

PERSONAL

1845 Main Street,  
Jacksonville, Florida.

June 6, 1937

To His Excellency  
Governor Fred P. Cone,  
Tallahassee, Florida.

My dear Governor:

In accordance with our conference Saturday morning, June 5th, in Tallahassee, in regard to the appropriation for \$87,760.00 deemed necessary for the biennium, for the Everglades National Park Commission work, to acquire the necessary lands, approximating, a little more than a million and a quarter acres, desired by the National Park Service, in the Department of Interior for the creation of the National Park and as you have asked that the resignation of the entire Commission be placed in your hands as the only condition upon which you are willing to sign the appropriation, I am herewith offering you my resignation from the Everglades National Park Commission, to take effect July 1st, 1937. I am placing the date of July 1st, because that is the end of the fiscal year and the time at which the new appropriation would take effect and I am advising the other members of the Commission to send their resignations to take effect on the same date - this would give the old Commission a few days in which to get the work in proper shape to turn over to the new Commission appointed by you, with the new executive Chairman and Executive Secretary, if you should continue this position.

I am sending each Commissioner, today, a letter urging them to send you their resignation at once and I certainly hope the resignations will reach you promptly. As one of the members, Mr. John C. Shares, is out of the State on a vacation, it may take a few days to reach him, but I am asking Mr. Ernest F. Coe, Executive Chairman, to reach him by wire as he possibly knows his temporary address.

As I told you, the only appropriation we have ever had has been for the last two years, of \$12,500 per annum, making a total appropriation of \$25,000. Added to this, the F.E.R.A. and the W.P.A. have expended a total of \$8,824.08 and we have spent from our Commission funds \$5,454.00 to match the above funds, for acquiring abstracts for practically the entire area. There is one project set up by the W.P.A. for Monroe County, which has not been worked out yet, but which can be. Mr. Myers, who is in charge of that work is a splendid abstract man, given us by the W.P.A., and is entirely familiar with the work, which has been efficiently conducted. The abstracts have all been bound and are very valuable and the work had been approved by the United States Attorney General's office (see copy attached of statement from the W.P.A. office.)