

It is our hope that this Congress will realize the vast need for more medical knowledge to enable us to prevent or more successfully treat the various diseases causing loss of sight.

It must not fail the people of the United States in protecting them against the most disabling of all physical handicaps, blindness.

Let us have a National Eye Institute where doctors of medicine can bring together scientists of many disciplines to aid them in discovering the scientific truths that will prevent an ever increasing number of our people from living in perpetual darkness.

Mr. Chairman, this is all I have to say.

Do you have questions you would like to ask?

Mr. SATTERFIELD. Thank you, Dr. Ryan. I have one or two brief questions.

I understand from your statement then that you feel it would be impossible to achieve the objectives you think should be achieved within the present framework of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness?

Dr. RYAN. When one uses the word "impossible"—

Mr. SATTERFIELD. Improbable.

Dr. RYAN. Improbable or unlikely would be better. I think it is extremely unlikely that it will be achieved. The present setup is illogical.

Mr. SATTERFIELD. Is it possible there could be a reorganization that would produce what you desire?

Dr. RYAN. I think the only thing that will give eye the status it needs and appeal to the public and the country will be an independent eye institute to serve as a symbol not a portion of another institute.

Mr. SATTERFIELD. I don't want to put you on the spot but based on your experience and expertise, do you have some idea as to the amount of money you feel should be budgeted for research in the area of the eye?

Dr. RYAN. I could only give a vague estimate. I would say that we need about four times what we have now and that would probably run about \$40 million a year.

Mr. SATTERFIELD. For eye alone?

Dr. RYAN. For the eye alone.

Mr. SATTERFIELD. Dr. Carter?

Mr. CARTER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

There have been many new developments concerning the eye, particularly concerning eye surgery. Can you tell us about some of this research?

Dr. RYAN. I think all phases of eye surgery needs research. We are doing research in removal of cataract lenses and retinal detachments.

There have been many developments in that. We need research in practically every field of surgery. There may be new things entering the field of surgery such as refractive error. We know the largest number of retinal detachments occur in myopic people.

It has been noticed when you treat the high myopia with retinal detachment surgically in one of the common operations where we treat this by removing a strip of sclera it reduces the amount of myopia.

In the country of Japan this has been very successful. There have been cases of removal of sclera around the eye merely for cutting down the degree of myopia.