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with some of my colleagues, I am concerned that it may detract from our overall goal, which is to get a constitutional amendment passed to increase the salary for future members of the Legislature. While LR 12CA provided a vehicle to clean up some obsolete language, it makes more sense to have a constitutional amendment presented to voters that is straightforward and without distractions. Let me conclude by saying that with or without committee amendment, nothing changes for employees. They are employees of the Legislative Council and they will continue to receive their benefits. Again, I would ask that you vote no on the committee amendment. And I'd like to yield a few minutes of my time to Senator Brashear.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Brashear.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Thank you, Senator Engel. I, too, I think I even proposed this striking the language to do some housekeeping, as we often call it, in the Executive Board, and I voted for it, and I, too, rise asking you to vote against the committee amendment, defeat the committee amendment. Irrespective of your view on the LR 12CA, I join in asking you to defeat the amendment because that way we will have a very simple, very straightforward, clean issue to put before the voters, and that is, do they or do they not want to increase legislative salaries. And I think it's the way to provide leadership on a very important subject without bringing in a secondary or tertiary subject and confusing the issue. So I thank Senator Engel for the time and, again, irrespective of your opinion and decision on the primary portion, I would ask you to vote against the committee amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brashear.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: And I'll yield...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Engel, were you...

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: ...I'll yield the time back to Senator Engel.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Engel.