

Mr. DONDERO. Are you familiar with the law that Congress passed last year authorizing the President to provide or build pipe lines?

General REYBOLD. No, sir; I am not familiar with it, and I could not attempt to disentangle it even if I read it. I would have to leave that to somebody else.

Mr. ANGELL. General Reybold, did you state what the estimated cost of the pipe-line project would be?

General REYBOLD. I have not. I will be glad to state that we estimate it to cost about \$10,000,000.

Mr. DONDERO. Mr. Chairman, at this point I want the record to show this language. I am reading from section 4 of Public Act 197, first session, Seventy-seventh Congress:

The President may provide for the construction, extension, completion, or operation of such pipe lines by such department or agency of the Government as he may designate.

Does not that authorize the Chief Executive to proceed with the construction of pipe lines if he so desires, if it is necessary in the interests of national defense?

General REYBOLD. As a layman I would say "Yes."

Mr. PETERSON. What is meant by "such pipe lines"?

Mr. DONDERO. "Any such pipe line as he may by proclamation indicate." That is in section 3. I read from section 4.

The CHAIRMAN. As may be necessary for the war?

Mr. DONDERO. Yes, sir.

Mr. RANKIN. Mr. Chairman, I notice that the opponents of this barge canal did not discover the fact that a pipe line was needed when they had this proposition up before. All through the hearings they never did discover that we needed this pipe line, until now the question arises as to the need for a pipe line and a canal, both.

Mr. DONDERO. The subject was discussed quite adequately several different times, with the same objective in view.

Mr. GREEN. General, from Port Inglis across to the St. Johns, the land cut is around 30 miles, and the land is low and soft. If you had equipment, could you not put a 12-foot channel, 125 feet wide, across there in from 12 to 18 months?

General REYBOLD. I doubt that. That is a land cut, Mr. Green.

Mr. GREEN. That is a land cut of approximately 30 miles; maybe 28. Most of it is low, and that is from the Gulf across to the river. That land cut, which is the only serious impediment to get across there with barges, is around 30 miles in length, and it is soft land and very low. If you had the equipment available, I am wondering if you could not run a channel across there, 12 feet in depth and 125 feet or so in width, in 6 to 12 months.

General REYBOLD. Are you referring to the intracoastal link?

Mr. GREEN. That is across Florida. That is what I am talking about.

General REYBOLD. Oh, I thought you meant up here [indicating].

Mr. GREEN. No; that is that red line there. That is a main channel across the State.

General REYBOLD. You could never do it.

Mr. GREEN. In 6 to 12 months?

General REYBOLD. No, sir.