

The next witness is a prominent businessman from Harlingen, Tex., in the heart of the Rio Grande Valley. He will make a general statement. He will be followed by the port directors of the port of Brownsville and Port Isabel, both of whom are expert traffic men, and who will be able to give you complete information as to the traffic movement from that section.

I first present Mr. Dan Murphy, of Harlingen, one of the leading cities of south Texas.

STATEMENT OF DAN MURPHY, OF HARLINGEN, TEX.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, it is a privilege to appear before this committee representing Harlingen and its navigation district.

This inland community has so much faith in the eventual completion of this canal that it raised \$500,000, bought right-of-ways, bought spoilage land, bought land for a turning base, bought a dredge, and dredged its own 5-foot canal from Port Isabel to Harlingen.

Mr. DONDERO. How many miles is that, Mr. Murphy?

Mr. MURPHY. It runs about 40 miles, I believe, the way it is run around. Harlingen is the center of the most productive agricultural land, I imagine, in America or anywhere in the world.

We have 550,000 acres of irrigated, semitropical land that can be used the year round. Crops can be rotated in such a way that there is not a month in the year that crops are not produced on valley land.

In addition to that we have many thousands of acres of what we call dry land, land that depends on rain for its moisture. The dry land can grow at least three crops a year. As a general thing, they plant onions in the winter, corn in the spring, and use it for cotton late in the summer and fall.

The CHAIRMAN. Otherwise, it is not under cultivation?

Mr. MURPHY. Very little of the time.

The irrigated land, as a general thing, produces four crops as compared to the dry land. The irrigated land produces more delicate and more highly prized crops such as tomatoes and products of that sort.

It is said that we need food to win the war, food and oil. The Rio Grande Valley has both in abundance.

Their infant canning industry now compares with the canning industries of any section.

As to our oil production, we have built it up as transportation was available to carry our oil.

A map showing the oil production and the oil structures is just about a solid color, maybe covering all of the Rio Grande Valley where the production can be taken away by a pipe line and our two railroads and the boats that have been brought in.

Much land down there is under lease and being held for some means of transportation to carry off the oil when it is brought out. A great deal of our petroleum down there is bought in production and royalties, and the leases are owned not by the big corporations but by individuals. The individuals who derive all or part, or some part of their income from petroleum are wondering about their incomes. It is awfully hard, when they read that petroleum is important to the war, for them to understand why the wells are being