

JAXON RESIGNS PARK POST AT CONE'S REQUEST

Six Members of Group Comply; Governor Explains Act

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Six of the twelve members of the Everglades National Park commission have now relinquished their posts following a request for the commission's resignation by Governor Cone.

Governor Cone said his request "does not mean that I intend to accept the resignation of any or all members of the commission or that I may ever accept the resignations, but I am hesitant about signing this appropriation bill unless I have some insight as to how the money is to be spent; in what sums, and for what purpose.

"I am writing each member of the commission this same letter requesting their resignation and I am withholding the signing of this bill until I know how and for what purpose this money is spent."

Mrs. W. S. Jennings, Jacksonville's representative on the commission, sent in her resignation Sunday, she said.

Three Miami members, Thomas J. Pancoast, chairman; Ernest S. Coe, executive chairman, and Mrs. T. V. Moore, quit yesterday.

Additional resignations were received today from J. W. Hoffman, St. Augustine, and A. L. Cuesta, Jr., Tampa, said Mrs. Jennings.

Last week, the state legislature appropriated \$87,760 to pay for the transfer of over a million acres of land in the Everglades to the federal government. On this land the federal government is expected to spend a large sum in building a national park for Florida.

Governor Cone's action came following a conference with Mrs. Jennings in Tallahassee, Saturday. She had represented the commission in Tallahassee while the legislature was in session. According to Mrs. Jennings, the governor's request is "in accord with his economy plan that he keep a close check on the funds of all departments."

The governor has not accepted any of the resignations. He has not indicated whether he will accept them.

Mrs. Jennings said that she believes the commission "will give the governor full cooperation in whatever he does" and that the members "are interested mainly in seeing the park developed into a financial and scenic asset for Florida."

Other members of the commission who have received Governor Cone's request to resign but from whom no word has been received are Frank Dominick, Miami; William R. Porter and Norber Thompson, Key West; Michael Sholtz, West Palm Beach; D. Graham Copeland, Everglades, and Judge John O. Shares, Sebring.

Members of the commission serve without compensation. EVER 19947