

Mr. CULKIN. The only thing that is involved is the building of bottoms to take the oil, and we have had some testimony to the effect that they could be built with a great deal of speed.

Mr. ALLEN. I have seen some rather statements regarding the construction of barges.

Mr. CULKIN. And the whole thing could be achieved in a matter of approximately 4 months.

Mr. ALLEN. Well, I think the pipe line could be laid across Florida by using second-hand pipe with pumps that are moved from some other place.

Mr. CULKIN. There was some testimony here that there is 180 miles of pipe line available—

The CHAIRMAN. That is, 10 inches.

Mr. CULKIN. Eight-inch.

The CHAIRMAN. Was it 8-inch?

Mr. CULKIN. Yes. Is that matter being thoroughly investigated in your office?

Mr. ALLEN. Yes, it is; and needless to say, the larger the pipe the greater the capacity.

Mr. CULKIN. You are getting all the data possible on the available pipe?

Mr. ALLEN. Yes. Major Parkins will have some very interesting figures for you on that.

Mr. CULKIN. It seems to me that we have got to stop theorizing and get down to action.

Mr. ALLEN. We certainly have; there never was a time when it was needed more. While summertime is not here yet we know that winter is approaching just as fast as summer.

Mr. CULKIN. Just one more question. How many bottoms are available on the Great Lakes at this time?

Mr. ALLEN. How many barges?

Mr. CULKIN. Yes; we will say barges, self-propelled.

Mr. ALLEN. There is a very limited number. I believe that five would be about correct. Some barges were taken out of the Great Lakes and put into service elsewhere to meet last winter's demand; I believe they are going back now.

Mr. CULKIN. I have a report to the effect that there were a number of boats that were available in the port of New York; some of them self-propelled and some of the scows.

Mr. ALLEN. I would rather let someone else answer that. I have heard there were a number of scows in use.

Mr. CULKIN. I called Major Parkins and told him I understood there was a considerable number of barges that are available in the port of New York. Now my thought was that those could be used. I do not suppose that the scows can go through the Lakes with gas and oil.

Mr. ALLEN. I rather question it. I have been on the Lakes—Lake Michigan—in a violent storm and the good-sized ship that I was in got fairly rough treatment. I would hesitate to say what would happen to these barges.

Mr. CULKIN. That is, movement will probably have to be with self-propelled boats.