

Mr. JARMAN. Dr. Maumenee, we do appreciate your being with us and if you would introduce the other members of your panel, the committee will hear all of you with great interest.

STATEMENT OF DR. A. EDWARD MAUMENEE, DIRECTOR, WILMER EYE INSTITUTE, JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL, BALTIMORE, MD.

Dr. MAUMENEE. I think you have the introduction of these men in some detail so I will take the time to introduce them by name only at this time.

On my right are Doctors Stein, Straatsma, Cogan, and Kaufman.

On my left are Doctors Duane, Hogan and Newell.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, it is a great privilege to be allowed to testify before your subcommittee on health.

I am Dr. A. Edward Maumenee, professor of ophthalmology of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and director of the Wilmer Eye Institute of the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

I am immediate past president of the section of ophthalmology of the American Medical Association; past chairman of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology; and first vice president of the International Society for the Prevention of Blindness; and chairman of the American Board of Ophthalmology.

I am a member of the Council of the Pan American Association of Ophthalmology; a member of the Council of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology; and a trustee of the Association for Research in Ophthalmology.

I am a special consultant at the Walter Reed Army Hospital, the U.S. Naval Hospital in Bethesda, and the Clinical Center of the National Institutes of Health.

One of the most vital considerations in the establishment of a separate National Eye Institute is the need for a Director of the Institute whose whole orientation is directed to the problems of visual disorders.

Indeed, one of the great needs of the eye program in the present Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness has been to have an associate director or a deputy director whose training and thinking are focused on eye care.

But in spite of the exhaustive efforts of Dr. Richard Masland, the neurologist who is the Director of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, it has not been possible to find a suitable eye specialist to head the research and training programs in ophthalmology.

This was made clear in the hearings of the Labor/HEW Subcommittee on Appropriations in 1966.

In the course of those hearings, there was an interesting colloquy between the late Congressman John E. Fogarty and Dr. Masland, who were engaged in a discussion on the establishment of a National Eye Institute. The dialogue was thus:

Mr. FOGARTY. What do you think about establishing an eye institute on blindness?

Dr. MASLAND. The Department has taken the position that the question of blindness research can be dealt with within the Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness.

Mr. FOGARTY. I am not asking the Department. I am asking you.

Dr. MASLAND. From the personal point of view, we in the Institute have put a great deal of effort into the development of a research program for blindness.