

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President and members of the body, I would like to just make a couple of comments concerning what Senator Moore said. He used the word "carte blanche", like I inferred that the background of optometrists was a bunch of willy-nilly courses. I never said that. He inferred that I have been critical of optometry. I have not been critical of optometrists, Senator Moore. I've got a neighbor that's an optometrist, fine, fine person. And you used the word "half-baked". I presume you think I'm half-baked. Well, if I'm half-baked, you're probably half-cooked. So, you know, and then you mentioned my previous place of employment. Now, I don't know if you've ever held a job, Senator Moore, I'd say something about it. But, you know, I would never criticize you, Senator Moore, on where you come from or, you know, I just don't believe in personal attacks and I think you sort of personally attacked me. But, as you know, I don't get mad, I don't get even, I just go onto the next whatever it is. But let's go back to it. My good friend, Senator Wickersham, ...had to check his name there, he said it's a red herring. I don't think it is a red herring, talk about red herring all you want to. We want to make sure optometrists are capable when they're working on someone's eyes. And all this committee is is another means of supervision and oversight. If Senator Schellpeper's bill...or amendment passes, I will vote for the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Wesely. Okay, Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Madam President, and members, I want to talk a little bit about my amendment that's going to be following this amendment. If we do nothing, the bill, in its present form, they are under the Board of Medicine, optometry is under the Board of Medicine. That was adopted last year with an amendment that was put in last year. So if we do nothing, that's where it's at right now. All we're attempting to do with my amendment is put the education back in. Last year we took it out. We didn't mean to take it out but with an amendment that came from the floor it was actually taken out. That needs to go back in. We need to get the education back into this bill. But the main thing that we are trying to do with my amendment is trying to get this advisory committee with the oversight of what's going to happen. We are going to have two ophthalmologists, we are going to have two optometrists, with the chair then being the Board of Health. So we'll know that