

is well planned to do that. The only thing we should like to add to the bill is a definite request of the President to expediate the carrying out of the provisions as expeditiously as possible.

Mr. PITTENGER. He already has the authority has he not—

Mr. BUCKMAN. He has the authority but he lacks the intimation or the approval by Congress of the specific thing contained in this bill. I think he should have it.

Mr. PITTENGER. The authority exists now.

Mr. BUCKMAN. Mr. Chairman, it is not my purpose to take the time of the committee to argue whether or not this amendment should go into the bill. It is not my province, as a matter of fact, but we offer that, respectfully, for your consideration because it does seem to us to be in keeping with the purpose and the spirit of this bill, if the bill is, as we understand it to be, for the purpose of getting something done immediately, and I think there can be no misunderstanding and no ambiguity, and if the committee will insert that amendment the President will realize clearly that the bill is passed by Congress not simply as an authorization for something, but that these essential things, that barge line across the peninsula of Florida, both the pipe line and the waterway, should be constructed as speedily as possible.

Mr. PITTENGER. The function of this bill is of an emergency character, and the necessity for knowing this winter and the next winter that oil can be supplied the people of the eastern seaboard to keep them from freezing to death, and this bill has no business here on any other basis; it is in the original rivers and harbors bill and that is the bill that ought to have been passed a long time ago.

Mr. BUCKMAN. I agree with you on that point, Mr. Pittenger, but as the bill is before you it is our desire to see that if the committee does see fit to report it out, it may complete it by the addition of what the committee thinks should be done now.

Mr. DONDERO. Have you made an examination of the act passed by Congress as to whether or not the President would not have the right to divert some of the funds already granted to him to do this work?

Mr. BUCKMAN. Mr. Dondero, I am not a lawyer, but I have made an examination of this bill, and in my opinion, as a layman, he has the authority; and it is also a matter of fact and record that nothing has been done about it, and I feel that some—

Mr. DONDERO (interposing). And you are hoping to make it so the President would allocate funds to build any logical facilities that are needed to keep oil flowing.

Mr. BUCKMAN. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, there is no provision in the act covering this.

Mr. BUCKMAN. He has also allotted funds for many other necessary things and I hope and believe that he will allot funds for this bill if it is passed just as it is; but being an engineer I prefer to blueprint my plans, and I should prefer to see the committee blueprint these plans, namely, that what we want done we want done now.

This would be a request; it is not mandatory and in no way ties the President's hands, or interferes with his functions as Commander in Chief, but it does let him know specifically and exactly what is in the mind of the Congress. I think he will find it help-