

March 26, 1996

LB 829, 1368

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And that public comment can be made to the federal regulatory agency until Friday.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: I'll accept that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Would you accept that as being true.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: I'll accept that representation.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: All right, now, there is an organization called the National Industrial Transportation League, which represents large shippers that use rail transportation, and they want the divestiture to occur also. So that means there is political, there is economic pressure, and Texas is a state with some political power, they have a George Bush who is their governor, I don't know whether that carries any weight or not, but he wants his railway commission to determine what the official position of the state will be with reference to this merger. Now this federal board that will make the decision is going to make their determination some time this summer, it's expected. If UP walks away from the merger, there doesn't need to be a decision by this board. If this board decides to place restrictions, maybe UP will go through it and maybe they won't. But the merger does have to be approved by this federal board, isn't that true?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: That is correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And if this bill is passed and the merger, for whatever reason, does not go through, then, then what happens, because you're not going to have any consolidation of operational headquarters or anything else. Then we have another bill that's open-ended for any company that might qualify as was the case with Micron, which did not come here. Is that correct?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: I don't believe so, Senator Chambers. Then we will have a second generation enlargement of LB 829. Our public policy will be improved. And we will be more the ready for other opportunities because we are going to have to compete in this world for these kinds of opportunities, whether it's Union Pacific, or Harley-Davidson, or someone else.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, now you didn't get Harley-Davidson, you didn't get Mercedes-Benz, you didn't get Micron, and there is, I