

June 10th, 1937

Page 2 - Mrs. W. S. Jennings

appropriation bill.

In your letter of June 6th to Mr. Ponceast you state "we are not getting anywheres but just running around in circles"; also "we might then have come out at least even, but as Mr. Gee had everything in his own hands and managed it to suit himself", etc. Mrs. Jennings, those who really squarely face what has been accomplished, in the way of progress with the Everglades National Park project within the last two years through the activities of the Park Commission and other associated activities, will hardly agree with you, that we are not getting anywheres but just running around in circles, or that the writer had everything his own way and managed it to suit himself.

Just why you feel at liberty to make such statements is something upon which I am unwilling to draw obvious conclusions. Of the former, Washington, at least, considers that great progress has been made within the last two years and with a very small amount of money to work with. As to the latter, if I have had everything in my own hands and managed to suit myself, it should be, and I like to believe is, the result of confidence imposed in me by members of the Commission. At any rate, the records that are now being compiled, and will be made available to Mr. Cone, when checked down in their relation to time and cost may be depended upon to make a very good showing, aspersions notwithstanding to the contrary.

Naturally, we are all interested in seeing the Everglades Park project speed along at a rapid pace. We will soon know of the Government's final decision as to minimum boundaries. With the abstract of title records now at the command of the Commission, we will then be in a position to get afield among property owners and build up the record of options, make exchanges and transfers, and in the many other ways work toward the consummation of the data which will be required before we even approach the time when the Park Commission, in behalf of the State of Florida, will have finished its work.

In the meantime, all of these activities will call for funds far in excess of those made available in the event the Governor signs the Commission appropriation bill. We can well feel concerned as to where this money is coming from. We do know that funds in liberal proportion have been made available for national park purchase purposes. It is a safe inference that where this has been the case that the donor or donors have through some medium become impressed in such a way as to occasion the funds to be forthcoming. Agencies have been systematically at work through the past several years deliberately planning to create this disposition on the part of a broad range of prospective contributors. It is reasonable to expect that as the Commission approaches the time when funds, even in liberal proportion, are required to proceed with its activities these funds will be at its command.

Mr. Cone will have an opportunity to understand the details involved in all of these activities, and it is my belief that he will interpret them clearly