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They involve the public interest and the public has a right to know who is influencing our decisions. The one thing I will resist is an attempt to trivialize this bill by reducing it to a discussion of T-shirts and coffee cups, doughnuts, biscuits and chicken wings, meat loaf sandwiches and chicken dinners. I want to get that out of the way, but if somebody is at the level where those are the only subjects they can understand they have as much right on the floor to express from their level of understanding whatever they choose. But I will deal with things as they come up on the floor in the way that I think they need to be dealt with. I think, brothers and sisters, this can be an enjoyable morning and afternoon and evening, if necessary, or several days. We can have a lot of fun. There is no need for anybody to go away from here with wounded feelings, injured pride, or deflated ego. We're all in this together. So, having made that offering, I will sit down, let the Chairperson of the Government Committee take it from here.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Schimek, you're recognized on the committee amendments. (AM2841, Legislative Journal page 1059.)

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Just a few brief remarks to preface my explanation of the committee amendments. First of all, my...my intention in all of this, in dealing with the Chambers bill, was to take another look, it's been awhile since we have taken a look, at our lobbying reporting and expensing...expenses. I don't think there's been any huge crisis like has precipitated changes in other states like South Carolina and Arizona and others. We don't...we haven't had any serious, serious problems with our reporting laws but yet I think there are some things that we can do with this bill and here today that will make the reporting probably more consistent, more accurate, and hopefully not more onerous for everybody, particularly elected officials. I think we have pretty good reporting laws in place already. I will say that it is difficult to craft these laws sometimes and if you...if you look at your machine here on your desk, don't panic because not all of those amendments are going to be taken up. This just gives you some idea of the process that we've already been through with this bill and, of course, there is divergent opinions on it and sometimes unintended consequences. So