

capacity. But the unit contemplating the building of that line are satisfied with the barge picture as it relates to its capacity.

Mr. GREEN. Do you believe that the barge picture, with the addition of that pipe line, will be adequate to serve the east coast of the United States in this emergency?

Major PARTEN. No; it would not be adequate to serve the east coast.

Mr. HALL. I come from New York, and of course I am vitally interested in having the assurance of an adequate supply of oil and gasoline for my State.

I am wondering if you will tell me this: We have a critical situation which may become more critical. Do you think we will pass that critical point before 2 years have elapsed?

Major PARTEN. My judgment is that we must solve this problem as quickly as possible, and I would say within a year, because that is as soon as it can be fully solved, and in the absence of tankers we are going to have some shortage of tank capacity until we can get these new facilities in.

Mr. HALL. You do not feel that we should go into a project, the completion of which, according to expert opinion, may not take place until 3 years from today? We cannot wait for that. Is that your considered opinion?

Major PARTEN. I would like to limit my answer to the solution of this particular problem. We cannot wait for facilities beyond 12 months to solve the problem we are on.

Mr. MILLER. May I ask Major Parten a question?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Mr. MILLER. Major Parten, are you familiar with the fact that upon the recommendation of the transportation committee of district 3 the Director of Transportation of the Office of Petroleum Coordinator for National Defense, of which you are now the head, a few weeks ago made a recommendation to the Chief of Engineers that the proposal to improve the intracoastal waterway of Louisiana and Texas to a depth of 12 feet with a bottom width of 125 feet be undertaken immediately as a war measure? That recommendation went from your office.

Major PARTEN. Yes, sir. Our office thinks that would be a very fine facility.

But the point of distinction here is that that is not a major factor in the matter of supplying the east coast.

Mr. MILLER. I wanted to get in the record the fact that that recommendation had been made.

Major PARTEN. It is something that would be very helpful.

Mr. MILLER. I understand, informally, that probably a recommendation will be made by the Board of Engineers that the Intracoastal Waterway from New Orleans east be enlarged to the same dimensions.

I take it as a matter of course that if the enlargement of the canal west of the Mississippi were considered by the Petroleum Coordinator to be a necessary war measure, then the enlargement of the canal east would come in the same category.

Major PARTEN. I might add at that point that I would like to be understood as saying that the widening of the intracoastal canal would be particularly helpful, even if it is not deepened. The