

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK COMMISSION

1845 Main Street,
Jacksonville, Florida.

June 6, 1937.

TO THE MEMBERS,
Everglades National Park Commission.

As you know, Senate Bill No. 707 appropriating \$87,760.00 for the Everglades National Park Commission, was finally passed in the House of Representatives with 53 votes for and 14 against, Thursday night, June 3rd at 1:00 A.M. I stayed over until Saturday and had to make several efforts before seeing Governor Cone for a conference. He has been confined to his home for about 10 days with a very bad foot. I had to wait several hours because the Legislators were bidding him good-bye and I purposely waited until last so that I could have more time with him.

I carried all the data possible to him on the Everglades National Park and urged his signature of the bill. He stated to me frankly that he would not sign the bill at all unless he had the resignation of every member of the Commission, the Executive Chairman and the Executive Secretary in his hands. You will please find copy of my letter to the Governor attached, sending him my resignation. This is an absolute demand from him or we lose the appropriation passed by the Legislature.

I want you to know that the work has not been easy and the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee in the House put up a very hard fight against the bill.

You will realize fully that without funds the Commission is practically useless. We must put the Park for Florida above any personal feelings. The Governor said he might re-appoint some of the members, and he might not accept the resignations of others, but that he would not sign the bill unless he had these resignations in his hands. As the dead-line for signing the bill or vetoing same is June 12th, I beg that you will follow my example and send to the Governor at once, your resignation to take effect July 1st, 1937, and please be prompt.

He means exactly what he says, I am confident. He has told Senator Graham of Dade County and the Representatives in the House repeatedly that he would not sign this appropriation bill for more than \$10,000 and then not at all unless he had the resignations. The \$10,000 would be as bad as no appropriation, so I have fought on for the entire appropriation knowing that in any event he would possibly demand the resignations of the Commission and the officers as well.

I am rushing this off by to-night's mail because of the time limit that is all too short to send this to Mr. Coe to send out. Naturally I am sending Mr. Coe full copies of everything.