

there had been prompt action, they would already be constructed and would be bringing crude oil into the eastern section. I know that we have gasoline at Savannah right now ready to go. They claim that the closest point to the eastern seaboard from Wichita Falls, Tex., would be Savannah, and everything is ready to go by pipe line. Yet we cannot get any release for the necessary material.

Major PARTEN. If I may, I will comment on the two proposals in their order: You will recall that the Office of Petroleum Coordinator recommended to the Office of Production Management last summer that a 24-inch pipe line be built from Longview, Tex., to Philadelphia and Bayonne, and that priorities for steel be allowed or granted. The Office of Production Management, in its deliberations, denied the steel involved. At that time the industry had already agreed to finance the building of the pipe line. If it had been built, it is true that it would have been in operation now, at least as far as Pittsburgh. The Office of Petroleum Coordinator reopened the matter with the War Production Board, and the War Production Board denied the application. We have discussed the matter for reconsideration of this pipe-line proposal in the light of present circumstances recently with the War Production Board, and they have shown a desire to see a reappraisal of this proposal. We have gone about making that reappraisal from the records, and that is now complete. It should be submitted to the War Production Board within a few days for consideration. In this reappraisal, I might mention that, due to war conditions and the critical shortage of steel, we have reduced the tonnage of steel involved by approximately 112,000 tons by reducing the wall thickness of the pipe.

Mr. KIRWAN. You made the statement that it would take 2 years to build the canal across Florida.

Major PARTEN. That is purely an estimate. I cannot say that I am right on that figure.

Mr. KIRWAN. I cannot understand why it would take that long. It was stated here yesterday that they built the Pennsylvania Terminal Highway in 7 months. On that road they have 50 bridges on 177 miles of road.

Mr. HALL. General Reybold testified that it would take 3 years to build the canal from Carrabelle to Jacksonville.

The CHAIRMAN. You have to take it to the Mexican border.

Mr. RANKIN. They could take it to Jacksonville only in 15 months, and they could use that route every day in the year with the exception of about 15.

Major PARTEN. I would like not to be understood as opposed to building the canal. The Office of Petroleum Coordinator recommends digging canals and improving waterways wherever possible. It so happens that the best appraisal we could get on the completion of this canal led us to believe that the trans-Florida canal would not do us any appreciable good in the solution of this problem, which we feel must be solved within the next few months.

Mr. KIRWAN. I do not know about that. You have 177 miles, with 50 bridges and tunnels, to be built in 7 months, and yet here is just 50 miles of canal. They could dig it in a few months.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Kirwan, it is going to be a question of assembling the equipment. It depends on how much equipment you can get to do the work.