

getting all the equipment, but it is now operating and hit capacity last week.

Mr. PETERSON. And you can move any further oil as fast as it comes in?

Major PARTEN. I cannot say there will not be some stock accumulated; I do not think there would be much.

Mr. PETERSON. What about this report that there are a lot of barges of gasoline and oil now on the Gulf coast that cannot be unloaded because there are no facilities at the ports in which it can be stored? For instance, the Governor of Florida has taken the matter up with the President, and according to newspaper reports, he has stated that there are barges of gasoline and oil now standing along the Gulf coast of Florida, filled with petroleum products, but they cannot be unloaded because they have no place to store them, that all their facilities are filled to capacity.

Major PARTEN. You are talking about storage over in Texas, at Texas ports?

Mr. PETERSON. No; I am talking about along the Florida coast.

Major PARTEN. Along the Florida coast?

Mr. PETERSON. Yes.

Major PARTEN. I am sorry I cannot answer the question, but I certainly will be interested to run it down and find out about it.

Mr. PETERSON. I think it is very important, because if we have these barges filled with petroleum products and they cannot be unloaded—

Major PARTEN (interposing). I would be inclined to discount that report on its face. I just cannot conceive, with the shortage of barges we have. We do have a shortage of power frequently to unload; the barges cannot get the power to move, perhaps, for 24 to 48 hours.

Mr. PETERSON. I understand they have already been moved and are ready to be unloaded there.

Major PARTEN. That is on the west coast of Florida.

Mr. PETERSON. That is according to the report.

Major PARTEN. Yes.

Mr. PETERSON. From the Governor of Florida.

Major PARTEN. I certainly will be interested to look into that.

Mr. PETERSON. I do not think there is any doubt about it, because the Governor of the State tells me that the facilities are loaded to capacity.

Major PARTEN. And they cannot unload the barges, and if they cannot we can turn them up the Mississippi.

Mr. PETERSON. They could use the gasoline down there if they did not have rationing. But if gasoline and petroleum products are available why should they not be permitted to use them?

Major PARTEN. We are vitally interested in operating the inland waterways, utilizing them 24 hours a day. We want to use all kinds of equipment which will contribute toward getting supply to the east coast.

Mr. PETERSON. I would like to state to the gentleman that there has just been placed in my possession a copy of a letter written by the Governor—this particular copy is not signed, in which I am advised that the actual situation is that the barges are there loaded with