

Mr. RANKIN. I confess I am alarmed at your statement that the big oil interests have their representatives in these various departments.

Mr. WALKER. They have a number of them.

Mr. RANKIN. I knew that the power interests had been trying to get their men in various positions to be able to block the power program, but I did not know that the big oil interests were doing the same thing.

Mr. WALKER. Of course the oil interests are very much more adroit in placing their men in the departments.

Mr. RANKIN. I doubt if they are any more adroit than the power interests.

The CHAIRMAN. If there are no further questions we thank you, Mr. Walker.

Mr. WALKER. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any other witnesses, Mr. Miller?

Mr. MILLER. I know of no other witnesses besides Mr. Buckman, who desire to be heard.

**STATEMENT OF HENRY H. BUCKMAN, CONSULTING ENGINEER,
WASHINGTON, D. C.**

Mr. MILLER. Mr. Chairman, the next witness is Mr. Henry H. Buckman, who is well known to the members of this committee. Mr. Buckman is an eminent engineer of Jacksonville, Fla., and Washington, D. C.

The CHAIRMAN. We will be glad to hear you, Mr. Buckman.

Mr. BUCKMAN. If the committee please, my name is Henry Holland Buckman. I am a consulting engineer, a native of Florida, and by your leave I appear here today representing the Ship Canal Authority of the State of Florida, a public body created by the legislature of that State.

I should like to make a few observations on the broad essentials with which we are concerned.

First, we approve and endorse this bill as it is. We urge its passage.

Second, we feel that because the bill is an emergency measure, as stated in section 1, namely to promote facilities and protect the transportation of materials, supplies, and so forth, we wish to respectfully suggest that it would be constructive if the committee would consider adding a provision to this bill somewhat as follows:

Add an additional section to the bill and transfer to that section the authority for appropriation as now placed in section 1, and then add the following words:

In order to more expeditiously accomplish the purposes set forth in section 1 herein—

the purposes which I have just read from the bill—

the President is hereby authorized and requested to cause to be constructed as speedily as possible the barge canal across Florida, and the pipe line already authorized, and pending appropriation by Congress to employ for these purposes any funds at his disposal and to be replaced from such appropriation when made.

Now we make that suggestion merely in keeping with what we understand to be the spirit of the bill. In other words, the purpose of the authorization in this bill as I understand it, is to get something done now to take care of this emergency situation. The bill