

payers. Who is a taxpayer? The men who own 10,000,000 trees in the Rio Grande Valley are taxpayers. The railroads would not support any move that would afford relief to the Rio Grande Valley. Every effort that was put forth of any real value was opposed secretly and effectively by the railroads down there and up here in Washington.

I have lived down there for 30 years, and I have given 30 years of my life down there and I would give it again to help bring the fruits of the finest fertile spot that God ever made to the people of the country.

Let me show you what we had as a result of deep water. Prior to deep water we had only one or two little canning plants producing just a few thousand cases a year. The freight rate from the Rio Grande Valley to Corpus Christi, Tex., a distance by air of about 150 miles, was far more than the freight rate from Baltimore, Md., to Corpus Christi by water, and at that time they were canning nothing but vegetables; and, while this is hard to believe, the fellow in Baltimore, over 2,000 miles away, could sell cheaper in Corpus Christi than those 150 miles away, and the result was that for years and years the farmers of the Rio Grande Valley were compelled to plow up thousands and thousands of acres of the finest vegetables and fruits ever produced anywhere. Already since the building of the port down at the Rio Grande Valley we have got a rate of 25 cents per hundred—\$5 a ton—to New York City.

Mr. CULKIN. May I interrupt for a question?

Mr. BOWIE. Yes, sir.

Mr. CULKIN. And at the time these farmers were plowing up this food one-third of the country was half-starved and half-clad.

Mr. BOWIE. Yes.

Mr. CULKIN. And that is a complete indictment of the transportation system that exists today.

Mr. BOWIE. There is no question about that.

Here is what happened after that: When the rate of \$5 a ton to New York City was established our farmers down there began—and the businessmen began—building canning plants until today it is recognized as one of the greatest canning centers in the world. The largest grapefruit cannery in the world is down there.

Mr. CULKIN. What is your suggestion; what procedure do you suggest to carry this to the people and the country at this time?

Mr. BOWIE. If you can get Mr. Roosevelt to go on the radio for 30 minutes it might help.

Mr. CULKIN. He has not shown any disposition to do it.

Mr. BOWIE. Well, of course, that is something we cannot expect of him in his position.

But I would like to say this, that I have heard a great deal of criticism of the newspapers here and perhaps some of it is justified, but I cannot say that about my part of the country. The newspapers, those that I know in South Texas, are always giving great publicity to the efforts of the people down there to get deep waterways as a means of transportation.

Mr. CULKIN. And they are opposed to similar treatment for other parts of the country.

Mr. BOWIE. I do not know. I think not; I think not, sir. I have never seen it in my particular part of the country in the press. And the reason they are for deep-water transportation is because they know what it has brought to those living in Texas; that is what