

widening would be a good thing, and the widening would provide for taking care of an increase of traffic.

As far as petroleum is concerned, that canal, only having a controlled width of 200 feet, makes a pretty tight space between two barge tows measuring 75 feet each in width. It sometimes causes a collision.

Mr. PETERSON. Major, I would like to ask you a question which might clarify the situation in the minds of the people of my State.

All of the information I have gotten from Georgia is to the effect that there is an ample supply of gasoline available. As you know, Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina are among the States where gasoline is being rationed.

I have information from numerous sources down there, including independent distributors—and I notice that there has been a statement issued by the Governor of Florida—and from other sources, that they have all of their facilities loaded to the hilt with gasoline, and that there is a pipe line running right into the heart of our State, and they have more gasoline than they know what to do with. And yet we are being rationed.

I am getting communications of various kinds from my people down there, and they do not understand why it is, if there is an ample supply of gasoline, that they are being put on a rationing basis the same as other States in the eastern part of the United States.

I think you could possibly ease the minds of a large number of people in my State, and also people in South Carolina and Florida, if you would give us something definite on that.

In other words, they cannot understand why it is that in Tennessee, where they do not have a pipe line, as we have in Georgia, they do not have any rationing of gasoline, and yet there is rationing in a State where there is gasoline coming into the heart of the State, and where they claim they have an ample supply on hand.

Do we have a shortage or not?

Major PARTEN. I will say it is undoubtedly true that your gasoline stocks in the southern end of district 1, which is the east coast district, are larger than the gasoline stocks in the northern end of the district.

And here is the answer to your question, I think. We are thinking in terms of efficiency and transportation, considering the job of sending a supply to the eastern seaboard that is normally dependent upon tanker ships. Those tanker ships are virtually out.

Our plan contemplates the hauling by tank car and by coastwise operations of gasoline from those pipe lines.

This plantation pipe line that runs through your city of Atlanta, up to Greensboro, in our program, will be extended by the use of second-hand 8-inch pipe, as far as the water, at about Norfolk, which will carry an additional 30,000 barrels.

Mr. PETERSON. I appreciate that, but from all reports that oil is not being disposed of or being moved on.

My information is that you have barges loaded with gasoline along the Gulf Coast which cannot be unloaded because all of the storage facilities there now are full of gasoline.

What is the sense in not permitting those people to use that gasoline, until you get facilities to move it farther north? It does not help anybody.