

Mr. CULKIN. Let me ask you right there: Could those towboats and barges be made ready in 6 months' time, in your judgment?

General REYBOLD. That is a very difficult thing to estimate, Judge. Using as an index what the oil companies have used of our waterway improvements in the past, as soon as they were completed, I just have a feeling that every fisherman and every barge that is available would get into that traffic if the oil companies want to put them into it, and there must be a tremendous number of barges and smaller towboats.

Mr. CULKIN. I think that is all.

Mr. HALL. Mr. Chairman, in view of the General's testimony, and in view also of the fact that almost every member of the committee thinks that we should do something as quickly as possible to get oil from the Gulf to the inland waterways, I am wondering if the chairman still feels that further authority is necessary, and whether we could not today or tomorrow separate this bill and pass out a bill which would carry the provisions of the present bill as to the pipe line only. In other words, unless there is some member of the committee who feels that we need more testimony as to the necessity of the pipe line, I am satisfied that we need a pipe line, and I think we should do something on that immediately. I do not know what time is going to be taken up with testimony for the barge canal, but I do not believe, in view of the General's testimony, that we should wait for that testimony in order to act on a pipe line across Florida.

Mr. GREEN. Is not the gentleman's desire to separate the bill more in the interest of throttling and destroying the waterway project than with regard to the emergency?

Mr. HALL. No. I may vote for the barge canal, but I think they are two separate propositions, and one of them is a project that can be done in 6 months. We have had expert testimony upon it. The general says that one cannot be built within 3 years, and the other can be built in 6 months. Now, if the need for getting oil to the eastern seaboard is what I believe it is, I think we should do something today or tomorrow to expedite the delivery of gas and oil to those sections.

Mr. PETERSON. In that connection I would like to ask the general this question: Is it your opinion that this barge canal is essential to supplement the pipe line? In other words, I had gathered that it is your idea that the pipe line is more or less of a temporary proposition, to supply urgently needed capacity, whereas the barge line will supplement and round out the facilities that would be available.

General REYBOLD. That is correct. You can get your pipe line in operation so much quicker, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. PETERSON. But, at the same time, the barge line, you feel, is also essential to provide the proper and necessary facilities?

General REYBOLD. It depends upon the development. It seems a pity not to have those two splendid waterways connected by a waterway somehow. We have a large investment in these two waterways, and we are curing just one problem by a pipe line—that is, petroleum products—and I will grant you that—aside from rubber, I will say—that is the greatest demand along this coast at the moment.

The CHAIRMAN. General, in that connection, we are also sending to the East—more than 85 percent of which is being used by the Federal Government now, directly or indirectly, for war purposes—approxi-