

Mr. ANGELL. Mr. Miller, I did not hear all your statement. Did you say anything about a temporary pipe line to give this service across Florida?

Mr. MILLER. I did not go into that in detail, because we have some specially qualified witnesses to testify about that.

Mr. ANGELL. This temporary pipe line across Florida could serve the purpose until such time as the barge canal was ready?

Mr. MILLER. Until the barge route is completed; yes, sir.

Mr. ANGELL. Mr. Miller, what would be the cost of that pipe line?

Mr. MILLER. I would prefer not to answer that, because we have witnesses here who are in a better position to testify about that.

Mr. PITTINGER. The question of a temporary pipe line, I understand, will be cleared up later. Is there not an existing provision of law under which the Reconstruction Finance Corporation can make a loan of money with which to start building a pipe line across there? This question of deepening the channel is in connection with the rivers and harbors bill, and this is another proposition. I do not see any reason for taking up the matter piecemeal.

Mr. CULKIN. The gentleman has heard that the W. P. B. does not want steel used for this purpose.

Mr. PITTINGER. I certainly have heard about it.

Mr. HALL. General Reybold is present, and I suggest he might answer those questions.

General REYBOLD. I understand that there is an act authorizing a pipe line across Florida.

The CHAIRMAN. I would hardly say there is an act authorizing that. Section 2 of an act approved July 30, 1941, provides that—

Whenever the President finds that the construction of any pipe line for the transportation and/or distribution of petroleum or petroleum products moving in interstate commerce, or the extension or completion of any such pipe line already wholly or partly constructed, is or may be necessary for national defense purposes, he shall by proclamation declare such finding.

Then, section 3 provides that—

In case the construction or extension or completion of any such pipe line is undertaken otherwise than as provided in section 4, the person or persons undertaking such construction, extension, or completion, may acquire such land or interests in land, including rights-of-way or easements, by the exercise of the right of eminent domain, as, in the opinion of the President, may be necessary for such purposes, and for purposes of operation and maintenance of pipe lines.

Mr. HALL. It seems to me that gives complete authority.

Mr. CULKIN. Does not the gentleman know that the W. P. B. has veto power in this matter?

Mr. HALL. I do not think that the W. P. B. would veto the construction of a pipe line across Florida if the President should proclaim that it is necessary.

Mr. VOORHIS. Can anybody tell me why a pipe line has not been started from the Middle West?

Mr. CULKIN. The W. P. B. will not grant priority for the materials necessary for the pipe-line construction.

Mr. HALL. Then, what does this bill do? How does this bill change the situation?

Mr. DONDERO. If we have an act authorizing the building of pipe lines now by the President.