

those things, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But without the merger, there's no need for this bill, as far as Union Pacific is concerned.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Well, but the way you plan is to consider what the possibility, probability, eventuality will be and try to get ready for it. They're simply doing what you do.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'm going to need time because mine has run out, but there's another question I want to ask you. So maybe somebody will give me some time.

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

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. You know I think we need to think a little bit about the Union Pacific Railroad and its tie to Nebraska. And, really, when you talk about history, the history of Nebraska is the history of its railroads, and the history of the railroads is the history of Nebraska. I passed around a sheet that just tells a little bit about Nebraska's railroads, and I just want to run through a few of those. Nebraska is the home of the largest...the biggest freight yard, at North Platte. As a matter of fact, that freight yard has 300 or, excuse me, 250 miles of track within its freight yard. It is the world...Nebraska is the world's busiest freight corridor, from Ogallala to Gibbon. We are first in a nation of farm products by rail, 17 million tons. And let me tell you, one of the reasons Nebraska enjoys a good farm economy is because they have the transportation to move that product to the coast, either to the west or down to the gulf. We are the first in the nation in rail workers per 1,000, 6.2. We are fifth in the nation in total of rail employment, 9,986; fifth in the nation in total rail wages, \$455 million in wages and there are taxes on every one of those wages. We are sixth in the nation of rail carloads handled, seventh in the nation in tons carried by rail, twelfth in the nation total rail miles. The railroad industry is very, very important to this state. Now Senator Chambers asked what happens if we approve this and the merger doesn't go through. Senator Chambers, you need to know that Union Pacific, last year, just went through a merger, that of the Chicago/Northwestern, and in Omaha, Nebraska, Union Pacific now is in 14 buildings in the city. And if the merger of the Southern Pacific doesn't go through, and by the way, the