

# Bright Future For Mobile Seen In Waterway Project

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**BIRMINGHAM, Ala.— (UP) —** The rich, new source of iron ore found in Venezuela and the development of port and inland waterway facilities may make Alabama and the Southeast one of the great industrial regions of the country, Rep. Frank Boykin of Mobile said Wednesday.

Boykin said a large share of the Venezuelan iron ore, being developed by the United States Steel Corp., would enter this country through the port of Mobile.

## SEEKS DEEPER CHANNEL

To accommodate this ore movement, Boykin is seeking to have the Army Engineers deepen Mobile harbor and the Mobile ship channel from 36 to 40 feet so that

it would handle the largest vessels. The Army Engineers, he said, are now surveying the port with this in view.

"The city of Mobile will have a population of 500,000 within 30 years, Birmingham will grow enormously and the entire Southeast will double its present population," the Alabama congressman said.

In connection with the inland waterways development, Boykin attended a meeting of the Southeastern Resources Development Assn. here Tuesday.

He and other Alabama members of Congress are working to hasten development of inland waterways in this region. Plans are underway to improve the entire network of navigable rivers in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi and to link the Tennessee and the Tombigbee Rivers by a canal to provide a connection with the Great Lakes region.

"This would provide a waterway from Mobile to Chicago that would be down hill both ways," Boykin said. "This will be true because the Tennessee River flows north and the Mississippi flows south. Traffic would go one way and return the other."

This development and the availability of rich Venezuelan ore will make possible the growth of many kinds of new industries in the Southeast which require a better type of iron and steel than the Birmingham district now produces, he said.

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## WATERWAY

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For example, automobile parts are not now manufactured in the South because of the quality of Southern iron. The auto industry requires iron from richer ores, such as those of the Mesabi Range in Minnesota.

The Venezuelan ore, which is said to be more than 60 per cent iron, is believed to be even richer than the famous Mesabi ore.

The discovery of the Venezuelan deposit was announced by the United States Steel Corp. on January 24.

This mountain of iron, Cerro Bolivar, is being developed by the Orinoco Mining Co., a subsidiary of U. S. Steel.

Boykin is hopeful that a steel plant may be built at Mobile. There has been considerable talk on the possibility of a steel plant on the Gulf Coast as a result of the Venezuelan find.

The Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Co., a subsidiary of U. S. Steel, may benefit heavily from the use of the corporation-owned iron in Venezuela.