

UNITED STATES MARITIME COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

June 21, 1944

File

The Honorable
Harley M. Kilgore
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator Kilgore:

In reply to your letter of May 15th, 1944, I am enclosing a report showing a comparison of the oil burning vs. coal burning vessels. From this you will see that under present day circumstances the burning of coal aboard ship is not very attractive. This picture may, of course, change in the distant future and in this respect the Commission is keeping abreast of the various developments so that should this change be dictated, either by economic consideration or through conservation of our natural resources, we will be in a position to design vessels burning coal instead of oil. However, this is not considered to be very probable.

In connection with your specific question as to the number of Victory ships that have been constructed as coal burners, you are advised that none of these vessels are so constructed, for, in addition to the economic side of the question, the military consideration prohibits the use of coal on these vessels.

I trust that this information will serve your purpose and with kindest regards, I am

Most sincerely yours,

E. S. Land

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Chairman