

tries going, our power plants in operation, and to keep the homes of our workers warm and comfortable, with the workers in good health, so they can continue their work. That minimum amount is 1,200,000 barrels daily, or 400,000 barrels per day less than what we have been accustomed to use.

The CHAIRMAN. What is that minimum?

Mr. ALLEN. 1,200,000 barrels daily is what we consider to be the hard-boiled minimum of consumption on the Atlantic seaboard, and that is 400,000 barrels a day less than the average amount that we have been using normally. Even that amount, however, is not being brought in at present, and only the most strenuous efforts will enable it to be brought in in time to keep us warm next winter. Ordinarily, we must accumulate a vast amount of fuel oil, for both domestic and industrial use, in storage in the summer, because our tanker transportation, great though it was, has been ordinarily insufficient to bring in the amount required for winter use as rapidly as needed, and, therefore, they have put a lot in stocks of fuel oil during the summer months. Unless we do that this summer, we will face a very serious situation next winter.

The CHAIRMAN. Do we now have the necessary facilities for storing fuel oil to that extent?

Mr. ALLEN. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. You would not have to add to those facilities?

Mr. ALLEN. No, sir; the same storage facilities that were available last winter are available today, but they are sadly depleted as to contents.

Mr. CULKIN. Is there any collaboration between the gasoline companies and the oil companies in the matter of the use of these storage facilities?

Mr. ALLEN. By and large those storage tanks are sufficient to accommodate the amounts for the companies using them. At present, however, due to the fact that there has been a disparity in deliveries to distributors on the Atlantic coast, our office has found it necessary to urge the necessity for the movement of oil from the storage tanks of one company to the customers of another company.

Mr. CULKIN. Are you meeting with success in that?

Mr. ALLEN. So far as the limited quantity on hand will permit, we have been quite successful.

The CHAIRMAN. Who are the owners of those storage facilities? Do they belong to the tank companies, the refineries, or to the Government?

Mr. ALLEN. The owners of the commercial storage tanks throughout the country, as a matter of fact, are the oil companies and the distributors of petroleum products.

Mr. DONDERO. What would you say should be done to solve the problem?

Mr. ALLEN. Everything.

Mr. DONDERO. I am seeking advice, in order that the committee may cooperate to the fullest extent in affording relief. I think you might give some answer to that, as to what you think is the best possible solution of the problem, as well as the quickest solution.

Mr. ALLEN. I might speed up my remarks and touch upon that immediately, although I intended to reach it later in my statement.