

The CHAIRMAN. That is where the entrance is; that is where the submarines can come in.

Mr. GREEN. The main part of it is shallow; I have been going over it for years.

Mr. MILLER. I would like to make this observation: We are advocating, of course, the adoption of this program as set forth in the bill. We take it for granted that if the bill is passed and the project authorized, then the question as to what particular part of the work should go ahead of another part would, of course, be decided by those in authority. It does occur to me, however, that if you are going to have a completely protected inland waterway all the way from Maine to Mexico that the part from St. Joe down to the entrance of the canal across Florida ought to be built. As to whether it should be constructed before the barge canal is built is a matter which the Chief of Engineers would have to decide. It seems to me that the discussion, while very interesting, is not important so far as this bill is concerned. Experience might show that both should be done at the same time. Certainly the barge canal across Florida should be completed with the greatest possible speed. But, these are matters to be determined by those in authority if and when the building is authorized.

I want to present a gentleman who is probably as familiar with the oil industry in all of its phases as anyone in America. He has made an intensive study of this project in its relationship to the oil situation in the Southwest and in its relationship to the oil situation on the Atlantic seaboard. I present Mr. Harry Pennington, a noted engineer and oil man from San Antonio, Tex.

Mr. DONDERO. Before the gentleman offers his testimony, I want to submit this for the committee's information: I took it upon myself to call the Attorney General of the United States to inquire from him what his opinion was as to the authority vested in the President under Public Law 197 of the Seventh-seventh Congress, first session, which is the act to facilitate the construction and extension of interstate petroleum pipe lines related to national defense. I talked to Attorney Townsend, Assistant Attorney General, who stated that, in his opinion, the President now has authority to construct such pipe lines.

Mr. HALL. What was the date of it?

Mr. DONDERO. July 30, 1941, and it runs until June 30, 1943.

Mr. CULKIN. Is not that to be subject to the priorities laid down by the W. P. B.?

Mr. HALL. So would the authority in this bill if it were passed.

STATEMENT OF HARRY PENNINGTON, ENGINEER, SAN ANTONIO, TEX.

The CHAIRMAN. First give us your history, Mr. Pennington.

Mr. PENNINGTON. I am a native Texan.

The CHAIRMAN. That is to your credit.

Mr. PENNINGTON. My family has lived there since 1824.

I went to the oil fields as a boy, and then I left the oil fields to go to college to learn something about them. I came back and became chief engineer for the Texas Co. in production, and subsequently went into