

Everglades Drainage District's Refinancing Plan Again Okehed

Times-Union Bureau.

TALLAHASSEE, May 28.—By blocking a reconsideration, the Florida Senate today reiterated its expressed approval of a refinancing plan for the Everglades drainage district's huge debt.

Last night during the local bill session, which saw 204 measures passed, Senator John R. Beacham of West Palm Beach gained the approval, under a waiver of the rule, of Senate Bill 1095, setting up a re-vamping of the Everglades drainage district laws as asked by the Federal Reconstruction Finance Corporation, it was explained.

This morning Senator Arthur Gomez of Key West asked the Senate to reconsider the vote whereby the measure was passed, but stern opposition by Senators Beacham, A. O. Kanner of Stuart, Henry G. Murphy of Zolfo Springs and Ernest R. Graham of Pennsuco brought forth an overwhelming deluge of negative voters on a viva voce count.

The counties included in the district are: Monroe, Lee, Collier, Dade, Palm Beach, Broward, Martin, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Hendry and Glades.

In arguing against the motion, Senator Beacham, as the first speaker, asserted that the RFC had agreed to make the district a \$3,728,000 loan provided the law is passed, and he estimated the loan would save for the property owners "\$12,000,000," explaining that the

bill, now before the House of Representatives, would order a 2-3 cut in the tax levies.

Senator Murphy explained the measure's legislative approval was very important to the district, and Senator Kanner, announcing he represented four of the counties in the area, said that he concurred in the expressions by Senators Murphy and Beacham.

"It has taken two years to work this deal up and if the loan is not taken up it will be lost to the district," Senator Graham warned. He said the refunding program was on the basis of 30 cents on the dollar, and described the heavy taxes now imposed on the districts lands, announcing he was paying \$1.15 an acre in district taxes.

Senator Gomez defended his motion, and was followed to the floor by Senator Beacham, who asserted that the tax on one of Senator Gomez' counties was at the rate of 3 cents an acre as compared with \$1.58 an acre in his county. He announced the reconsideration motion was an attempt to exclude Collier County from the provisions of the proposed law.

Technically Senator Gomez' motion was to recall the measure from the House. If he had been successful in that effort the following motion would have been for reconsideration of the vote, which the vote on the original motion would have assured.

J.U. May 29/1937

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