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blanket authorization to buy office supplies. The same goes for office equipment, computer maintenance, programming expenses. We know that millions of dollars can be spent on computer programs and upgrading. We know we've got problems there. So the state tells the credit card company, yes, the Department of Health and Human Services is authorized to secure computer programming services. Who's going to, then, make the final decision? It's going to be the credit card company making a decision that should not be made by someone other than those departments, such as the State Treasurer or DAS, that know what's authorized and what isn't authorized. Now, in all honesty, maybe this language can be refined, maybe it can be amended to be more specific. In the end, I can see what Senator Cudaback is saying. Instead of writing a hundred checks to some company, it would be more economical to write one check at the end of the month. And I think there's some validity there, but the present language of this bill does not deserve advancement, and I think we need to send it back. And I think it constitutes really an illegal delegation of authority on expenditures from the state to some unknown credit card company. I would urge you not to advance this bill at this time.

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

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I would like to rise and thank Senator Tyson for his explanation of the language, which I think is as good an explanation of any of the intent here, and I believe that if we do need to refine it, that can be worked out, Senator Matzke. I think what it says here is exactly what Senator Cudaback explained or what Senator Tyson explained and that is that the vendors get permission to accept certain kinds of purchases from the state, and then the people who go in on behalf of the state or its subdivisions get authorization then, just like you do with any credit card purchase, to actually purchase that item based on the list of items that has been provided by the state. Now if that isn't clear enough in here, and if it's confusing, then we should clarify it but, to me, that's what the authorization process is all about. I don't believe there are third parties in this transaction. I think they are...it is an agreement between the state and the vendor and the vendor is