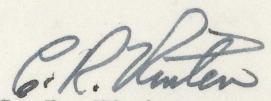


except to work toward the establishment of a national park. From a technical standpoint, therefore, the burden rests with the state.

However, the area is very obviously in the United States and is one of the nation's national wonders. Regardless of land ownership, oil possibilities, or final park establishment, it is our opinion that the Federal Government has important responsibility in cooperation with the state to assure protection of natural values within the park boundary until such time as complete jurisdiction by the Federal Government is assumed. This would seem to indicate that Conclusion No. 4 above was the one to be adopted. It would result in the most permanent and valuable benefits to the nation, if a legal and technical means could be evolved for the assurance of this interim protection. Such protection is considered far more important than a hurried acquisition of portions of the area which might be dictated merely by a policy of expediency. We recommend that possibilities for procedure along this line be given further study. Inter-agency and state agreements and new Federal and state legislation as well as funds would be required.



C. R. Vinton,
Coordinating Superintendent.

Duplicate
cc: Mr. Demaray
Regional Director, Region One.

P. S.
The present state law authorizes the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund to convey lands with or without oil or mineral reservation according to their discretion. The law also provides that the lands will revert to the state of Florida should the Everglades National Park ever be abandoned. When this point was raised in the conference with Governor Holland, the Director commented that the Service should explore the legal aspects of establishing the Everglades National Park under these conditions which might involve the retention of oil and mineral rights by the state and the conveyance of lands contingent upon a reversion clause.

CRV