

make it happen. And that's my perception, it's not somebody threatening to do anything. That's my perception on what is happening.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, they may not have the jets on the tarmac warming up, but maybe they have the engines in the roundhouse chugging and got their diesels running. I want to ask Senator Brashear a question or two if I may because now that the issue of the merger has come up, I want to touch on that if I may. Senator Brashear, are you...you're aware that the Texas attorney general has objected to the merger saying that it would reduce the rail competition in Texas, you're aware of that, aren't you?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yes, Senator Chambers, I'm aware.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And you're aware that there is a divestiture issue where other railroads, Conrail being one of them, want to be able to buy up some of these tracks of this Southern Pacific should this merger occur. Are you aware of that?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Approximately. I'm not certain you're correct in every detail on Conrail and so on, but I understand what you're saying. Competing carriers or other carriers have an interest.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Let me see if we agree on this. The president of Union Pacific is Ron Burns.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: We agree.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Are you aware that he said if the regulators put too many stipulations or restrictions on them, such as requiring the sale of this trackage from Southern Pacific, they will walk away from the deal and there will be no merger. Are you aware of that?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: I'm not aware that he said it, but I have no difficulty believing it, I'd understand why.