiana in his statement that he who pays the fiddler calls the tune.

And the depositions in that case can be made available—the sworn testimony.

Mr. SISK. A copy of that will be placed in the Subcommittee's files for examination purposes, but not for inclusion in the record.

Mr. SCHOENBECK. Thank you. May I make one or two other observations with regard to some of the charges that have been leveled against this bill?

Something has been said to the effect that this bill would create a monopoly or would create guidelines. That just is not accurate. This bill will not prevent anyone from selling prescription eyeglasses, dispensing opticians may continue to operate—dispensing opticians may continue to sell eyeglasses. They are specifically exempted by section 9, subparagraph C and also subparagraph E(6). They are not only wearing a belt but are wearing suspenders there.

There are two specific provisions at pages 13 and 15 which make it clear that the optician will be able to continue to sell prescription eyeglasses; that is, the dispensing optician.

Then, there has been some observation—and in this connection, may I say that I was interested in the concern of Congressman Horton on Monday morning, when he was speaking of an optical company.

Now, for the sake of the record, may I say that most of the optometrists throughout the United States—perhaps, not most, but I will say a great, perhaps almost, majority of them obtain their frames and their lens from Bausch and Lomb. They supply a great number of them. And there is nothing in this bill that in any way is going to work to the detriment of Bausch and Lomb Optical Company.

Optometrists, historically, have furnished to the patient a visual care. The patient goes to the optometrist for his examination. In the event it is determined that the patient needs glasses, the optometrist furnishes those glasses. Where does he get them? He gets them from Bausch and Lomb, from American Optical Company, and from others, from the large optical supply houses, and then the optometrist furnishes those to the patient after checking them, as a part of his professional service. And so this ought to be very clear in this connection.

The optometrist will permit the patient to pay the supply house direct, as is done in some prepaid business programs or as a convenience to the patient, to pay the optometrist, or the patient may, if he so desires, take the prescription to an optician, physician, or an optical store.

And so the ethical optometrist is charging for his time, for his knowledge, his skill. He is no more an agent in the selling of eyeglasses than a dentist who is engaged in doing dental work selling a pair of dentures. He furnishes the eyeglasses as a part of his unified service to the patient, just as the dentist supplies the denture as a part of his professional services to the patient.

There has been some concern expressed that the optometrist was trying to get over into the field of the practice of medicine. Here, again, I would say that the bill itself destroys any thought of that