

LB 449 at this point in time. The second point I would make is that my office contacted Dr. Smith, the Director of the Department of Health, and asked him about his opinion on this issue. He concurred that the best approach would be to proceed with an interim study and develop legislation, specific legislation to deal with the conflict in this area of practice and to bring a sunset bill on Final Reading. So we will be proceeding with a study on all the sunset bills and also with the study of licensing opticians in the State of Nebraska. The third point relates to the problem with the Attorney General's Opinion that has been alluded to earlier. As you know, the initial Attorney General's Opinion came out some 14 years ago and the opinion in 1981 merely reaffirmed that position. In the entire period of time the Department of Health has done nothing about this issue and so I don't see that if nothing has been done for 14 years, I don't see that there is any need to make changes at this late date. I think it is unwise of us to make major amendments in these areas on Final Reading on a sunset bill. If the optometrists want to change the scope of practice of other professions, I think it is appropriate that that be done in a different legislation and not in a sunset bill. I urge you to reject the Vickers amendment and to enact LB 449 this morning on Final Reading.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator DeCamp. The question has been called for. Those in support vote aye. I see five hands. Now you can vote. Voting on ceasing debate. Record.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 9 nays, to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR LAMB: Debate has ceased. Senators Vickers to close. The motion is to return the bill to Select File for a specific amendment.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, the comments by Senator Hoagland and Senator Cullan I don't think are quite appropriate to exactly what we are doing here today. It seems to me that it is very simple. We are trying to clarify the law as the Attorney General's office has assumed that it was since 1968 and reassumed it again last year, that it is as a matter of fact illegal for opticians to fit and adapt contact lenses. Now, the question as to whether or not that is proper, and if the Public Health Committee cares to have an interim study on that during the summer and legislation dealing with that issue next year, that is a separate question. If they care to do that, that is fine, and it can certainly effect legislation next year and if this body chooses to