

Mr. RANKIN. That is included in this bill?

Mr. BOWIE. Yes, sir.

Mr. RANKIN. Is there a canal there now?

Mr. BOWIE. No, sir; but that canal, as it is projected, would come right down the middle of the Laguna Madre. This is a body of water [indicating on map] which lies between the mainland of the coast of Texas and this yellow-marked area here [indicating on map]. In part of this area the water is 7 feet deep. The cost of the project is estimated to be only two and one-half million dollars.

Mr. RANKIN. We spoke about a pipe line yesterday. Could the oil be carried down to the intracoastal waterway through a pipe line?

Mr. BOWIE. Where from?

Mr. RANKIN. From Corpus Christi.

Mr. BOWIE. We have a pipe line from the hinterland to Corpus Christi and pipe lines from all this area [indicating on map], these lower eight southern counties of the State of Texas, in what is known as the tip of Texas, not the heart of Texas.

This is Port Isabel here [indicating on map]. There is a pipe line running from there and from the port of Brownsville on up into this territory [indicating on map], which branches out into various oil fields.

Mr. RANKIN. How long would it take to finish that canal to Corpus Christi?

Mr. BOWIE. I have been told if you put four dredges in there they could build it in about 6 months, with one dredge at each end and two in the middle.

Mr. RANKIN. If they had four hydraulic dredges?

Mr. BOWIE. Yes, sir.

Mr. RANKIN. Then they could build it in 6 months?

Mr. BOWIE. Yes; there are no structures to be built, no bridges to be built, and no rights-of-way to be acquired.

Mr. RANKIN. There would be no locks on it?

Mr. BOWIE. No highways and no bridges.

Mr. RANKIN. In 6 months they could dig a 12-foot channel?

Mr. BOWIE. Yes, sir.

Mr. RANKIN. About what would it cost?

Mr. BOWIE. The estimate we have on a 9-foot channel is 2½ million dollars. What the extra cost for digging a 12-foot channel would be I do not know.

Mr. RANKIN. What I had reference to is the fact that the question of the rationing of gasoline in Texas is not our problem; our problem is to get it to the Atlantic seaboard.

Mr. BOWIE. That is why we are for the extension across the peninsula of Florida.

Mr. CULKIN. What is the length of this Padre Island?

Mr. BOWIE. It is 108 miles from the south to the north.

Mr. CULKIN. What is the general elevation?

Mr. BOWIE. It runs from zero to 40 feet.

Mr. CULKIN. That forms the outer bank of the coast there?

Mr. BOWIE. It goes along Padre Island to the other bank, and it would be a protected bank, but the canal will go down the middle. That would go down the middle.

Mr. CULKIN. You do not know anything about the maintenance, do you?