

MAY 10 1937

1845 Main Street
 Jacksonville, Fla.
 May 8, 1937

To The Members of The Everglades National Park Commission:

I left here Thursday morning the 6th for Tallahassee and did not get back until last night, Friday at 11:00 o'clock. In the meantime, I had gotten the bill appropriating \$87,760 dollars introduced in the Senate as Bill No. 707 by Gomez, Graham, Beachman, Parrish, Kendrick and McKenzie. House Bill No. 1166 was also introduced by Pappy, Dwight Rogers, Fulkerson, J. Slater Smith, Holt, Lindsey, Overstreet, Wood of Lee, Hally, Fequa, Ray, Morrow and Rardin.

I immediately commenced to sound out the Senators and I talked to twenty-four Senators, nineteen of whom practically promised me their vote for the bill. I have of course not done any work in the House yet although I have contacted several strong leaders besides those who introduced the bill. I got along better than I thought I would in the short time I was there.

I have arranged for a hearing Wednesday afternoon with the Senate Appropriations Committee and I want as many of the commission and association members as can possibly be present at the hearing. The electric train leaves here at 8:10 in the morning for Tallahassee getting there at 11:35. I wired Mr. Coe today to get Mr. Wheeler president of the association to have as many of his association members present as possible at the hearing. I have also asked him to have the chairman of the board of Dade County Commissioners and the Mayor of Miami to come if possible. I have a promise that Mr. Harold Colee, President of the State Chamber of Commerce will join us there. The Chairman of the House Committee has promised that if he can get a complete committee hearing for Wednesday afternoon, that he will appoint a committee from the large committee to be present at the Senate Appropriations Committee hearing. Wednesday will be the 12th and I want everyone of you present who can possibly come as it is very vital to the success of securing our appropriation. The pressure being brought by the Wellfair Board is going to hamper us quite a bit in securing the amount we need.

Please fortify us with a concise statement in your support of the appropriation. I am getting all the data possible in a very brief concise statement. The members are tired and have very little patience with long winded arguments and if we are to make a good impression, we must be brief and to the point.