

Colonel THOMPSON. I just do not know about that, sir.

Mr. CULKIN. Why is not that also a feasible route which is already in existence?

Colonel THOMPSON. It probably is.

Mr. CULKIN. You are not prepared to offer any suggestions on that?

Colonel THOMPSON. No, sir; I am not.

Mr. CULKIN. The Gulf intracoastal connects up with the Mississippi, and the Mississippi with the Illinois, and then the Great Lakes, does it not?

Colonel THOMPSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. CULKIN. What did you say the total carried up in the Ohio was?

Colonel THOMPSON. Seventy-eight thousand barrels per day.

Mr. CULKIN. This is probably a little aside from the trend of your testimony, but the prices of gasoline have been frozen, have they not?

Colonel THOMPSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. CULKIN. It is the contention of the people supplying this gasoline that they are taking a heavy loss at this time by reason of the transportation methods used now, is that true?

Colonel THOMPSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. CULKIN. They are promised some remedy, are they not, according to the press?

Colonel THOMPSON. They are hunting for a remedy.

Mr. CULKIN. No; they are promised some remedy?

Colonel THOMPSON. I believe they are hoping to have either an increase in price to compensate for it, or to get a subsidy.

Mr. CULKIN. The estimate on that is 5 cents a gallon additional?

Colonel THOMPSON. I understand their losses are about \$560,000 a day.

Mr. CULKIN. How much would that be a gallon, Colonel?

Colonel THOMPSON. It is about 90 cents a barrel, and there are 42 gallons in a barrel, which would be about two and a quarter cents a gallon.

Mr. CULKIN. I have seen it estimated as 5 cents a gallon.

Colonel THOMPSON. They have had two small raises.

Mr. CULKIN. Which the public, of course, will be compelled to take on by reason of this more expensive railroad type of transportation, is not that true?

Colonel THOMPSON. Well, I suppose the public will pay it one way or the other, certainly.

Mr. CULKIN. We cannot forget the public.

Colonel THOMPSON. Well, Jones pays the freight.

The CHAIRMAN. If the Members of Congress hold X cards they will have most of it to pay.

Mr. CULKIN. The public will have to pay through the nose for gasoline, and it is going to take at least 5 cents additional a gallon in the very near future by reason of this increased cost of transportation.

Colonel THOMPSON. Certainly 2½ cents a gallon, at least 2½ cents a gallon.

Mr. RANKIN. Colonel, you were speaking to the gentleman from New York, Mr. Hall, who asked you if it would not take about 3 years to construct this intracoastal canal. As a matter of fact, we could construct the canal across from Port Inglis to Jacksonville in about 15