

the reason for rationing gasoline in the areas where they have more of it than they know what to do with.

Mr. MILLER. The members of the committee will recall the testimony of Mr. Allen, of the Petroleum Coordinator's office yesterday, as to the need for fuel oil on the Atlantic coast and in this area, as probably being more important than gasoline.

Your last witness yesterday afternoon was Mr. F. W. Hofmakel, of Brownsville, Tex., the director of the port there. I would like to ask that he be permitted to file a statement in the record at the conclusion of his testimony.

The CHAIRMAN. That may be done.

Mr. MILLER. Members of the committee will recall that Mr. Hofmakel presented some very interesting testimony in reference to many of the commodities consisting of vital war material which would be served by the canal from the Brownsville area, and more particularly from Mexico.

I now desire to present to the committee Mr. James C. Bowie, of Port Isabel, Tex., which is one of two ports in the Rio Grande Valley.

Mr. Chairman, before Mr. Bowie proceeds may I make this request, not so much in behalf of the witness, but in behalf of the committee, which is that Mr. Bowie be permitted to proceed with his statement, and that questions be withheld until he concludes.

The CHAIRMAN. I am always very glad to grant that privilege, so far as I am concerned.

Mr. Bowie, the committee will be glad to have a statement from you at this time.

STATEMENT OF JAMES C. BOWIE, DIRECTOR OF PORT ISABEL, TEX.

Mr. BOWIE. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, I feel highly honored at being permitted to come before this body to take part in your deliberations on such a vital matter as transportation.

Since coming to this room this morning I have received very bad news in regard to my port, Port Isabel. The news for some time has been bad, and it has been getting worse every day.

We expected a very large ship to come into Port Isabel at the end of the week, but it was torpedoed in the Gulf of Mexico.

We have a refinery at the port making high-octane gas for the American Navy. That is shut down and we cannot make any more of that high-octane gas for the Navy because the other products taken out of petroleum cannot move.

If in discussing this matter this morning, I appear to be very much concerned, I would like for the committee to try to put itself in my place just for a few minutes.

If you had great ships coming into your port, things of life and vitality, great servants of the people, and you had become acquainted with the captains, officers, and crews, and knew something about their lives and their history and aspirations, and then the next morning picked up a newspaper which told you that one of the ships had been torpedoed and that these valiant men, these American sailors were burned to death in a flaming sea of oil, then when you thought of transportation you would be appalled if you learned that one American had raised his hand to stop finding a solution of that