

Mr. SISK. We will also make a part of the record, without objection, a letter and statement of the Washington, D.C. Publishers Association; a statement of the National Newspaper Association; a resolution of the Federation of Citizens Associations of the District of Columbia; and a letter dated March 9, 1967 from Mr. Ralph Barstow, of Covina, California.

(The documents referred to follow:)

WASHINGTON (D.C.) PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION,
Washington, D.C., June 2, 1967.

Hon. B. F. SISK,
Chairman, Subcommittee 5,
District of Columbia Committee,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SISK: We understand that Subcommittee No. 5 of the House District Committee is presently considering H.R. 595, H.R. 732 and H.R. 1283 which are similar bills to regulate the practice of optometry in the District of Columbia.

The Washington Publishers Association, composed of The Evening Star, The Washington Daily News and The Washington Post, strongly opposes enactment of these bills which appear to go beyond the limits of appropriate regulation and unduly restrict the services traditionally provided by opticians, optical companies and others.

In particular, we oppose the prohibitions in these bills upon advertisements by optometrists and references to prices of optical products in advertisements by opticians and others. Restrictions of this nature serve no legitimate purpose other than the elimination of competition contrary to the public interest.

The present bills are substantially similar to H.R. 12937 and related bills which were before Subcommittee No. 4 last year. At that time, this Association submitted a statement which fully set forth its reasons for opposing legislation of this nature. For your convenience, we attach a copy of that Statement. We request that this letter and the attached statement be placed in the record concerning the above bills.

We respectfully urge that the Committee not act favorably with respect to these bills.

Sincerely,

HENRY C. GRONKIEWICZ,
Executive Director.

STATEMENT OF WASHINGTON PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

The Washington Publishers Association herewith respectfully submits its views in connection with the consideration of H.R. 12937 and related bills before the Subcommittee No. 4 of the House District Committee. It is requested that this statement be incorporated in and made a part of the written record with respect to the proposed legislation.

The Washington Publishers Association is an organization composed of Washington's three daily newspapers, The Evening Star, The Washington Daily News, and The Washington Post.

The newspapers of this community are vitally interested in the maintenance of high standards in connection with the rendering of eye care services to the public. We firmly believe that the public should be adequately protected against anyone providing eye care services who is not qualified to do so.

To the extent that there are abuses in the practice of optometry or in connection with the sale of optical products in the District of Columbia, which are not adequately protected against under existing law, we believe that the law should be strengthened and vigorously enforced.

H.R. 12937, however, appears to go beyond the limits of appropriate regulation of the practice of optometry in the public interest. It would, for example, unduly restrict the services traditionally provided by opticians, optical companies and others without regard to the nature and quality of the services performed or the qualifications and competence of the persons who perform such services.

We particularly oppose the provisions of H.R. 12937 prohibiting all advertisements by optometrists and any reference to prices of optical products in adver-