

the month is there any trouble at all here as far as weather is concerned, and it is naturally safe from submarine attack, that it would eliminate the necessity of building this canal clear around here [indicating on map] from Carrabelle to Port Inglis.

Mr. HALL. Do you mean to imply that engineers are presenting this proposition, which will take 15 months longer to build, simply because 1 or 2 days a year the weather is bad?

Mr. RANKIN. No; the Chief of Army Engineers, General Reybold, told you this morning that this inland, inside passage would be entirely safe the entire year, but he admitted on cross-examination that there are only about 15 days a year in which these barges could not travel this route here [indicating on map] in the open Gulf. Now, since the gentleman from New York has raised the question that this would be a dangerous route because these barges would be subject to attack by submarines, I have made an investigation, and I have found all the way here, about 25 miles out, that the water is not over 25 feet deep, and submarines cannot submerge and hide in water that is that shallow.

Mr. HALL. I do not know how much water a submarine needs to submerge in, but it can surely sail in that much water at night when they do most of their attacking.

Mr. RANKIN. They have to have much more than that depth of water to submerge in.

Mr. HALL. A submarine may not rest there in the daytime, but I believe it can sail in that depth of water at night.

Mr. RANKIN. A submarine has to have water deep enough so that it can submerge to such depth that it cannot be seen from the air, and it cannot do that in 25 feet of water, and if one of them got close enough to hit one of these barges it would take them an hour to get out to sea into deep water, where they would be safe.

Mr. HALL. You are talking about the daytime, and they are attacking at night.

Mr. RANKIN. Of course, they might be attacked at night, but at the same time, these vessels might tie up at night, as they are doing on the Atlantic seaboard. Today the vessels on the Atlantic seaboard are going into port at night for that very reason. Besides, they could be detected with searchlights.

Mr. GREEN. For that matter, the link across the State which can be done in 10 or 15 months, according to General Markham's statement, can be completed, and then if you have to convoy them over 100 miles during the construction of that other link, you certainly can convoy 100 miles more easily than you can convoy 1,000 miles there.

Mr. RANKIN. You have only about 100 miles of open Gulf, and it is only about 25 feet deep along the coast where these barges would travel. For a distance of 25 miles out here [indicating] it is not over 25 feet deep, so that the barges could tie up at night, as far as that is concerned, and make that 100 miles in the daytime, and it would tremendously cut down expense.

The CHAIRMAN. Where do you get the figures that it is 25 miles out there before you get that depth?

Mr. GREEN. I know from experience what it is, because I live right there.

Mr. HALL. Can you tell me how a barge going 3 miles an hour can go 100 miles in a day?