

refinery at Savannah, we would undertake the job on our own account by assembling a technical organization, providing a site and obtaining the funds for so doing from Defense Plant Corporation. Naturally we would prefer not to do this because frankly our job is to bring industries to Savannah that would be financed and operated by established groups in that industry. The Pan American Petroleum & Transport Co., for example, already has an asphalt refinery at Savannah and a small dock, and our interests control a big industrial site immediately behind that plant, and this would be an ideal set-up. However, Pan American, for some reason or other, has not shown much interest in the matter.

I have talked to some of our mutual friends in Savannah about this matter, and there has been at least a mild interest shown, but not enough to bring about any tangible results.

At the Office of the Oil Coordinator there had evidently developed only a mild interest, but today it would appear that the administration is really going to make some decision, and it would seem to me that if Savannah and Georgia are really interested in a crude-oil pipe line terminal and refinery, now is the time when everybody ought to go to work.

I am enclosing herewith a very rough sketch of this proposed crude-oil pipe line, and it shows that Savannah is about midway between Norfolk and Key West, which area, as you know, is one of great importance for the Army, the Air Force, and the Navy in this present conflict. A branch line to Charleston is proposed, and a branch line to Jacksonville could be included. The important point, however, is that the shortest distance between Wichita Falls and the Atlantic Ocean is Savannah, and consequently the least amount of steel will be required by having the terminal at Savannah. Furthermore, Savannah is on the inland waterways, and the movement of both crude and refined petroleum products by way of barge north or south could be made with absolute safety, and in addition to this is the fact that Savannah is on the main line of five railroads, which likewise could be utilized for speedy transportation to inland as well as coastal points.

I know of your strong interest in the industrial development of Georgia's first district, and it would seem to me that this is a project well worth going after because of its inherent soundness in both war and peace, and the very considerable development that would redound to our State.

As you may know, Mr. Robertson and Mr. Richmond have moved permanently to Savannah, where they are carrying out a housing program at Port Wentworth.

I shall appreciate your views and position in the matter. With kindest regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

ROBT. M. WILSON, *President.*

Mr. PETERSON. I would like to ask you one other question: It was stated here yesterday, I believe by the witness that the proposed pipe line in which he seemed to be specifically interested, or the project for the proposed pipe line, has been turned down by Federal agencies before whom it had been brought, but that the matter was being reconsidered and that there were indications that it would receive more favorable consideration at the next hearing that was to be held.

Now, I understand that the situation regarding this proposal here is that it has been pending for some 11 months, and that it likewise has failed to receive favorable consideration on the part of the agencies before whom it has been brought. I am wondering if your arguments are logical and feasible and the project is shown to be as practical as the other project, you should stand an equally fair chance of getting more favorable consideration if you were to ask for it.

Mr. WALKER. Yes; and I would like to enlarge on that. I think I can answer the question.

Mr. GREEN. Make it as brief as you can, because we have other witnesses.

Mr. WALKER. Yes. The big 24-inch line has been before the War Production Board three times, and three times, I understand, has been rejected. We put our application in and each time we got the same kind of communication back from the War Production Board telling