

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 1944:

In the morning we met Director Drury and discussed further the plan for the establishment of the area by recommending acquisition in six units and by reestablishing the Everglades National Park Commission. Later in the morning we both visited Dr. David Fairchild at Coconut Grove. Dr. Fairchild was of the opinion that establishment by units would be a logical procedure, but he cautioned against taking over these units so that public understanding might feel that the establishment of one unit instituted the establishment of the park. He suggested using the name "Unit No. One--Everglades National Park". We discussed the proposed arrival of Dr. Thomas Barbour who was to be a winter guest of Dr. Fairchild's. The Director asked that we contact Dr. Barbour during his visit in Florida.

After luncheon we met Mr. Augustus Houghton, Collaborator for the National Park Service and visited the Key Largo area which lies within the proposed park boundary. At 6 p.m. we met Mr. Edmund H. Abrahams, Chairman of the National Park Service Advisory Board and reviewed the discussions in which we had participated and also reviewed the proposal of the establishment of the park by units. It was Mr. Abrahams's opinion that it would be dangerous to establish the park on the basis of expediency, merely because the Governor wished to establish the national park during his last year in office and also because of the possibility of Congressman Peterson having to release the chairmanship of the Public Lands Committee. His opinion seemed to be that we would have to wait until the exploration for oil had proven the oil issue one way or the other before any notable accomplishment could be made.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 1944:

The Director left Miami for Washington by plane at 9 a.m. and Mr. Abrahams and I left Miami at 8 a.m. for St. Augustine.

MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 1944:

Upon my return to St. Augustine I held a conference with Mr. Carl Hawkins, Vice President of the Model Land Company. Mr. Hawkins's statements indicated that there was little possibility of conveying any private lands to the state by exchange or even purchase until more was known about the oil problem. He even appeared doubtful if the state would convey in fee simple, including conveyance of mineral rights, any sizable acreage to the Federal Government at the present time. Mr. Hawkins's review of the situation was as follows:

1. The state legislation passed in 1943 authorized the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund to exchange Murphy Act lands for private lands. The authority to exchange state sovereignty lands north of Township 48 for private lands within the park area was not granted by the legislature. Mr. Hawkins has studied the state holdings of the Murphy Act lands and has come to the conclusion that none of these lands are of interest to him for trading purposes as far as the lands within the park boundary are concerned. Mr. Hawkins stated that some of these