

Mr. ALEXANDER. There is no question about the need for delivery now, and it is a question of doing everything we can at this time with as much as we can.

Mr. JOHNS. That is all.

Mr. RANKIN. Here is the question I want to ask, Mr. Alexander. The gentleman from Wisconsin referred to the time it will take to build the barge line. I think the testimony was that a barge line across from Port Inglis to Jacksonville will take about 15 months.

If Congress had gone along with us last year, we would have had it almost finished by now. But they bring the testimony this morning to show that the coast line there from Carrabelle down to Port Inglis is practically safe from submarine attack because the water is not sufficiently deep for a submarine to travel in. In other words, under these conditions, since it would only take about 15 months to build the barge line from Port Inglis to Jacksonville, do you not think that should be under construction also while we are building the pipe line?

Mr. ALEXANDER. I think both sections should be constructed, from Carrabelle down to Port Inglis and across.

The CHAIRMAN. The barge canal.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Yes. I have run barges on the Gulf, and I know from Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, and Alabama they cannot go outside because the storms are so furious that barges cannot be used.

Mr. RANKIN. I understand there are about 15 days only in the year when they cannot be used safely.

The CHAIRMAN. I understand they cannot get insurance at any time.

Mr. ALEXANDER. They cannot get insurance.

Mr. RANKIN. They cannot get insurance?

Mr. ALEXANDER. No. I have sent them out more than 15 days a year; I am pretty well acquainted with the Gulf.

Mr. RANKIN. You live in New Orleans.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Yes.

Mr. RANKIN. Is there any oil produced east of the Mississippi River in Louisiana?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Yes.

Mr. RANKIN. How much?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Not very much, compared with the west side.

Mr. RANKIN. The west side. Well the State produces about 340,000 barrels per day, as I have been given the figures. I am just wondering about what percentage of that is produced east of the river.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I would guess, and it would be a guess, about 40,000.

Mr. RANKIN. Probably 40,000.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Possibly 40,000 would be my guess.

Mr. RANKIN. The gentleman from Michigan spoke to you about taking this oil up the Mississippi River. Of course, that would not be sufficiently close to the Atlantic seaboard, would it?

Mr. ALEXANDER. You would have easy towing through slack waters of the Gulf Intercoastal Canal and the Atlantic Intracoastal Canal when it is built.

Mr. RANKIN. And you would be going against the current of the Mississippi, and besides you would be going into an area which already has oil.

For instance, the State of Michigan is producing about 50,000 barrels a day. Michigan produced in January 49,000 barrels a day.