

Colonel THOMPSON. If it were up to me, I would make doubly sure by authorizing the pipe line and instructing that it be built this year, at the same time starting going on the intracoastal canal, and I would start building barges. I would do all three at the same time.

Mr. HALL. In comparison with the average tanker, how much does a barge carry?

Colonel THOMPSON. About 9,000 barrels.

Mr. HALL. How much does a tanker carry?

Colonel THOMPSON. The modern tankers being built now will carry around 138,000 to 150,000 barrels.

Mr. HALL. You can carry 9,000 barrels on a barge and 138,000 barrels on a tanker?

Colonel THOMPSON. Yes; 138,000 barrels on the new ones.

Mr. HALL. One hundred and thirty-eight thousand?

Colonel THOMPSON. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Those are the very largest ones.

Colonel THOMPSON. Yes; the very newest and the largest.

The CHAIRMAN. However, you have some of them operating on the Gulf that carry only 50,000.

Colonel THOMPSON. Yes, sir; that is correct. Some of them carry 70,000 barrels, some 75,000, some 80,000, and some 85,000 barrels.

Mr. HALL. Then there is another point, the question of speed. Let us assume that a tanker left some point in Texas and a barge left the same point in Texas, what is the difference in time so far as delivery is concerned at the port of New York?

Colonel THOMPSON. Now?

Mr. HALL. Yes; at any time.

Colonel THOMPSON. A great many of them now do not get there at all.

Mr. HALL. I mean at any time.

Colonel THOMPSON. You mean in peacetime?

Mr. HALL. At any time. You do not have to answer that way because we know no barges are going there now.

Colonel THOMPSON. Yes, sir. A tanker takes about 16 days to make the trip.

Mr. HALL. What time would a barge take?

Colonel THOMPSON. I just do not know the answer to that. I am not familiar with barge operation.

Mr. HALL. Do you know how fast those barges move?

Colonel THOMPSON. I understand they move at the rate of 3 miles an hour.

Mr. HALL. How fast do the tankers move?

Colonel THOMPSON. Some of them go as high as 18 knots an hour.

Mr. HALL. Do you not think after the war that that speed of delivery will have something to do with what method is used?

Colonel THOMPSON. Perhaps so; yes, sir.

Mr. CULKIN. I wanted to ask you a question about the Mississippi route. That has not been mentioned here by anybody that I have heard. Now, is that route being used at the present time?

Colonel THOMPSON. There are about 78,000 barrels going up the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers.

Mr. CULKIN. That goes on the Ohio River?

Colonel THOMPSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. CULKIN. Does any of it go into the Great Lakes?