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think it's rather confusing. The committee amendment, first of all, says, paragraph (2) any state official, state agency, or political subdivision may utilize the state purchasing card program for the purchase of goods and services for and on behalf of the state of Nebraska. Now you can't define anything that is broader than that. That worries me a great deal, but it's paragraph (3) that adds additional concern. It says, and I quote, "Vendors accepting the state's purchasing card shall obtain authorization for all transactions." Now that's what Senator Cudaback has said, but the following language is confusing. "Authorization shall be from the financial institution, card-issuing bank, credit card, charge card, or debit card company, or third-party merchant bank contracted to provide such service to the State of Nebraska." So it provides that the authorization actually comes from the credit card company. Then it goes on to say, "The authorization process shall authorize each transaction in accordance with the instructions provided by the State of Nebraska for each state official, state agency, or political subdivision". So according to this paragraph, if you read it, what it really says is the authorization goes from the state agency to the credit card company, and it's going to be the credit card company that is going to determine whether it's authorized or not. And I wonder if that's a wise procedure, to delegate to credit card companies the right to interpret whether a transaction is authorized by a state agency or political subdivision. So I have grave misgivings about whether this would work and protect the process of expenditure of state funds or funds of political subdivisions. So I...at this point, I object to the bill.

**PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:** Thank you, Senator Matzke. The Chair recognizes Senator Cudaback.

**SENATOR CUDABACK:** I appreciate Senator Matzke's concern there, but DAS and the Treasurer, they will contract with one of those people, not all three of them, and we have to authorize them to authorize what's on the card. They do that. We tell them what to put on the back of that strip. I guess there's a strip back there and that strip tells what can be charged, but they give the authorization. The card company gives the authorization on what to charge and not to charge. It's on that strip, I guess. I mean that's the way these things work, and so they have to