

Mr. MILLER. We have four other important witnesses from the lower Rio Grande Valley, whom I would like to have testify this afternoon. I think none of them will care to make a lengthy statement, although they are prepared to give the committee some very valuable information.

Mr. John H. Shary, of Texas, will make a brief statement.

STATEMENT OF JOHN H. SHARY, RIO GRANDE VALLEY, TEX.

Mr. SHARY. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I appreciate the privilege of appearing before you gentlemen in behalf of the proposed program for the completion of the intercoastal canal to our Rio Grande Valley and the construction of the canal across Florida with the necessary deepening and widening of the areas to the required depth.

The testimony before you gentlemen thus far has outlined much about the oil situation. We all realize the gravity of it, but we cannot win the war with oil alone. Neither can we supply the great necessity of strategic materials through a pipe line.

I wish to give you some light on the proposition of other essentials to our war efforts so urgently necessary to round out a program of shipping materials and products, all of which are necessary to complete a formula to successfully carry on this war, in our efforts, and our Rio Grande Valley of Texas with the intercoastal canal extends to us a riddance of our serious bottleneck because it produces a great quantity of vital products.

I come from the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. I am one of the pioneers of this valley, having started my work there in the development line more than 30 years ago. This great intercoastal canal project has pioneered since 1905 and at that everlastingly on the job. Different people pioneer along different lines.

We in the great Southwest have had many experiences that are worth telling. This particular one will reflect one of the experiences of pioneering, due to the lack of adequate transportation and the prohibitive high cost of transportation.

A poor ranchman shipped a carload of sheep to the Kansas City market to a commission merchant to handle for him, naturally expecting fair, reasonable returns, but instead the merchant wired for more money, advising the sheep did not bring the freight. The ranchman replied: "There ain't no money; shipping more sheep."

In our valley we have had similar experiences with almost every known vegetable. The farmers have many times marketed their crops at less than the cost of freight and been called upon to pay the difference.

The Rio Grande Valley is one of the richest agricultural areas in America, a section where one can raise almost all that is necessary for a livelihood for himself, but in going further than a bare living and attempting to ship out and give the benefit of this wonderful valley to the whole Nation it has met with many difficulties in the line of transportation.

Mr. CULKIN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SHARY. Yes.

Mr. CULKIN. How long has that been going on? I mean when you get less for the cost of the product than the cost of the freight?