

physician assistants could practice independently of their physician sponsors, but they would have to be in touch by telephone. That telephone contact would have to be adequate to make sure that there was quality medical care provided. That is an important amendment in the committee amendments. Also the fact that they could practice independent of the physician would be subject to sight visits and approval on a case-by-case basis by the board so that we would be assured of quality in terms of the provisions of services by the physician assistant. Also, the committee amendments provide that the physician assistant has to be subject to the rules and regulations of a hospital if they practiced there, which is not very often, but if they would they would come under those rules and regs. Finally, the bill, as introduced, would have a supervising physician included on the board of examiners. We struck that provision. Those are the committee amendments. They are important to the bill. I ask that they be approved.

PRESIDENT: Is there discussion on the committee amendments? If not, the motion is to adopt them. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. We are voting on the Public Health and Welfare Committee amendments to LB 132. Have you all voted? The Clerk will record.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of committee amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Conway.

SENATOR CONWAY: Mr. President, members of the body, an additional concern on the bill was brought forward by virtue of some concern the pharmacists had. We have since been able to work out an agreement between the pharmacists, the physicians and the PAs. They all seem to be approving of my amendment which, basically, would identify those drugs that the physician's assistant could be involved in. What we have done is allowed them to continue to practice a prescription, as they had been in the past, under direct supervision of the physician. But they would be excluded from dealing with or prescribing medications in the area of the Schedule II drugs, which are specifically identified in the statutes. My amendment, like I say, has been a drawing together of those minds and a concern that the pharmacists have had. They have agreed to allow the physician's