

April 9, 1984

LB 561

they have gained a lot more knowledge. In spite of the fact that medicine refuses to work with optometrists, these very optometrists will refer cases to ophthalmologists when they encounter cases that exceed their limitations. They know their limitations and they certainly do not want to exceed them. Let us pass this bill and send a message to medicine that cooperation is the key, that the public benefits when they should work with other professionals and not against them. Please support the reconsideration and the passage. Thank you.

SENATOR KAHLE: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I thought it would be advantageous to have at least two people speak against this bill. I guess Senator Chambers spoke against the motion to reconsider and so too would I like to speak against the motion to reconsider. I feel as strongly today about this bill over the weekend as I felt last Thursday when the body did the right thing and failed to advance the bill. Let me talk about some of the arguments that have been made on behalf of reconsidering this bill. The first argument, one made by Senator Morehead, is that the optometrists take an awful lot of courses that will qualify them to dispense topical drugs to treat eye inflammation, etcetera. Because they do the courses, surely they ought to be able to then use the knowledge that they have learned and dispense the drugs. Now when I was in law school, one of the courses that we took was Forensic Pathology which required the students to go down to the morgue in Boston to observe an autopsy and usually several students fainted during the course of the autopsy but the purpose of the course, the purpose of the course was simply to increase understanding of the kind of techniques that the pathologist uses to determine the cause of death. The purpose of the course was not done to make the young law student able to serve as a pathologist. It was simply to increase understanding of the kind of areas that the young law student as a lawyer might ultimately be involved with. Well, the same holds true for any kinds of courses that are offered at any school. Some courses have a direct practical effect and some courses are simply offered to increase one's