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FLOOR DEBATE

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recognized bargaining units is much less than that.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Well, that is what I was wondering about is this specific group, if, indeed, are we protecting their rights adequately and I think you've answered the question.

SENATOR LANDIS: I will say this, I cannot represent to you that these 25 people are copacetic with this change and are believers in LB 85. In fact, I have a dearth of information on that particular score.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Thank you.

SENATOR ENGEL: Thank you, Senator Johnson. There are no further lights, the Chair recognizes Senator Beutler to close.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I'm tumbling over in my mind this idea of, well, these employees can choose. They can take the raise and give up being a part of the bargaining unit. And under this bill, if they do that, they've not only given it up for themselves, but they've given it up for all future generations that might hold that job. And regardless of this particular individual, it's being given up for all future generations anyway. Maybe, maybe I shouldn't even pose this question. But how many of you would be in favor of offering all state employees a 10 percent pay increase if they would give up their right to be in the union? Is everybody in favor of that? Well, if you're not in favor of it for all of them, why are you in favor of it for this one? Senator Engel, I withdraw the amendment.

SENATOR ENGEL: This amendment has been withdrawn. Thank you, Senator Beutler.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have nothing further on the bill at this...I am sorry, I do have something further. Senator Beutler would move to amend, Mr. President. Senator, may I...I am treating this as a bracket motion, is that right? Mr. President, Senator Beutler would move to bracket the bill until March 15, 2003.