

months, according to the Army engineers. That can be used at least 90 percent of the time and probably more than that. It could be used more than 90 percent of the time, because someone said there were only about 15 days out of the year that the barges could not go all the way down to Port Inglis. So, then, if this pipe line were constructed they could finish the canal proper across from Port Inglis to Jacksonville within 15 months. We could have done it while we have been delaying on this rivers and harbors bill. That would enable those barges to go through practically all of the time with the exception of probably 1 day out of a month when they would have storms in the Gulf of Mexico. So that, instead of taking 3 or 4 years, the testimony shows that it will take about 15 months to construct that main barge canal across from Port Inglis to Jacksonville.

Colonel THOMPSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. RANKIN. That would give us, then, a barge canal from the border of Mexico all the way around to New Jersey?

Colonel THOMPSON. Yes, sir; that is right.

Mr. RANKIN. I just wanted to call attention to that fact, that instead of taking 3 or 4 years, it would take about 15 months.

Mr. HALL. I was taking the testimony of General Reybold on that.

Mr. RANKIN. I know, but Mr. Hall, you were talking about a canal all the way from St. Joe on down to Port Inglis and then across.

Mr. HALL. And which I understand in the proposition of General Reybold.

Mr. RANKIN. But he testified that would provide an outlet at Port Inglis and with the exception of about 1 day out of a month these vessels could come right on down to the Gulf of Mexico, right along the coast line and go right on through this canal and serve their purpose except 1 day out of the month.

Mr. HALL. How about the submarine hazard out in the Gulf? Are we not trying to get rid of that, too?

Mr. RANKIN. There has been no submarine hazard in that area. Of course, a submarine could come into the Mississippi Sound, as far as that is concerned, and I presume it could get pretty close to New Orleans, but the main submarine hazard is out around near the Dragon's Mouth, off the coast of South America in the Winward Passage and the Florida Straits. This would give them virtually the same protection that they would get going inside through the canal. The only reason for that canal from St. Johns down to Port Inglis is to avoid the weather hazards, as I understand it.

The CHAIRMAN. No, sir; also submarines.

Mr. HALL. I thought the submarine hazard was the whole question.

The CHAIRMAN. Both.

Mr. RANKIN. As far as that is concerned there is no submarine hazard in the Mississippi Sound.

Mr. HALL. These submarines seem to have been found in those places where you do not want them.

The CHAIRMAN. Mississippi Sound has no connection with this, as it is located several hundred miles west of this area.

Mr. RANKIN. Even if you go 30 miles through the Gulf of Mexico for that short distance it would be close enough to the shore that they could be protected.

Mr. CULKIN. They are sinking them right off the coast.