

Industries. A lot of money has been spent to improve our property, and no dividends have been paid to the stockholders. We've done a better job, we feel, of running the railroad since 1972, but we just cannot afford to spend money on useless items such as cabooses. This is a low freight volume marginal line. So I would submit that I don't believe we want regulations on the state level which may be one more expense that will make this railroad go out of business. Now he goes on to say we operate trains out of Chicago to Fremont, Nebraska, where we interchange these trains through the Union Pacific. This is about a 500-mile route. Less than 30 of these miles are in the State of Nebraska, but this forces us to operate these trains with cabooses right out of Chicago because it just is not profitable for us to stop these trains and add a caboose at the state line. Then in regard to caboose safety, on our western division, with the division headquarters at Chadron, Nebraska, we had three personal injuries in 1985 of employees on moving trains. All three of these injuries were with employees in cabooses. A caboose is just not a safe place for a person to work. Now, as you know, I represent a ranching area where fires, set by trains and by smokers, by anyone, are a real problem. They have been a problem over the years. I've been very unhappy with particularly the Burlington because that runs near where I live. We have prairie fires that are set by trains on a regular basis, on a regular basis. Now if having a caboose on those trains...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR LAMB: ...has reduced the number of fires, they haven't done a very good job of it. They have not done a very good job of it because we have a terrific number of prairie fires which are set by trains and I'm unhappy about that. I do not see that the caboose on there has been of benefit in that area. Therefore, I will oppose this amendment. I will also support the bill because I think we need to look to operational efficiencies if we are going to survive, if the Chicago Northwestern, in particular, is going to survive in the northern part of my state. We need that common carrier up there to provide this service to those people.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Pappas, please. Senator Hannibal. Okay, Senator Hannibal, please. Your light is on.