

problem, or a man who would put his selfish interest against the interests of his country, or who would match dollars against human life. That is what concerns you as members of this committee today, and concerns me.

I am not concerned about dollars and cents; my people in south Texas are not concerned about dollars and cents. The people who built Texas are the descendants or followers of the men of the Alamo and of San Jacinto. They are not penurious people. They have not complained in my part of the country about any rationing or about any sacrifice the Government has called upon them to make. They could not do it and deserve to be called descendants of the famous men of my great State.

And that applies to America everywhere, as I know it.

But we know there are individuals and there are selfish interests who fail to see that the permanent waving of Old Glory over the Land of Liberty and Freedom is involved in more than what happens to their particular industry, their particular railroad or their particular investment.

Gentlemen of the committee, I have had the honor to appear in behalf of the extension of the canal from Corpus Christi down to our country at the hearing before the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors last September, and I presented facts there as to the dire necessity for the extension of that canal, and at a later date our distinguished Texan, Mr. Roy Miller, came before this committee and presented the case.

Your committee in its bill recommended that extension be built, and the making of that extension is provided for in one of the House bills.

As has been pointed out by several of the witnesses who have appeared before you, there is little new about this canal; just an addition that cuts across Florida, in order to make complete the vision of the Corps of Engineers and statesmen in regard to the need for a protected inland waterway for our country.

So, in advocating this project, we are not asking the United States Government to spend money on something that has been quickly considered. If this committee recommends the construction of this canal, it is merely bringing to a conclusion, to a logical conclusion, all of the efforts heretofore made in that respect.

I dare say there is no part of the United States that knows the value of transportation better than our people down there in the Rio Grande Valley. No part of the United States realizes more fully than we what the lack of water transportation means to a country.

Mr. RANKIN. May I ask you a question?

Mr. BOWIE. Certainly.

Mr. RANKIN. You say you are interested in the canal from Corpus Christi down to connect with this coastwise waterway?

Mr. BOWIE. Yes, sir.

Mr. RANKIN. How far is it from Corpus Christi down to this canal?

Mr. BOWIE. About 127 miles, I believe.

Mr. RANKIN. How much of that has to be built?

Mr. BOWIE. One hundred and twenty-seven miles.