Senator says Perry is dividing, not uniting

By Natalie Gott THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Unlike President George W. Bush, who united people when he was Texas governor, his successor, Gov. Rick Perry, is dividing Texans, the leader of the walkout by 11 Democratic senators said Sunday.

'The difference was Bush was the great uniter. Perry and (U.S. House Majority Tom) DeLay are the great dividers," said Sen. Leticia Van de Putte of San Antonio, chairwoman of the Senate Democratic Caucus.

Van de Putte also said the current special legislative session, which Perry called last week, is dead. She said a redistricting bill could get approval during another legislative session but listed a group of conditions that would have to be met for it to get out of the Legislature.

For instance, both the House and Senate would have to get quorums and Republicans in both chambers would have to agree on a map, she said. 'There's a lot of ifs there," she said.

Her comments came on the sixth day of the Democratic boycott of the Texas Senate in protest over congressional redistricting. The Texas congressional delegation is ruled 17-15 by the Democrats but Republicans, led by DeLay, are pushing for a new map that likely would give the GOP the majority.

Van de Putte said as governor, Bush made a great effort to bring minorities into the Republican Party. She said Perry, on the other hand, was threatening to lock up in the Senate chamber the Hispanic and black senators so they would be forced to vote on a redistricting map that she said would disenfranchise minorities.

"What kind of image is that?" Van de Putte said. "I think the real danger here is not to Governor Perry. I think the real danger here is to the White House and the Republican efforts that would want to be so inclusive."

Perry spokeswoman Kathy Walt said Van de Putte's allegations are ludicrous and that Perry does not have the author-

The difference was Bush was the great uniter. Perry and DeLay are the great dividers.

> — Leticia Van de Putte Senator, D-San Antonio

ity to lock senators in the chamber. Only the lieutenant governor can lock the senators into the chamber.

"Her accusations are intended to obscure the fact that they ran away from their job and their responsibility,' Walt said. "They can't begin to represent their constituents while they are in New Mexico.'

Walt said Perry drew 35 percent of the Hispanic vote in 2002 and his policies on education, economic development and other issues have brought more Hispanics to the Republican

Van de Putte acknowledged that she believed that presidential adviser Karl Rove has been involved in the redistricting effort.

"I don't know whose puppet strings are controlling which puppet at this point in the Republican Party," she said. She also took a personal swipe at

He's "not the brightest porch light on the block," Van de Putte said. But, 'he really looks good in jeans."

Walt said Van de Putte is stooping to personal attacks to try to turn the issue away from the fact that "they ran away from their responsibilities.

DeLay spokesman Jonathan Grella

said Democrats will say and do any thing to avoid their constitution responsibility, including name calling

and fleeing out of state. 'We'll let them call names and ru wherever they see fit but the people Texas disagree with their tactics a

want to see them fulfill their respon

bilities," Grella said. Attempts to approve a redistric bill failed during the regular legislat session and the first special sessi Perry last week called lawmakers by for a second special session to

The Democrats, however, fled Albuquerque before he called the s sion. Their absence has blocked a qu rum in the Senate, preventing the! makers who stayed in Austin from to ing up business in the chamber.

The Democrats have pledged to s out of Austin until the second 30special session is over at the end of

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FBI alters intelligence to fit espionage threat stuc

By Curt Anderson THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - The world wants what America has, from cutting-edge computer software to scientific research and sensitive defense technology, and nations and overseas companies are increasingly using espionage to get it

In fact, the FBI believes more foreign spies than ever are operating in the United States.

Even as it concentrates on preventing terrorism, the FBI is overhauling its counterintelligence efforts to blunt the threat. Agents are less focused on finding spies among diplomats and embassies — hallmarks of the long Cold War with the Soviet Union — and more interested in espionage directed at corporations, research centers and universities.

"Left unchecked, such a situation could greatly undermine U.S. national security and U.S. military and economic advantage," FBI Director Robert Mueller told Congress recently.

For instance, the FBI believes China has more than 3,000 "front" companies in the United States whose real purpose is to direct espionage efforts. Many of the thousands of Chinese visitors, students and

country each year also have a ernment intelligence task to perfor authorities say. The FBI ranks China as the gr

est espionage threat to the Un States in the next 10 years to 15 years

"They figured out that what the want is throughout the United Sta not just embassies, not just sulates," David Szady, FBI assis director for counterintelligence, in an interview with The Associa Press. "It's a major effort." China is not alone. Russia rem

an espionage power, and the Un States also must be vigilant aga adversaries such as Iran and N Korea. Friendly countries such Taiwan and India also pose a threa There are 40,000 foreign di

matic officials in the United Sta some of whom are intelligence cers. Saudi Arabia alone has 900 of cials in this country.

Modern espionage can range fr finding out where an aerospace of pany produces gyroscopes for s lites to socializing with a l nuclear research scientist in hope gaining scraps of knowledge. In recent case, adhesive maker Av Denison estimated a \$50 million lo after a spy sold company secrets to Taiwanese conglomerate.

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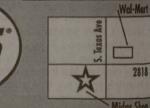
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