

SENATOR BRASHEAR: I can't answer that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. Now the Attorney General of Texas is a gentleman names Morales, and he's a Democrat. And the Governor of Texas is a "Repelican", named George Bush. And all the members of their Railway Commission are "Repelicans", but the official position of the Texas Department of Transportation is to want the divestiture that these other railroads want should a merger occur so that those...some of that trackage from Southern Pacific will have to be sold off. Now it seems like people in Texas can overlook their partisan differences because of the concern about the herding of transportation within Texas, because I'm sure that people in Texas who have companies donate to the campaigns of these politicians. What I'm going to ask you now, do you think that this merger is being considered in a political vacuum?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Of course not, I don't think hardly anything in human life is considered in a political vacuum, in the broadest sense of the term political.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you think we are conversant in the Nebraska Legislature, in the middle of nowhere, with all of the ins and outs of these political connections, interconnections, interfacing, and so forth?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: I think we're as conversant as we can be here in the center of the nation with the situation you're describing, which is a long way away. I think we're maybe as conversant as we need to be, because with all due respect, Senator Chambers, that isn't what this bill is about.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now have you talked to officials with the Union Pacific Railroad? And I'm not going to ask you to name any.

SENATOR LINDSAY: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Have you talked with any officials with the Union Pacific Railroad about this merger?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: I really have not talked about the details in the merger. I've talked about this bill as it relates to testimony before the committee and preparation of the bill and