

bargaining unit amounts sufficient to provide what kind of increases?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Four and three and a half percent.

SENATOR BEUTLER: To the employees that were not covered by the bargaining.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, what would be wrong with just saying in Section 170 that those employees would also get 4 and 3.5 percent or whatever the...whatever has been appropriated to them?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: You mean...

SENATOR BEUTLER: I mean I guess what I'm asking is we have one group of employees who are protected, essentially, and we have another group of employees who seem to be at the discretion of the agency head. Isn't...and I assume this is not a merit versus nonmerit theory discussion and so if you're protecting one group of employees under certain statutorily directed increases or for those kinds of increases, why would we not want to protect the remainder?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, I don't know how you mean by protect, but there are several employees always I mean that have been unprotected if I guess if... Are you saying if you're not in a union you're not protected? Is that your implication?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, for those that are in the union, aren't they obligated to follow the collective bargaining agreement?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, so they're protected.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Right. So you're saying if they're not in...

SENATOR BEUTLER: So if they're not in the union why don't we treat them the same? I mean, for example, for one thing that's on my mind is if you start treating people differently like this, does this...does this give rise to...