

Mr. CHILDRENS. I am just wondering if it is possible to get a pipe line across there to meet the whole situation. The testimony indicated this morning that priorities had been denied on pipe lines heretofore. The testimony here this morning indicated that pipe lines would have to be jumped up, and none are available.

Mr. JOHNS. Would that not be true in building a canal across there?

Mr. CHILDRENS. Of course, a pipe line would help some.

Our view is that we should make every possible effort, taking the long view, that will eventually eliminate the entire difficulty.

Mr. JOHNS. I have been sitting here for a couple of days in part, but I do not think I have heard any witnesses who want the canal put across there.

Mr. CHILDRENS. I could not speak for them. I would not be able to answer that.

Mr. JOHNS. Do you know of any witnesses from Florida who want it?

Mr. CHILDRENS. I do not know of any.

Mr. GREEN. Judge, I may say in that connection that several of the witnesses are here from Florida, and I understand that two of them will testify for the bill.

Mr. RANKIN. I call attention to the fact that we have had a witness from Florida, from this district, who had been selected to represent the whole State.

Mr. JOHNS. I do not want to break into the matter at all, but there are reports on this that will be very enlightening to them.

Mr. RANKIN. The only opposition so far as the barge line was concerned was commercial interests in Miami, and I think from what I have heard that those in Miami, probably now are willing to withdraw their contention.

Mr. CHILDRENS. I do not know about that. What was their contention?

Mr. RANKIN. Their contention is that the cut would be too deep, that it would shut off the water supply. This does not apply, of course, to a 12-foot cut now. I did not think they had raised that objection to the barge canal.

Mr. GREEN. I think I can say to Mr. Johns that the people of my State favor this canal to carry this oil and other necessities and I think there is very little, if any, opposition to its carrying this oil and other war materials immediately, and there will be several here today to testify to the same thing.

Relative to the dredging machinery, they have now the great New Jersey bridge equipment which has now finished its mission, and can be transferred.

Mr. JOHNS. Was this issue made in the campaign at all?

Mr. GREEN. I made no reference except to the war efforts.

The CHAIRMAN. I wish to offer the suggestion that I do not consider this measure intended for the benefit of Florida. It is more for the people of the West and the people of the East; they just happen to be on the line.

Mr. GREEN. That is right.

The CHAIRMAN. It only proposes to bring oil from the Gulf of Mexico to the East.

Mr. JOHNS. I thought maybe Florida did not want it.