

factor is, what additional personnel, if any, would be involved, what in dollars and cents would follow from the creation of a separate institute. Any information that you could give us on that would have a serious bearing on the ability that we might have to present successfully a bill of this sort to the House and Senate.

Mr. Satterfield?

Mr. SATTERFIELD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I have no questions, but I would just like to second what you have said and to express my own appreciation to you gentlemen for the time and effort you have taken to come to us today and give us your views.

I appreciate it very much.

Mr. JARMAN. Mr. Nelsen?

Mr. NELSEN. I have no questions, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. JARMAN. Mr. Kyros?

Mr. KYROS. I appreciate hearing from so many experts in this field. I think it is a wonderful thing that all of you took your time to come here today.

If I understand it, presently what exists under the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness is unsatisfactory for eye research.

Is that correct?

Mr. STEIN. That is correct.

Mr. KYROS. This program has existed for 15 years.

Mr. STEIN. That is correct.

Mr. KYROS. So far as we are concerned, even though the Government was spending \$20 million, very little has actually been accomplished for blindness research and rehabilitation.

Mr. STEIN. If you will check the progressive increase in the last 5 years, you will see how little was applied even 5 years ago.

I think it was less than half a million dollars. The amount of money is not what we are talking about. We are talking specifically about administration.

Mr. KYROS. With \$20 million in the NIH, someone said in their statement, they have done relatively little for blindness.

Mr. STEIN. No; I don't think we should say that. There have been more advances in the field of ophthalmology in the last 35 years than in the past 2,000 years.

There has been some very good work done in the past few years.

Mr. KYROS. I quote from your own statement:

I am appalled that our Nation has done comparatively little to halt the increasing incidence of blindness among our people.

I think we spent \$20 million through the NIH. So, now why try to get another Federal Eye Institute?

Why don't you try to do it through a public corporation and keep the Government out of it?

Mr. STEIN. I think private institutions are active in this field. The one of which I have been fortunate to be chairman of the board has been instrumental in stimulating ophthalmic interest throughout the country. This has happened in the last 6 or 7 years.

Mr. KYROS. This is my point and I wish you would direct your attention to it. If our Surgeon General and the people who worked at NIH for the past 15 years have failed to realize this difference, why should we leave this program in the hands of the Federal Government?