

Mr. SISK. Who composes the body of the organization?

Who are some of its members?

Mr. GOODMAN. There are many different groups. There are public health workers, doctors, nurses.

Mr. SISK. Generally, medical doctors, medical people?

Mr. GOODMAN. Medical-oriented people, associated with health matters.

Mr. SISK. You make the statement which apparently indicates that you were in support of the Hart bill S. 260. Is that correct?

Mr. GOODMAN. No, we did not testify in connection with that. We were struck by the contrast between the testimony as given in February of this year on that bill and—

Mr. SISK. Were you opposed to the Hart bill?

Mr. GOODMAN. No. We did not participate.

Mr. SISK. In other words, neither you nor your organization had a position on that bill?

Mr. GOODMAN. We did not take a position on the Hart bill.

Mr. SISK. I remember very well introducing the president of my own home-town county medical society to testify in opposition to the provisions of the Hart bill. He happened to be an ophthalmologist. I was just a little bit curious as to whether you or your organization had taken a position on the Hart bill.

Mr. GOODMAN. No, sir, we do not or we did not.

Mr. SISK. Thank you, Mr. Goodman, for your appearance here this morning.

Mr. GOODMAN. Thank you.

Mr. SISK. Without objection, the statement of Mr. Charles M. Babb, representing the Texas Optometric Association, will be made a part of the record at this point.

(The statement referred to follows:)

STATEMENT OF CHARLES M. BABB, ATTORNEY AT LAW, 1005 CAPITAL NATIONAL BANK BUILDING, AUSTIN, TEXAS, FOR THE TEXAS OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, the officers and directors of the Texas Optometric Association have asked me to express their gratitude to this Subcommittee for this opportunity to be heard in support of H.R. 1283.

Texas optometrists are concerned that Washington, D.C. is practically the only place left in the Nation where their profession is permitted to be practiced on the lowest levels of ethics and professional standards. For more than a quarter of a century the Legislatures and Supreme Courts of practically every State in the Union have repeatedly recognized optometry as one of the important health professions and upheld its regulation on the very highest ethical standards in keeping with those of other learned professions. See attached excerpts from State Supreme Court opinions. While Congress in other legislation has repeatedly recognized the vital impact of the practice of optometry upon the public health, here in the District it continues to permit the profession to be exploited and commercialized by the optical products industry which measures its profits by the volume and content of optical prescriptions. As Americans, the members of the Texas Optometric Association protest the continuation of this National eyesore and respectfully implore this Subcommittee and the Congress to let their profession in this District reflect the ethical and professional standards long and firmly established in practically every State in the Union. Unless the Congress acts now, the eyes of the world on this City will continue to see a distorted image of the real concern for human vision found in the rest of the country.

The enactment of H.R. 1283 during the administration of President Johnson will be of special significance to the optometrists of Texas, for it was through the leadership and advocacy of his Father, the Honorable Sam Elay Johnson, as a member of the House of Representatives of the 37th Texas Legislature in 1921,