

may understand it, and see what we can do. We will at least be doing our duty. If we hold on any longer, I am afraid we will not get the thing settled. I think that what we ought to do is to finish up today, and go down and tell the President what we have found out. Of course, the President cannot find out everything, and I think that is exactly what we should do. I do not think these hearings should last any longer. I think we should take the statements of Mr. Bowie, and what has been said by Mr. Culkin, Mr. Rankin, Mr. Johns, and other members of the committee, and vote the measure out. We have this submarine menace, and in that connection, I was at New Orleans on the 12th to see if we could do something about it, and see if we could sink some of them. We went down to see the Secretary of the Navy yesterday and told him about it. I think we are losing time here, and we should make provision for this canal and pipe line. That is something that the railroads themselves cannot have any objection to.

Mr. GREEN. I want to concur in what has been said in behalf of the imperative and immediate need of passing the omnibus river and harbor bill. I am for every item in it, and I prefer the item for the Florida canal in that bill to the provision in this bill, or in the little bill that is before us now. On the other hand, we must be practical in this matter. We have this bill here before us about ready for immediate action. There would be no serious objection, in my opinion, in the House or Senate to the provisions of this little bill that is before us today, because it is a part of the very war blood that will save this Nation. We can pass it without any wrangling in the House or Senate. So far as the other projects are concerned, I do not see why this should slow up the omnibus bill. I suggest that we take it up and put in whatever amendments are needed. Sometimes you must give an anesthetic. If you are a good doctor, before you perform the operation, you will administer an anesthetic. This bill is an anesthetic; so let us get this anesthetic out of the committee and before the House and Senate. It should in no way impede the consideration of the general omnibus river and harbor bill. I am in favor of the omnibus bill, as much as for any bills that have been reported out during the 17½ years I have been here. But do not let us stay the progress of this bill to legislative enactment. Let us do this now, and then immediately thereafter pick up the omnibus bill and do the same thing about it.

Mr. BEITER. I think that if this bill is reported out, it will probably expedite the project. If you wait for the omnibus river and harbor bill, there will probably be long-drawn-out hearings in the Senate, whereas, if we take this little bill that the chairman has introduced here, there will not be any long-drawn-out hearings. I think that when the proponents conclude their hearings this afternoon, the opponents should be given an opportunity to be heard for 1 or 2 days. They should be given an opportunity to be heard, because it would be undemocratic to close the hearings for the proponents and give the opponents no opportunity to be heard. I do not know who will want to be heard on the part of the opponents. I do not know whether any railroad lobbyists want to be heard or not. I do not think there will be any railroad lobbyists for the opponents. I think we should provide a full opportunity for the