

February 6, 1979

LB 243, 9

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Yes, I would like to withdraw that motion right now unless in the next ten seconds Senator Merz objects.

PRESIDENT: Senator Keyes is withdrawing his withdrawal motion. Any objection?

SENATOR KELLY: Yes.

PRESIDENT: He is withdrawing it, Senator Kelly. So you don't object to his withdrawing his withdrawal motion? All right. It is withdrawn. No objection. So ordered. Proceed then with Select File.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: We are on Select File, item #6, the following order, and the following order as I have it is Stoney, Kelly, Maresh, Johnson, Reutzell, Clark and Koch. We are speaking on the Koch motion to indefinitely postpone LB 9. So please confine your remarks to the motion and the Chair recognizes Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I rise in support of Senator Koch's motion to indefinitely postpone LB 9. I think it is indeed unfortunate that this is an issue that comes before the Nebraska Unicameral. It is my feeling that it could have better been handled more effectively between the optometrists and the ophthalmologists of the State of Nebraska. Now I know there have been a number of comments that have been made that deal with the economics of this situation and that also deal with convenience to the citizens of the state as it pertains to eye care. Touching briefly on economics, it is my feeling that if the optometrists are given the opportunity to use these drugs as they request that indeed it may be more costly to those individuals that are seen by an optometrist who with the use of the drugs and being able to see more deeply into the eye finding things that are unfamiliar to them, might be in a position to refer more cases to ophthalmologists because they themselves are not able to detect whether what they see in that eye is indeed a healthy or a diseased eye. I certainly agree with convenience and the affordability to all citizens in the State of Nebraska for quality medical care but I don't think it is a good argument if we say that in a number of the counties we do not have ophthalmologists, therefore, we should allow less qualified people to perform