

Mr. DONDERO. Then build north along the Florida coast from that to complete the Intracoastal Waterway?

General REYBOLD. I would like to come back to Mr. Green's question. I said that he was correct about building the barge canal. You have got to weigh the requirements of that canal and the materials and the equipment that will be needed against other demands of the war effort, and I am unable to settle that. Have I made myself clear? There is a question of priority in the use of manpower, in the use of dredging equipment, in the use of dirt-moving equipment, and other requirements for the construction of that canal which, as I say, must be weighed against other requirements of the war effort.

Mr. GREEN. I understand, however, that they have available dredges from time to time that could be used, and that no other critical material except dredges would be required.

General REYBOLD. You will find that nearly every dredge in this country is busy at this moment.

Mr. CULKIN. General, there has been a good deal of controversy from time to time about the depth of the water in the coastwise canal up to Trenton. Can you clear that up? What is the depth of the coastwise canal from Jacksonville to Trenton?

General REYBOLD. The project depth is 12 feet at mean low water.

Mr. CULKIN. They were talking about 9 feet; you say it is 12 feet at low water?

General REYBOLD. From Jacksonville to Trenton; 12 feet or more. That is the controlling project depth.

Mr. CULKIN. And that is all the way to Trenton from Jacksonville?

General REYBOLD. Yes. Of course, you may find that our maintenance dredging has dragged a little bit, but the project and the authority are there to maintain a 12-foot channel all the way up the coast.

Mr. GREEN. General, do you anticipate that it would be possible to get the dredges to put on this work? What is more important than putting a barge canal through there, as compared with other river and harbor developments?

General REYBOLD. The priorities are beyond me, Mr. Green.

Mr. GREEN. As I understand it, the engineers have quite a number of dredges that they are using now on various projects—the Army engineers.

General REYBOLD. I think that every dredge that we have is busily engaged on some project that is closely allied with the war effort, either in maintenance or in new construction.

Mr. GREEN. In all probability, some of those dredges could and would be released for this project, if approved; is that right?

General REYBOLD. It may be; if this is of greater importance than some other project, that might come up in the meantime. It would be manifestly impossible for me or anyone else at this moment to get any machinery, either floating plant or land plant, to the construction of that job down there at this time. I could not do it, because I do not know what the future is going to bring forth.

Mr. GREEN. Of course, that is true. But, for the sake of the record, I did not want the newspapers to report that you said that there were no dredges available and that there would not be any available.

General REYBOLD. I have not said that there would not be any available.