

substitutes. You have been getting comparatively more by tankers than they have on the east coast.

Mr. SMITH. Two weeks ago they had an actual shortage at Seattle for industrial purposes.

Mr. GREEN. We have thousands of people available for work in the construction of wooden barges, such as carpenters, joiners, caulkers, and so forth. That does not apply to employment in the steel industry where there may be a shortage of labor. We have in my State probably 25,000 laborers that could be employed to go to work on barge construction.

Mr. SMITH. That is also true in my State. In Washington and Oregon we have the fir timber, shipwrights, and trained shipbuilders who built ships during the last war. They built ships and barges during the last war, and some of them are not employed at the present time. We have a lot of materials available for the purpose, and we could build and also manufacture the engines and boilers in that area. I can see no reason why that construction program should not get under way immediately.

The CHAIRMAN. If there is nothing further we thank you for your statement, Major Parten.

Major PARTEN. I thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. It is now nearly 2 o'clock and we will adjourn until tomorrow morning at 10:30 o'clock.

(Thereupon the committee adjourned, to meet tomorrow, Friday, May 22, 1942, at 10:30 a. m.)