

June 17th, 1937

Page 2 - Mrs. W. S. Jennings

the work during the depression, and an interval of very low land values. Just how far we could have succeeded in obtaining long-time options with no money to secure them is a question. You may recall that Mr. Cammerer, before one of the meetings of the Park Commission, stated that as high as \$500.00 per acre had been paid for park lands; I have quoted him.

It would have been indeed very fortunate had the Federal Government determined definitely boundary lines for the Park area a year or more ago, as you indicate. As far as my influence is concerned, every effort has been made through the last several years to speed this matter up.

I understand that recent press dispatches from Tallahassee state that all members of the Commission have sent in their resignations to the Governor.

Everything is forging ahead at the Park Commission office with a view to writing more and more abstract of title records; everybody here working with the same fervor that has actuated them through the preceding months of this work. These records are, of course, the foundation upon which all land transfer negotiations will necessarily be based.

Certain it is, these abstract records are marvels of completeness. Had these records been acquired through usual channels, it is conservatively estimated that what has already been written up would have cost \$85,000.00. We have been able to acquire these records at the nominal price they have cost us through that combination of friendship, interest in the Park cause and desire to help on the part of abstract companies, and the enthusiasm of the workers especially in charge of obtaining these records.

Whatever may be the destiny of the Everglades National Park project, the record our Park Commission has made during the last two years will be a record of outstanding achievement at a low cost which could not have been duplicated, other than through a most favorable combination of circumstances.

These records (in duplicate) are exclusively for the use of the Park Commission in its negotiations with landowners and as records of authority later when the State of Florida is in a position to offer in fee simple the Park lands to the Government.

With all sincere regards,

Very truly yours,

EFC/kj

Ernest F. Coe, Executive Chairman
Everglades National Park Commission