

Mr. CULKIN. I think the history is ships can come through.

Mr. RANKIN. As you know, the State of Arkansas, which has only 2 years' supply, is the only available source of high-grade bauxite.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. I will say to the gentleman from Mississippi that no doubt we will have to process the large deposits of alunite which we have in the State of Washington. We have large deposits of alunite right in my district, in southwest Washington.

Mr. RANKIN. That may be.

The CHAIRMAN. We thank you very much Mr. Alexander. Mr. Miller, whom do you have next?

Mr. MILLER. Mr. Chairman, while I think it is impossible to over-emphasize the oil and gas and fuel factor in the equation there are many other commodities which I referred to briefly yesterday, which also need services of the Intracoastal Waterway.

Coincidental with the development of the intracoastal canal in Texas and in Louisiana there have been many important industries developed, many of them under the war program, which are now producing essential war materials. At Corpus Christi, for example, is the Southern Alkali plant, which is producing soda ash; the American Smelting & Refining Co., under contract with this Government, is completing a very large refinery for the processing of zinc concentrates, which are shipped in by rail from Mexico. There are large oil-refining plants there, under Government contracts, for the manufacture of octane gas.

At Freeport, on the canal, at about 50 miles from Galveston is the Dow Chemical works, probably the largest chemical plant in the world, which is producing magnesium from the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

At Texas City, immediately on the canal, is a big tin smelter which I think is about completed and which is also a Government plant.

In the Houston-Galveston area there are many other industrial plants which are producing essential war materials.

The CHAIRMAN. I will state, Mr. Miller, that the tin smelter at Texas City commenced its operation on Easter.

Mr. MILLER. In the Sabine district, which I stated yesterday was the largest refinery locality in the world, they are producing octane gas, which is absolutely essential in winning the war.

Through southern Louisiana there are many war industries and the largest salt deposits in the world with an unpredictable amount of salt, which is essential to the war effort.

So that, gentlemen, while we cannot overemphasize the importance of fuel, which will win the war, but we must take into consideration many other commodities which must find transportation to the industrial section of the North and East.

While I am heartily in accord with the proposal that a pipe line should be constructed as soon as possible, I do not think we can escape the uncontrovertible fact that we ought to have this waterway on the basis of a 12-foot depth as soon as we can get it. To say we will not undertake it because we cannot finish it before the war is over is to arrogate to ourselves a knowledge which is perhaps possessed by no living person.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. That would be assuming the war is going to end in 2 years, and it may last 5 years.