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LB 683

people in those jobs. And I would hope that you would agree with the committee amendment and would support not only that, but the bill itself. With that, Mr. President, I would conclude my remarks.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. As stated by the Clerk, there are committee amendments. Chairman of the committee, you are recognized to open.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Mr. President. I think that I have fully explained the committee amendments as I went along, but just to reiterate, there would be increases for the Governor of \$15,000, Lieutenant Governor \$5,000, Secretary of State \$10,000, Auditor, Attorney General, State Treasurer \$15,000, and then for the Public Service Commissioners \$10,000. And I might remind you that those salaries cannot be increased again for an additional four years beyond 2004. So you have to think prospectively a little bit, when you're talking salary increases. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. You've heard the opening on AM0641. Open for discussion. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, as Senator Schimek pointed out, I had offered a bill like this last year, and the committee didn't act on it. And at that time, I felt the increases in salary that I was recommending were not even modest, but rather paltry. The committee saw fit to reduce even those paltry increases, but a step in the right direction must be taken, and the committee amendment is doing that. So I will support the committee amendments, but that is not to say I will feel bound to stick with those amounts when the bill is considered on Select File. We should forget the identity and everything else about the particular person who holds any one of these offices. There is a certain amount of dignity, if you'll let me use that word, which should attach to these positions. And in America, salary equates to dignity or, vice versa, dignity equates to salary. When you pay nothing, it shows a profound disrespect and lack of regard for the office and the