

eye drop legislation giving optometrists the expanding authority to use medicine for diagnostic purposes. This points to us the fact that all those who wish to use this drug are training themselves, are going to schools, are taking extra courses that would qualify them. I have satisfied myself. I will support the bill and I stand in opposition to the motion to indefinitely postpone.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, as a lay person, I probably spent more time reading and listening to the pro and con arguments for this bill. I sincerely believe now, after hearing both sides, that the people in Nebraska, and this especially in greater Nebraska, that is, the vast areas other than the eastern section of this state, will get better health care, better eye health care, if you want to be specific, if this bill is passed. So I oppose the kill motion and support the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I also have listened to a lot of discussions on both sides of this issue. I have read as much material as I have been able to read in the time that I have for reading and I have thought about the issues that have been raised. When the first vote was taken on this bill, I did not vote because I did not have my mind made up with reference to the bill. But since that time, I have talked to a physician that I know that I have very great confidence in. I have read some of the literature from ophthalmologists and other M.D.s. A handout was placed on our desks this morning from the Physicians Desk Reference that deals with the drugs that apparently the optometrists feel they could capably administer. When I look at the cycloplegic drug, on the first page it tells you that this is a drug which paralyzes some of those ciliary muscles that relate to the focus of the eye and the darker the color of your eyes, the larger the dosage necessary to accomplish this paralysis for whatever purpose. So that means black people who have by and large very dark colored eyes would have to receive a larger dosage. Now it hasn't been explained to my satisfaction what kind of side effects could occur if any of these drugs did result in an emergency situation which an optometrist could not treat but I will tell you one thing for sure that has come to me as a result of the discussion of this bill. I wouldn't go to an optometrist for anything because I am not sure right now just what they can do and what they cannot do, but