

February 5, 1979

LB 9

it and provide prescriptions for glasses to help improve the vision of the individual but all the information I have, and I have a considerable amount of it, is that these individuals by the same token even though they have clinical experience, it is very limited, and for us suddenly to open to them a wide variety and a broad definition of drugs I believe would not be to the best interest of people. So, therefore, I am asking this body to seriously consider the indefinite postponement of LB 9.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Clark, then Senator Burrows, then Senator Simon. Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. President, as you might suspect, I am really going to oppose this. In the first place, Senator Koch has just stated that optometrists he feels are trained to look at the eye, dilate it and make what they have to do. I would like to say that that is wrong. They are not allowed to dilate the eye. In the first place, you wanted me to explain the bill and really I don't know what explanation it would take because I think the bill has been explained in its entirety. If he would like to follow the bill and wonder why I put the bill in, I would like to state this that they brought this bill to me two years ago. They wanted me to look at the bill, and because I was a pharmacist, had a license to practice pharmacy, they decided that if I would oppose the bill, it perhaps didn't have a chance and I might state right now my first reaction to the bill without even looking at it was I would oppose it. When I read the bill and I found out that optometrists were not having any grandfater clause in here because that is usually what happens when anyone puts a bill in, they try to protect their own profession and make it harder for other people to get into and still let themselves go home free. There is nothing like that in this bill. In the first place, it tells you exactly what they are going to use these drugs for, diagnostic purposes only. Now it said right in the bill and it also states in the bill they cannot take it until they have a course in pharmacology. I would like to show you what the course looks like. This is the course that they had to take. Now if anyone thinks they can go to the smoker some afternoon and go through that course, they have another think coming. That is the first thing I wanted to know that they were trained to do what they were going to be able to do if the bill would pass. That is exactly what it allows them to do. This is not a wholesale use of drugs, as he has stated. They are not prescribing drugs, as many physicians have written me that optometrists are not allowed to prescribe drugs because