

Mr. PITTENGER. I would like to comment on that statement. I am sorry that they did not see fit to revive the omnibus rivers and harbors bill, on which General Somervell appeared before the committee. In view of the valiant fight that we put up last year for the omnibus river and harbor bill, the list of projects in which, if completed, would do more to relieve the transportation bottleneck than any other piece of legislation that Congress could pass, it is to be regretted they did not see fit to revive that.

Mr. GREEN. I think it appropriate to comment on the fact that General Somervell appeared before the committee at length in support of the project now before us. He appeared in support of the project for a canal across the State of Florida and pointed out its then and now necessity.

Mr. PITTENGER. That was in 1939.

Mr. GREEN. He gave one of the ablest justifications for the project that I have ever heard given for any project.

Gen. C. P. Summerall did the same thing in executive session. They stressed the imperativeness of its passage then as a security and defense measure.

Mr. MILLER. I simply wished to present that for the information of the members of the committee.

Mr. SMITH. General Summerall, who appeared before the committee in executive session, said that it would help to save this Nation in case of war.

Mr. RANKIN. Along the line we were discussing yesterday afternoon, I would like to ask Colonel Textor some questions.

Mr. DONDERO. Before any witnesses are called, I want to make the comment that I was pleased to have Mr. Miller, of Texas, refer to the publicity given by the newspapers to the conference at the White House yesterday in regard to the transportation of oil and gasoline. I notice, in the paragraph that Mr. Miller quoted, it was stated that the President contemplated not one but two pipe lines. I was also pleased to note that the pipe lines are predicated, not on the bill before this committee but on the bill H. R. 1970, passed on June 30, 1941, which already gives the President full and complete authority to build pipe lines wherever he sees fit. That is the point I made yesterday, that the President already has that authority and that, therefore, there is no reason for this bill so far as pipe lines are concerned.

Mr. MILLER. May I conclude my statement? I do not agree with the gentleman altogether. I think that authority exists for the pipe lines, but I think it is self-evident that from a long-range view this inland waterway, as a war measure, should be completed on the basis of a 12-foot depth.

Mr. DONDERO. I made no claim that the act of June 30, 1941, included waterways.

Mr. MILLER. No, sir. I think you are correct as to the pipe line, and I am very hopeful that some action will be taken about the pipe line.

Now, I would like to make this further statement: General Somervell, as the members of this committee know, is one of the most distinguished officers in the Corps of Engineers of the United States Army. He was detailed several years ago to study the project of a canal across Florida.

Mr. RANKIN. At this point I would like to question Colonel Textor.

The CHAIRMAN. We will be glad to hear Colonel Textor at this time.