

Mr. CULKIN (interposing). I mean, what was the reason for the proclamation of the President, then?

Mr. WALKER. The need of the proclamation as, the fact that it was a private line, and the act deals with the right of eminent domain; that is the real purpose of that act, to be able to go through the State of Georgia.

Another section also stated that whenever the President shall find a pipe line is necessary in the interest of national defense he shall so proclaim.

Mr. PITTENGER. You might add that that is the real purpose of this proposed line.

Mr. WALKER. Yes.

Mr. CULKIN. What was the real necessity of the Commission to get priorities? I mean by that, the proclamation of the President?

Mr. WALKER. I understand that they are trying to have one man, Mr. Donald Nelson, we will say, who is to have the authority to issue priorities for steel. I think the matter, so far as steel is concerned, rests with the War Production Board. Now, we could deliver more oil with less steel by this pipe line.

Mr. CULKIN. Did I understand you to say that there was a group of companies involved in this project?

Mr. WALKER. No.

Mr. CULKIN. A group of individuals?

Mr. WALKER. We have some independent support along the route, through the Tinsley field and northern Louisiana—fields that we would touch naturally, that would be helpful, and at the same time we have some independents who are helping at the other end.

Mr. CULKIN. But they are not companies?

Mr. WALKER. They are both companies and individuals.

Mr. CULKIN. How much oil did you deliver last year?

Mr. WALKER. This is a proposed pipe line; we did not deliver any.

Mr. CULKIN. How much oil did you put on the market?

Mr. WALKER. We are not in the marketing business; we are only in the transportation business.

Mr. CULKIN. Well, how much did you deliver by transporting?

Mr. WALKER. We did not deliver any.

Mr. PETERSON. They have not started operation yet.

Mr. RANKIN. This is a proposal.

Mr. ANGELL. It is a promotion?

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Ickes has stated that it was a promotion.

Mr. ANGELL. Mr. Walker, I am not asking that in a critical sense.

Mr. WALKER. No.

Mr. ANGELL. It is just a proposal.

Mr. WALKER. It is just a proposal; yes.

Mr. PETERSON. In other words, this is promoted for the benefit of the independents, just as existing lines are promoted by the big oil interests?

Mr. WALKER. That is correct.

Mr. PETERSON. You made a reply to a question a few minutes ago as to how long this application had been pending, the proposal of the big oil companies, on the one side, and your independent organization on the other side was injected into this discussion. Could it by any means be that these so-called big oil companies are not favorable to this pipe