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Government would not have a national park if oil were discovered in areas surrounding these key tracts. He assured the Governor and Congressman Peterson that he would present this proposal to the Secretary, but that he did not feel that he could recommend it to the Secretary as a safe means of establishing the Everglades National Park, at the same time assuring the Governor and Congressman Peterson that he would strive to work out a formula which would be advantageous both to the State and to the Federal Government.

The meeting adjourned about 11:30 p.m. when the Governor set the time for reconvening the next morning at his hotel suite at 10:30.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31:

The Director, Governor Holland and I met at 10:30 a.m. at the Governor's suite at the El Commodoro Hotel and continued the Everglades National Park discussion until noon time. The discussion followed the same trend of thought as was followed during the previous night session. The trend of discussions at the Thursday night session and the Friday morning session can be outlined briefly as follows:

LEGISLATIVE

Existing Federal and State laws were discussed and certain obstacles in these laws were noted which would prevent the carrying out of any compromised program. The Federal law now in effect requires that every acre of land within any boundary approved by the Secretary would have to be acquired before the park could be established. This law also provides for the conveyance of exclusive jurisdiction. The State law authorizes conveyance of exclusive jurisdiction through the Everglades National Park Commission only, but does not authorize the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund to make such a conveyance. I am referring this matter to the Attorney General of Florida for an opinion. It was suggested that various areas be established at first as National Monuments but if this procedure were followed, the existing Everglades law would have to be revised as it applies only to the establishment of the National Park.

ADMINISTRATION AND PROTECTION

The Governor was of the opinion that the Service could administer and protect several small key areas and save the important flora and fauna regardless of oil exploration or production in surrounding areas. Congressman Peterson felt that we should establish key areas or any small portion of the area in order to begin the work of park establishment on a limited basis. He felt that this policy would increase State interest in the final establishment of the park as more knowledge was gained about the existence of oil.

The Director's concluding expression to the Governor assured him that we would continue to work toward a satisfactory solution, but that