

professionals. The people that come before the Public Health and Welfare Committee, to testify for or against a bill, are all professionals in their field, particularly those who are opposed to allowing someone to increase their scope of practice, or who want to be regulated and licensed. There are professionals that come before the committee right now. Doctors go before Public Health and Welfare all the time, optometrists go before them, ophthalmologists. I was never afraid, when I was on that committee, to say explain to me the different between an ophthalmologist, and optometrist, an oculist, et cetera. So, if we're only going to have professionals already in the field deciding who else is going to be allowed into the field of health care, you are effectively probably going to be doing away with the open shop law here in Nebraska because those who have already climbed the ladder of success and made it to the top are going to be very reluctant to admit others. But the main reason I'm doing this is to give back to you senators, and me and the Legislature, the right to represent a constituent if they want something introduced before the Public Health and Welfare Committee, or if they want it before the Agriculture Committee, the Banking Committee, Business and Labor, because next year somebody may come in and say well, when it comes to labor why don't we go to the Director of Labor. In other words, let's shift all the responsibilities the Legislature has over to the Executive Branch. Let's face it, the Director of Health is appointed by the Governor. The director of all these agencies are appointed by the Governor. What argument will you give next year when some other profession comes in and says we want the same rights and privileges, we don't want public hearings, we don't want senators introducing bills on behalf of other people in our profession. Will the architects be here next year? Will the architects, next year, come in with this bill? Will the CPAs come in next year with this bill? That's all I'm trying to warn you. Do this now and you are setting a precedent for every other industry in the State of Nebraska. You can take this bill and change a few words and it will apply to each and every industry that has a strong enough lobby to get it passed.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I hope you will consider this amendment and at least give yourselves back the right to represent your own constituents in the health care field. I remind