

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

February 10, 2000 LB 438

and checked with Frank Daley from the Accountability Commission to see about that and to check about that for sure. So I feel that we're not...we're not really changing the candidate status here as far as responsibility; we're just adding some treasurer responsibility as well. Okay?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Schimek. (Visitors introduced.) Discussion on the Beutler amendment, Senator Beutler, followed by Senator Dierks.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Just...just a quick remark. Senator Schimek pointed out that a candidate, with respect to a candidate committee, is primarily responsible. The treasurer has always been secondarily responsible in the view of the commission and that's all we're doing, is clarifying that. But remember that for committees other than candidate committees, who's...who's responsible? A ballot issue committee, who's responsible? A political party committee, who's responsible? There's got to be some responsibility or you have no disclosure law. A law that can't be enforced is no law at all. And so it just seems to me that it's essential that we focus responsibility somewhere. I hope you all have seen the very thick booklets that Accountability puts out for treasurers, and they have a separate thick booklet for a treasurer depending on what kind of committee it is, and they've been very, very good about helping people always. I would...I'd be surprised if there's anybody on this floor that's ever had a problem getting help or any treasurer that's ever had a problem getting help from Accountability and Disclosure because, frankly, I think they've been one of our best agencies in terms of working with people and not playing gotcha and working these things out, so there should be no treasurer who's caught off guard. And, again, finally, bottom line is you either have responsibility or you have no enforceable law. If there is some alternative that you think makes sense, I would be glad to hear it because I've searched for that alternative too, but I haven't found anything better than what the commission is recommending here. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the