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Attended to

1845 Main Street
Jacksonville, Fla.
May 23, 1937

Mr. Ernest F. Coe
Executive Chairman
Everglades National Park Commission
Court House
Miami, Florida

My dear Mr. Coe:

First I want to say that I do not approve of the introduction of the bill permitting counties to appropriate funds for the Everglades National Park Acquisition at this time or until after the Governor signs our State Appropriation. I believe it would jeopardize the signing of same. He is not entirely sold on the project and we are going to have to do some strong work to get him to sign the bill I feel sure. Then too I think it would be better for me to handle it than Robineau as he is not popular in many ways, although I really do not want to stay in Tallahassee much after we get our State Appropriation. I am now imposing on an awfully good friend to look after my affairs here and I come home every week-end to straighten everything out and there really is nothing doing in Tallahassee over the week-ends much.

I do not believe the bill would pass anyway unless it is specified that the money is passed to and expended by the Everglades National Park Commission. This change should be made in the bill. In other words any organization to receive any money appropriated by an official Government division should be also authorized to do business for the Government or State, etc.

I suppose you have seen in the mornings paper where Senator Gomez succeeded in getting the bill out of the Committee and passing it in the Senate as a "Pet" measure under the pet bill calendar. You will notice to-days Times Union gives full account. Senator Graham was on the Committee and gave valiant service and Senator Beallas Chairman and Senator Hodges. They all went to the bat for us. You will note that we had twenty-seven votes for and only twenty-three against. Now the bill 707 goes over to the House and will be taken up in Senate messages. However, House Committee Sub-Chairman is ready to report the bill favorably for your whole amount asked for, so I feel fairly sure the bill will pass in the House and hope to finish up this week. I have listed quite a few prominent people to urge the Governor to sign the bill and I want you to write at once to all State Organizations asking their President to write at once to the Governor urging him to not only sign the bill when it reaches him but to do everything possible to get it out of the House.

I am working all day Sunday on the matter and got some very prominent people here to write the Governor. Harold Collee, President of the State C. of C. is on the Governor's staff and of course he has sent out letters to every member of the Legislature but I will get him to call on the Governor and urge his signature of the bill. You