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SENATOR ENGEL: Time. Thank you, Senator Beutler. The Chair recognizes Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, just a question of Senator Landis, if I could

SENATOR ENGEL: Senator Landis.

SENATOR JOHNSON: I appreciate what Senator Beutler and others on the floor are talking about in regard to the long-term issues. But what I'm concerned about here is with these specific employees, which are very small in number, and the question has been raised about protecting this group, has any of this group come forward and are worried about their rights in their situation?

SENATOR LANDIS: And the answer is I don't know. I have not heard that. I haven't had a contact from an employee for or against. I've spoken only, essentially, to the administrators above them. I do know some of these people passingly arms-length, but I haven't had contact with any of them that I know of.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Well, it's obvious the reason I asked that is, are we concerned about this group or are we concerned about the bigger matter that we're...that is now taking precedence over the smaller matter, and...

SENATOR LANDIS: Well, I think it's an irony because this area is not organized. Now they are represented by organized labor at the table because in the absence of an unorganized voice, as this area is unorganized, then the organized part of the bargaining unit speaks. I think only one of the 25 members happens to be a member of the organization that sent all of us the letter, which is NAPE/AFSCME. I think 24 of the 25 are not members of a labor organization and would not have participated in the selection of the representatives sitting down and negotiating their fate. The reason is not all of our state employees are particularly well organized. We have 22,000 state employees, and the numbers that are, you know, in official