

June 25th, 1937

EXCERPT FROM LETTER TO HONORABLE FRED P. CONE,  
GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA, JUNE 23, 1937

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"OFFERED COMMENTS CONCERNING THE EVERGLADES  
NATIONAL PARK COMMISSION'S FUTURE  
RESPONSIBILITIES AND THE WORK TO BE PERFORM-  
ED BEFORE THE STATE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO  
CEDE TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THE LANDS FOR  
THE EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK:

Obviously, the big initial job before the Everglades National Park Commission was to obtain the abstract title records of private ownership of lands within the Park area. With these records now so near completion, the Park Commission will soon be in a position to contact with owners of these lands and negotiate with them agreements satisfactory to all interests concerned for the transfer of lands to be purchased to the Park Commission, the authorized agency for the State of Florida as far as it concerns lands to be included in the Everglades National Park.

These lands may be acquired by the Park Commission by gift, exchange for other State lands, or by purchase. If by purchase, the price paid will be on the basis of an agreement between the landowner and the Park Commission, deemed by the latter a fair and reasonable price. In the event such an agreement cannot be entered into, the Park Commission has the authority to exercise the right of eminent domain, and where so instituted the price to be paid by the Commission will be determined by the Courts. In the event private property owners within the Park area agree on an exchange basis for State lands outside the Park area, there will be involved negotiations between the owner and the State in which the Park Commission, as an intermediary, will have important duties to perform.

In the final amassing of all the details involved in land transactions concerned in purchase, gifts and exchange, there is involved in bringing together as a unit all the various details the acquisition of some 2,000 square miles of territory calls for.

With the Park boundaries definitely determined upon satisfactory to the State and the Federal Government, which, it is understood, will be arrived at within the very near future, and the abstract records completed by the Park Commission covering the specified area, the Commission will be in a position to start in on the acquisition of the Park lands now in private ownership. The following plan for procedure is submitted for study:

To announce to landowners within the Park area by correspondence and newspaper publicity that the Park Commission is ready to consider