

diabetic retinopathy, in an effort to detect unmet needs and recommend programs to seek solutions. In training, the overall requirements of the American people could be regularly compared to on-going training activities, the training of an adequate number of ophthalmologists and others in the vision sciences could be encouraged, and new methods of computer-oriented and machine-monitored programmed instruction could be developed.

The latter are particularly applicable to instruction in optics and other fields of precise biophysical science. Other expert committees could appraise patient care for the purpose of stimulating clinical investigation and assuring that basic science advances are promptly applied to the care of patients with eye disease.

In toto, a National Eye Institute would provide the administrative structure and the assembly of knowledgeable scientists ideally suited to plan and implement a comprehensive program of research in the sciences related to vision, the care of patients with eye disease and education in the broad field of ophthalmology.

Moreover, this Institute would give appropriate emphasis to an area of importance to more than half of the people in the United States and of vital concern to the millions of infants, children, and adults afflicted with serious ocular disorders. I urge this committee to report this legislation for creation of a National Eye Institute to the full House of Representatives with a recommendation for its early enactment.

Thank you very much.

Mr. JARMAN. Thank you, Dr. Straatsma.

Dr. Maumenee, will you introduce our next witness?

Dr. MAUMENEE. Mr. Jules Stein.

STATEMENT OF JULES C. STEIN, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, RESEARCH TO PREVENT BLINDNESS, INC.

Mr. STEIN. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee: My name is Jules Stein, and I am chairman of the board of Research to Prevent Blindness, Inc., a national voluntary foundation which has been created to take realistic action toward the solution of this terrible problem of visual loss.

As a former board-certified, practicing ophthalmologist, I am familiar with the tragic results of blinding diseases. And I am appalled that our Nation has done comparatively little to halt the increasing incidence of blindness among our people.

The lack of a far-reaching, concerted attack on the causes of blinding diseases amounts to a national disgrace. While research in other health areas is progressing by leaps and bounds with full Government interest and support, there has been no similar encouragement of those engaged in eye research.

On the one hand we see our magnificent Institutes of Health leading the research attack against a host of killing and disabling diseases, exploring new ideas, training new scientists, and physicians, providing broad financial support for investigations in every aspect of medical science at our institutions of learning. Lives are being saved. The sick are being cured. We are learning more than man has ever known about disease and how to prevent it. New concepts, new techniques are evolving.