

opponents of the bill to be heard, and then let the omnibus bill take its course.

The CHAIRMAN. All of us seem to be of the same opinion.

Mr. MILLER. There are quite a number of witnesses from other States besides Texas who want to be heard.

Mr. GREEN. There are some from Florida who wish to be heard.

Mr. CULKIN. I agree with the gentleman that we should hear the opponents.

Mr. MILLER. If it is in order for me to make an observation on the question raised by the gentleman from New York and other members of the committee, with reference to expediting action on the pipe-line proposition, I think that the hearings you have had on this question during the last 2 days will result in immediate action. It is my prediction that there will be some announcement with respect to pipe lines within a very short time.

Mr. HALL. I think the President has had authority to build the pipe line since July 1941.

The CHAIRMAN. I might state in answer to that, that the bill provides that he can build it if he wants to in the interest of national defense. This bill is more for domestic purposes than for war purposes.

Mr. HALL. I doubt if that is so. If you will read the title of the bill I think it will show that.

The CHAIRMAN. I would like to have the title of the bill read.

Mr. HALL. The title of the bill is "to promote the national defense and protect the transport of materials and supplies needful to the military establishment by authorizing construction and operation of a pipe line and navigable barge channel across Florida," and so forth. So we have the same situation in the bill that is provided for in the other bill that was enacted in 1941, as I see it.

Mr. CULKIN. The 1941 bill contains the same provision.

Mr. MILLER. I think I can state the position of the proponents with reference to the manner in which this piece of legislation should be handled: As the chairman knows, we had a meeting down in Texas, which was called the Texas Waterways Conference, in the month of December, within 9 days after Pearl Harbor. That conference, which was attended by representatives from more than 200 communities in the State, unanimously passed a resolution expressing the views of the waterways people of Texas, that the omnibus river and harbor bill should be passed.

It is still my own personal position, that it should be enacted with the amended provision that the committee recently put in the bill. There is no sound reason in my opinion why that bill should not have been passed, several months ago, because under the amendment adopted by the committee, you placed it entirely in the hands of the proper authorities to say what projects should be undertaken. As you know the amendment provides that no projects shall be appropriated for or constructed until 6 months after the war is over, unless the project is certified by some defense agency as necessary for the national defense, and is approved by the President. I think this hearing on that question is conclusive. I think the matter of emergency has been demonstrated beyond question of doubt. Now, we are in the position that if you undertake to pass the omnibus rivers and harbors bill, some time would necessarily be consumed,