

The Norfolk and Western's 33rd annual Better Service Conference closed today. (ROLL FILM)

One of the highlights of the closing session was a brief farewell address by R.H. Smith, the retiring president of the railway. (SHOW FILM)

Smith said he didn't plan to be too active in railroad affairs during his retirement, but he said he'd keep watching the operation with pleasure and predicted continued successful operation of the N&W system.

Smith will be succeeded in the presidency by Stuart T. Saunders who takes over Tuesday. Saunders said federal and state regulatory agencies continue to operate under the laws and philosophies fashioned in an era when the railroads offered only transportation available. As a result, the railroads have been regulated to the brink of ruin.

In his speech, the new president said the railroads still remain as the bedrock of transportation, vital to a rigorous and healthy economy.

(back to Ed)