

had I gone to one prior to the discussion of this bill and he or she were administering drops, my conclusion would be that that person was adequately trained to deal with every aspect of the administration which means that should acute glaucoma, Senator Clark, occur, they would be able to treat it. Based on some of the material that was in an article in Sunday's World Herald and it was handed out also, acute glaucoma is different from chronic glaucoma which is what most of the public is familiar with and the drugs that dilate the pupil, from what this article says, if a problem is caused would be counteracted by the miotic drug which constricts the pupil, but based on what the medical doctors say, that is not the treatment, that will only compound the difficulty. The situation is that fluids are coming into the eye which have to be drained rather quickly to relieve the pressure. If a miotic is inserted and it constricts the pupil, it only adds to the amount of problem related to the drainage of the fluids from the eye. The doctor went on to mention that they administer tablets which stop the flow of these fluids into the eye. Then there are intravenous solutions which can be administered to help deal with the existing problem and after this amount of treatment the miotics are administered. I don't know what kind of argument is going on, Senator Cope and others, between smaller Nebraska and greater Nebraska but what I am concerned about is the welfare of people who would go to somebody to have treatment done on their eyes. Discussion has occurred relative to the location of ophthalmologists in the state and the dearth of them in certain parts of the state. I don't believe the issue at all is how many ophthalmologists there are. The issue is whether an optometrist can capably and safely administer these drugs. So if there were a million ophthalmologists or no ophthalmologists, the issue is not changed. The issue is whether these people who are trained in optometry can adequately administer these drugs and deal with the problems that could result from them. So when other matters are discussed, I think the issue is being obscured. Senator Hoagland had written a letter to Mr. Robert Garey...

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chamber, you have one minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...yes, who is the Executive Director of the Nebraska Optometric Association seeking certain information from William Havner's textbook, Ocular Pharmacology. Apparently there were excerpts from this book given in the update handed out by the optometrists but they took it from a 1970 edition and the Optometric Association does not even possess a copy of the 1978 edition which updates the profession. So if the optometrists don't