

April 9, 1984

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fictitious cases but I didn't know for sure because that was secondhand information. So I called down to the Optometry Board in North Carolina and they referred me to their attorney. Now I passed that out to everyone. If you would open it up to the second page, it says: "First of all, I think those to whom this information has been circulated should know that the North Carolina Society of Ophthalmology have never yet reported a case of mismanagement to the Board of Examiners in Optometry. This is true even though the Secretary of the Board of Optometry has requested of the North Carolina Medical Society and North Carolina Board of Medical Examiners, a licensing and regulatory authority of the ophthalmologists in the state, to furnish the Board any information that it or anyone else might have concerning mismanagement of optometric cases. Never on any occasion has the Board done so. On one occasion in 1981, Dr. Gregory Cobb, an ophthalmologist practicing in Jacksonville, North Carolina, in a letter directed to State Senator Billy Mills made accusations against the State Board of Examiners in Optometry and Optometrists similar to those that have been circulated in Nebraska. When called upon to supply the State Board of Examiners in Optometry with information and specifics, he failed to do so and instead gave the Board a written apology to the entire Board of Examiners in Optometry. He stated in his letter dated August 19, 1981 that the letter was formulated and sent at the request of the North Carolina Society of Ophthalmology." Now if you go to the last page of this, and this is what I had heard before but I wanted it in writing. "At the request of the Board, this office has prepared a legal memorandum for the Board of Optometry on the question of the Ophthalmology Society's liability for trade liable or disparagement. It is our opinion that the activities of the Society of Ophthalmology have passed all reasonable bounds of propriety and I have recommended to the Board of Optometry that they proceed with legal action and the Board has instructed this office to do so." I think that pretty well refutes what has happened there and it is signed by the attorney from Morgan, Bryan, Jones and Johnson, Attorneys. And certainly I would hope that we would reconsider this bill. Thank you.

SENATOR KAHLE PRESIDING

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