

that tiger from Fremont.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You ask unanimous consent to yield your time? Is there any objection? Senator Reutzel. The Chair recognizes Senator Reutzel.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Mr. Speaker, that is a hard act to follow, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to talk for a moment on something that Senator Schmit said yesterday when he recommended to this body that another examination be given to optometrists. Under the present statutes and policies of this state, Nebraska has given the Department of Health, the various Boards, under various Boards, the responsibility to determine whether or not a candidate is qualified for licensure in this state. They have also given the Boards responsibility to prescribe and to conduct entry level competency examinations in each field and the Department of Health states that this is universal among the states. I don't think that there is a need for a second examination and I don't want to leave the impression in further readings of the debate on this, on LB 9, that it is the intent of the Legislature to give another examination to optometrists. And all of this is borne out in a letter from Mr. Rex Higley, from the Department of Health, dated on January 18th of this year, he is the Director of the Bureau of Examining Boards, in which he states that any specific statutory requirements such as specific subjects which must be tested or state established curriculum for any profession would conflict with the various Boards' ability to function in an appropriate manner in the current national standardization of training and examination. I think it is also important, Mr. Speaker, to point out that for many years optometrists have been required by law to take sixteen hours of continuing education each year in order to maintain their license but I have to point out that the medical profession, which includes ophthalmologists, doesn't have any continuing education requirements in their practice and they never have. So I just wanted it into the record that it is not the intent of the Legislature to require further examinations and that should be up to the Board of Health and I would like to yield my remaining time to Senator Clark.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. President, members, I would like to address my remarks to Senator Koch. Senator Koch, I have a motion up there and I wonder if you would accept it as a substitute motion for your kill motion that I would take the miotics out of the bill?