

of good faith but inadequate education. Our eyes are precious enough to be entrusted to physicians.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time is up.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: This amendment retains the drug practice in the hands of the physician and keeps it away from the optometrist.

SENATOR CARSTEN PRESIDING

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Chronister, please.

SENATOR CHRONISTER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, no surprise, I oppose the amendment and, believe me, colleagues, this is nothing new. This has been going on since 1978. It has been hashed and rehashed. In fact, the Technical Review Committee considered this in their meetings and they rejected it. Actually, this amendment would gut the bill, and please remember, the bill in its present form has made its way through the 407 process. The Technical Review Committee has accepted it. We have played the games by their rules and have successfully received approval. In spite of what Senator Hoagland says, this bill simply allows the application of eye drops and ointments that are not even as strong as the drugs you and I and anyone can buy over the counter in our drug stores. This same amendment was proposed to the Technical Review Committee last year and the committee rejected it. I would like to tell you a little more about this illustrious report by the Pennsylvania committee. It is interesting to know a little bit of history about this. Only the chairman of that committee took it upon himself to go across Pennsylvania talking with various doctors. There was a deadline for him to meet in turning in this report. He completed the report close to the deadline and presented it to his committee who had no time at all to look at the contents of this report and they simply signed it, rubber-stamped it, and presented it. I think this thing has happened here before our body on the last day of the Legislature when we have passed resolutions that no one has had a chance to read. This very thing happened in Pennsylvania. Now, after the committee itself had a chance to review these findings, they were alarmed. They went to their chairman and asked him to amend the report and the chairman, having the power they do in Pennsylvania, refused and so the report stands on paper. In