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Senator Schimek to open on the committee amendment. (See AM0005 found on page 338 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you. Mr. President, members of the body, this bill was heard in committee. There was no opposition to the bill. The committee advanced it with the amendment that would basically allow a political subdivision to create its own purchasing card program and to determine the type of financial institution with whom to contract. And it is my understanding that this is what we did with the credit card bill, two years ago, was it, Senator Cudaback, two years ago? And so it's kind of in keeping with that, and I have subsequently had a conversation with a few people that makes me believe that we probably need to put some language in, on Select File, which might address some accountability issues. But the committee recommended that the political subdivision should be able to create its own purchasing card program. And as Senator Cudaback said, the bill does...the amendment does become the bill. So I would just ask for adoption of the committee amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. The Chair recognizes Senator Dwite Pedersen on the committee amendments.

SENATOR DW. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, and members of the Legislature. I have some concerns about this bill after reading it and looking it over, and I've got some questions, but I don't know exactly who to ask them to because it's.... If we have, at this point, DAS doing the purchasing and the Treasurer paying the bill, who is...and at that point we have some consistency in our operation, and have had in the past, but in this particular one, by giving them a purchasing card, and if we would happen to have the Ds in the one office, and the Rs in another office, are these two departments going to get along? You know, it's going to cause...I don't see...I see some real problems with efficiency of running the office of DAS when the cards are under the Treasurer's Office and vice versa. The accountability issue, that Senator Schimek talks about, I think is very important. This also talks about giving these people cards, charge cards, and it comes back to me as sending my kids off to college and giving them a charge card and giving them how much to spend, but not telling them what to spend it on. There's just some things in here that just scare