

Mr. PETERSON. My main reason for asking that question was your statement that a pipe line can be constructed in approximately 6 months and the barge canal would take considerably more than 12 months. If it takes as long to build barges, approximately, as it does to build a barge canal, it appears that there is more argument, possibly, for building the barge canal than there is for the pipe line; because, if you build a barge canal, you already have barges available on the Gulf coast which can move right on up the Atlantic seaboard, whereas if you build a pipe line and do not have any facilities from Jacksonville north, you have still got to build the barges, and you are using more of the vital war material in building barges, whereas if you construct a barge canal you eliminate that? Is not that true?

General REYNOLDS. With any barges that you might build in connection with this pipe line, this transfer of oil would certainly be available to us on a through waterway. You are not throwing anything away.

Mr. PETERSON. I understand; but if it takes as long to build a barge as it does to build a barge canal, building a pipe line in 6 months is not going to solve the problem, because you do not now have the facilities from Jacksonville north.

General REYNOLDS. I did not say you did not have facilities from Jacksonville north.

Mr. PETERSON. But you say you have not an ample number of barges.

General REYNOLDS. There are barges all over our inland waterway system. Now, then, there may be a rearrangement of those barges. If there be more barges on the Gulf coast, we will say, than are needed to accommodate the traffic that might be available along the Gulf coast, then they would haul those barges around and put them in use on the Atlantic coast.

Mr. PETERSON. That is true.

The observation was made by someone a few moments ago that very probably every available craft will immediately go into the hauling of this oil from the Gulf coast, which left the impression on me that probably we could use all of that craft on the Gulf coast, and they would have to use some other facilities from Jacksonville north. Of course, if you have ample facilities now, and they can be distributed between the Gulf coast and the Atlantic seaboard, the pipe line would probably answer the question; but if you do not have them, you have got to build something to carry that oil north.

General REYBOLD. That is right.

Mr. PETERSON. If it takes just as long to build that as it does to build a barge canal, it appears to me that you have not answered our problem by putting a pipe line there, although you might have relieved the pressure to a degree.

General REYBOLD. The way I look at the proposition is this, Mr. Peterson: Let us assume that we do have a 24-inch pipe line across Florida and that the capacity of that line is 250,000 barrels a day. Now, possibly we have not enough barges and towboats to move that much oil, but let us assume that at the moment we do have sufficient floating equipment to move 100,000 barrels per day. We are getting somewhere, and we are working to that end.