

set up for eye research because it is camouflaged under this name of "blindness."

Mr. KYROS. Do you know what the median annual salary is of ophthalmologists in the United States?

Dr. RYAN. When you say "salary," do you mean those working in governmental positions?

Mr. KYROS. No; private ophthalmologists.

Dr. RYAN. I am unable to state that.

Mr. KYROS. Does a figure of \$37,000 sound about right?

It is a statement that was made in some of the testimony yesterday.

Dr. RYAN. I don't make that much; I doubt that it is that high.

Mr. KYROS. To get people to work at the National Institute at the salary level would perhaps be a sacrifice to some of these people.

Dr. RYAN. I don't know why it would be any more difficult than getting heads for other Institutes.

I don't know how much money could be offered the head of an Institute, but regardless, I think having a separate institute will enable Congress, or will justify to Congress the appropriation of more funds, and will make it more likely that such a person could be secured to direct the Institute.

Mr. KYROS. According to the Surgeon General, the maximum allowable salary at the Institute would be about \$25,800. If the median is indeed around \$37,000, it would be a sacrifice to a lot of people and would deter them.

Dr. RYAN. I feel people would more likely make the sacrifice to be the head of an independent Eye Institute than to be head of a portion of an institute that is named "blindness."

Mr. KYROS. Do I understand it then, sir, in reviewing this proposed bill, H.R. 12843, that you are in complete support of every bill and you are not proposing any amendment to it as it exists?

Dr. RYAN. I am not proposing any amendments.

Mr. KYROS. You see, the function the Surgeon General plays throughout the bill. It seems to me he has pretty much control of the entire program.

Dr. RYAN. I think this is true of all the Institutes. This is probably a type of organizational structure that all of them have and I assume there would be little possibility of setting this up in a different way from the other Institutes of Health.

Mr. KYROS. Do you believe that optometrists should serve on the advisory council established under this bill?

Dr. RYAN. I would rather leave the administrative aspects of it alone to be worked out later after such an Eye Institute was established.

Mr. KYROS. I appreciate that, but do you have a judgment yourself? You have relationships with optometrists in your own experience as an ophthalmologist. What is your own opinion as to whether they should be included in the advisory council?

Dr. RYAN. These are a group of people who have training in certain aspects of eye care. I would be inclined to think that if we include them we probably would feel like including the biophysicists, the biochemists, various other people of Ph. D. status.

I know some of the optometrists have Ph. D. status in such fields as physical optics and such a person might be useful, particularly in an advisory capacity.