

I think it is likewise worthy of note that various barges and tugs which can be used for the hauling of petroleum products are now not in use. For instance, on yesterday, May 15, I was advised by the Citizens Oil Co. that it was then being offered by the Sanford Service Co., of DeFuniak Springs, for their use three barges, to wit: *San Cerco No. 1*, *San Cerco No. 2*, and *San Cerco No. 3*, each with a rated capacity of 9,000 to 10,000 barrels of oil or gas with tug for pulling same. An additional two barges of the same capacity are now under construction which will be available, one for immediate delivery and the other for delivery on July 15. This equipment would permit the transportation of 2,500,000 gallons additional supplies by Citizens Oil Co., or by any other oil company now serving the Florida-Georgia area, if it were not for the rationing program.

On yesterday, May 15, another oil company (a major one) which has storage facilities at St. Marks was likewise full and they were hopelessly tied up against receiving additional shipments. It is my considered judgment that the continued inclusion of Florida and Georgia in the rationed area simply works additional hardship on both of these States and their people without helping anybody else, and I am assured by the State representatives of the Standard Oil Co., the American Oil Co., and the Gulf Oil Corporation, that said companies not only think there is no further reason for leaving Georgia and Florida in district 1, but that said companies have already applied directly to yourself for the exclusion of Georgia and Florida from district 1. Your own files will best show this situation. It is my understanding, however, that all companies serving Florida and Georgia are now agreed that there is no further reason or excuse for continuing these two States in district 1.

I note that in the letter of Mr. Parten dated April 14 by which he denied my last request to detach Florida and annex it to district 3, he based his ruling upon two points as follows: First, that district 1 was created by the Office of Petroleum Coordinator on the recommendation of industry, and second, because Florida normally depended upon tanker transportation. Neither of these two grounds now exist according to my understanding, as I am advised by the representatives of the petroleum industry that they are urgently recommending that Florida and Georgia both be detached from district 1 and that neither of said States now depends upon tanker service. It is my belief that tanker service could be entirely dispensed with as to both States, and you will note from the enclosed lists that in March tanker service was already of secondary importance.

Assuring you that I will deeply appreciate your continued consideration of the claim of Florida for relief from the rationing, and assuring you that I will send you the supplemental information promised herein as soon as the same is compiled and available, I beg to remain, with high respect,

Yours faithfully,

Mr. CULKIN. I would like to get your statement on a matter that is not within my own knowledge but is based on the evidence here.

It was testified here yesterday that there are a great many seagoing shrimp boats off the coast of Florida, and I understand that there are at present a considerable number in the Gulf. They have from two to four hundred horsepower Diesel engines and some of them, the bigger ones, run from 50 to 75 feet long, and that those boats are now available for towing purposes, so that your question of power either up the Mississippi River or up the Atlantic coast canal is not a particular problem, if these boats are organized?

Major PARTEN. Well, of course, when you speak of power you have got to consider that by saying power to do what.

Mr. CULKIN. To tow these boats.

Major PARTEN. For instance, to transport 300,000 barrels of oil from Texas up the Mississippi River to Pittsburgh inland you would need about 176,000 horsepower.

Now, there is not near that much power in these shrimp boats. We know pretty much how much there is, and we have that power in the program.

Mr. CULKIN. Have you made a list of these boats?