

We do believe that it is solely by means of a National Eye Institute that it will be possible to meet the problems of blinding eye disease now with us and to be encountered in the future.

Thank you.

Mr. JARMAN. Thank you very much, Dr. Newell, for your presentation.

Dr. Maumenee, will you introduce your next panel member?

Dr. MAUMENEE. Dr. Kaufman.

STATEMENT OF DR. HERBERT E. KAUFMAN, PROFESSOR AND CHAIRMAN, DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, GAINESVILLE, FLA.

Dr. KAUFMAN. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee: I am Dr. Herbert Kaufman, professor and chairman of the department of ophthalmology at the University of Florida College of Medicine.

I was trained in part in the intramural branch of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, and continued my training under sponsorship from the Institute.

My life in academic medicine is, therefore, a direct function of support by the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness.

For many years my department and I have worked closely with NINDB, and we have been fortunate in making significant contributions to the understanding of some blinding diseases.

This considerable experience with NINDB, and my appreciation for the enormous good that has already been accomplished under the present direction of the Institute makes me realize, however, that much remains to be done and many needs remain unfulfilled.

I believe that these unfulfilled goals can be reached if there is a separate eye institute. It is for this reason that I am here to urge you to establish a new and separate eye institute in the National Institutes of Health.

You have heard about the tremendous amount of blindness occurring in this country and the enormous economic cost both in terms of support for these disabled people and in terms of the loss to the country of their potential earnings. Even a tiny advance in the war against blindness would more than offset a considerable outlay, but this advance must depend upon people.

Laboratories, equipment, and facilities are all important but only in that they facilitate the recruitment and productivity of the essential personnel.

It is the problem of personnel which I would like to discuss with you this afternoon. In research, I believe that anyone will admit that there is a marked shortage of trained personnel in the laboratory searching cures against blindness.

In addition, there is a shortage of practicing ophthalmologists, but despite the shortage, virtually all of the available training places are filled.

The lack of adequate specialists is due to a shortage of teachers and training programs. How, then, can we increase the number of teachers and the number of researchers?

Eye research is a new, young, underdeveloped field; and research projects, in spite of their merit, must come in large part from the