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advanced by the committee. There was no opposition. I would just ask for advancement of the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. You've heard the opening on LB 245. Open for discussion on the advancement. Senator Schimek, followed by Senator Chambers. Senator Schimek, are you...I didn't mean to scare you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: That's okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members, Mr. President and members, I should say. I'm just trying to digest this bill and I have one quick question for you, and that is on that last provision that you mentioned, Senator Jensen, about exempting certain state employees from the state personnel system. Could you explain what that will do, what the impact of that would be?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Would you respond, Senator Jensen?

SENATOR JENSEN: It amends the list of state employees who are exempt. The purpose of having...I will read right from the bill.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay.

SENATOR JENSEN: It's on page 44, by the way.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you.

SENATOR JENSEN: The purpose of having such "noncovered" positions shall be to allow agency heads the opportunity to recruit, hire, and supervise critical, confidential, or policymaking personnel without restrictions from the selection procedures, compensation rules, career protection, and grievance privileges. Persons holding the "noncovered" positions shall serve at the pleasure of the agency head and shall be paid salaries set by the agency head. No changes in this section or the number of "noncovered" positions within the agency shall affect the status of the proposed (sic) employed on the date of the changes, those that are already employed.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And there was no opposition to that particular