

It is certainly apparent that you are not familiar with the facts, that you should become familiar with them, and if these are the facts it would seem proper that these States should be excluded.

Major PARTEN. Well let us be fair about this proposition. I was an independent refiner myself before I took the position I now hold and left my business. I know as an independent refiner the pressure and desire to sell petroleum products and I can thoroughly sympathize with them, and I recognize thoroughly that rationing is something that none of us like to take. We do not like to put up with it unless we have to.

Now, the truth about the matter is I think when we get to the bottom of it we will find there is a lot of available storage along the Florida coast. These people, these particular people did not happen to have it.

Mr. PETERSON. But I think you should go into it.

Major PARTEN. I would be glad to. But the solution to the problem is to provide for doing one of two things: And so far as rationing is concerned I do not have a thing in the world to do with it. One is to provide transportation in there to bring the stuff north where stocks are short; or, on the other hand, to divert some of the barges up the Mississippi River and then up the Ohio River.

Mr. PETERSON. But in the meantime their position is that while oil is available why not let them use it; why let it work a hardship on these people? Why not let these barges be unloaded and go back and get some more oil?

The CHAIRMAN. Do you want to put that letter in the record, Mr. Peterson?

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Chairman, I think the letter should be put in the record. I would like to state here that this is a copy and it does not carry his signature, but I will be glad to have this copy verified and insert it in the record.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, it will be made a part of the record.

(The letter referred to is as follows:)

STATE OF FLORIDA,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Tallahassee, May 16, 1942.

HON. HAROLD L. ICKES,
Petroleum Coordinator, Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I have noted with interest in your release by Associated Press from Washington on May 14 that you are still thinking of our request in Florida for transfer from district 1 to district 3. We still feel that we are more properly classified as a Gulf State than as an Atlantic State, and we have noted with interest that the United States Maritime Commission and the War Shipping Administration have recently classified us as a Gulf State and placed us in the Gulf Coast district rather than in the Atlantic Coast district.

We are still of the strong feeling in Florida that we can be adequately served as to our gasoline needs and fuel-oil needs exclusively from the Gulf side and largely, if not wholly, by barges. We have on two previous occasions furnished lists of wooden barges compiled by us, the first of same being under date of March 30 and the last under date of April 21. I note from my file that the receipt of the last list is acknowledged by J. R. Parten, Director of Transportation in the Office of Petroleum Coordinator, under date of April 29. It was received by your office on April 23.

In order to bring the picture to the closest possible date, I have secured today a complete record of the deliveries of gasoline to the State of Florida for the