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LB 9

SENATOR CLARK: That is all it does.

SENATOR SCHMIT: The bill does authorize the optometrist to use drugs.

SENATOR CLARK: No, only after they have been certified. The bill itself does not authorize it.

SENATOR SCHMIT: That is right but the point is that without this bill they are not going to use drugs.

SENATOR CLARK: Very true.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Very well then, so the bill is necessary for the optometrist to use the drugs and the bill says that, if I read it correctly, that upon recommendation of the Board of Examiners in Optometry, certified by the Department of Health, et cetera, et cetera, that they shall take a course and that they shall pass an examination, that is right?

SENATOR CLARK: That is right.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Now I don't think anyone in this body, well, I shouldn't say anyone, I think that all of us are concerned principally with protecting the public health. Once we are assured that the public health is protected, then I think much of the opposition to the bill will disappear but I believe that without being assured that the Department of Health has the authority to draft an examination that will protect the public health, I think that without that assurance, some of us are going to be concerned about voting for the bill, and if you have no objection to the Board of Health drawing an examination, then I would like to know that?

SENATOR CLARK: I would like to state this, Senator Schmit.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Excuse me, Senator Schmit has one minute.

SENATOR CLARK: All right. I would like to state this. Twenty-two states have this. You can also do it by reciprocity. That requires no examination at all from someone else, the first place. What the Department does is up to the Department, not up to me. I don't set anything in the Board of Medicine, Medical Examiners, they do all that, not me.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Okay, Senator, just a moment. I want to