

Mr. GREEN. About how long would it be reasonable to anticipate would be required to put the canal across there from Port Inglis to the St. Johns River?

General REYBOLD. That is a difficult question to answer under the present conditions of priorities and available equipment for the excavations that have to be made across there. But if we were to complete that canal in 3 years, I would think we had done a good job.

Mr. RANKIN. The canal and pipe line being built concurrently?

General REYBOLD. They could be built concurrently. I think Mr. Green's question was for the canal proper across Florida.

Mr. GREEN. Yes. You would say that a canal with a 12-foot depth and 125 feet wide could be completed rapidly.

General REYBOLD. Possibly in 3 years.

Mr. GREEN. Just a 12-foot depth? I was wondering if it could not be stepped up a bit.

General REYBOLD. It would depend on availability of materials, construction equipment, and manpower.

The CHAIRMAN. It would depend on the equipment you could get?

General REYBOLD. Equipment in this country is growing tighter and tighter, whether land or marine equipment.

Mr. HALL. General, how about equipment to build a pipe line? How quickly could that be gotten together?

General REYBOLD. That is another question of priorities. We think that with prompt deliveries of material on that pipeline we could complete that job in 6 months. We believe that to be an outside figure.

Mr. HALL. Have you made any investigation up to the present time as to the availability of materials to do that?

General REYBOLD. No, sir; but it is tight. I can assure you of that, because it is right in line with numerous other things that we are attempting to get that involve steel products.

Mr. HALL. General, perhaps this is not a fair question to you, but do you feel that we could very well go ahead with the pipe line now and discuss the barge canal as a separate proposition, in view of the vital need for oil and gasoline on the eastern seaboard?

General REYBOLD. I would suggest, if you wish to get oil to the Atlantic coast, that we take immediate steps to build that pipe line.

Mr. HALL. Then they are really two separate propositions—the barge canal and the pipe line?

General REYBOLD. Absolutely. The one supplements the other. One is of a temporary nature.

Mr. VOORHIS. General, if the pipe line alone were constructed, assuming it was completed, it would be—or would it be—a great benefit in getting oil to the Atlantic coast, even though the barge canal has not yet been completed?

General REYBOLD. I would judge so; yes, sir.

Mr. VOORHIS. And would the pipe line be so used?

General REYBOLD. Oh, I judge so; yes, indeed.

Mr. DONDERO. General, have we any abandoned or unused pipe lines in this country from which material could be obtained to construct this pipe line?

General REYBOLD. I could not answer that question, Mr. Dondero, although I have discussed it. I am informed that it is a little bit difficult to find salvaged pipe lines.