

I have also a brief of various shipyards which have been in production, to prove that you can build a 65-foot tugboat, completely equipped, in 15 days from the day that the keel is laid until it is dumped overboard ready for sea duty.

We have a company here which is qualified under the United States Bureau of Shipping, which built a tugboat for a private enterprise 65 feet long and 7½ feet draft, powered with a 500-horsepower Diesel engine; and it was 13 days from the day when the keel was laid until the day that it was turned over to what was supposed to be its owner. But it was taken over by the Maritime Commission and given to the Navy and assigned to the Army for harbor use.

We have in Florida an unknown number of big shrimp boats, whose activities have either been so restricted or so curtailed that the boats are now idle. These boats vary in length from 35 to 65 feet, and they are powered with anything from 150- to 500-horsepower Diesel engines.

In the shrimping operations off the Florida coast those boats are designed primarily for towing operations, because they must tow heavy shrimp nets. They will make a passable substitute for tugboats immediately.

Within the next 24 hours I will have available for your committee a complete list of those existing shrimp boats which are available for tugboats.

Mr. PITTENGER. You say that they are available right now?

Mr. DUGAN. Yes. They are idle now in the State of Florida.

Mr. PITTENGER. You do not know how many there are?

Mr. DUGAN. I know of one fleet of 15 boats, the smallest one of which is 55 feet long and the largest one 65.

Mr. PITTENGER. How many big ones did you say?

Mr. DUGAN. The biggest one is a 500 horsepower. There are two big ones and 13 small ones. The 13 small boats run from 250- to 300-horsepower Diesels. We will have available to your committee tomorrow a complete list of those.

Mr. PITTENGER. Are you able to tell us whether those boats can tow a steel barge carrying gasoline, for instance?

Mr. DUGAN. Yes, sir; they can.

Some of these harbor men here and tow men can tell you better than I can why and how these big shrimp boats can be used as towing units at the present time.

Mr. PITTENGER. Is their present operation restricted?

Mr. DUGAN. It is both restricted and curtailed. In many cases the Federal Government has confiscated shrimp boats owned by aliens. I think the day before yesterday the Federal Government confiscated four at Fort Lauderdale; boats that were owned by Italians. I understand that others of them have been confiscated on the Florida west coast.

Mr. PITTENGER. An ordinary shrimper—I have seen them operating in Florida—will run how many horsepower?

Mr. DUGAN. From 250 to 500. It depends on whether they operate in the Gulf or in the ocean. Those that operate in the Atlantic usually have more horsepower than those that operate in the Gulf. Those are shrimping in deeper water with bigger nets.

Mr. CULKIN. Could you transfer the power units from those shrimp boats to regular tugboats?