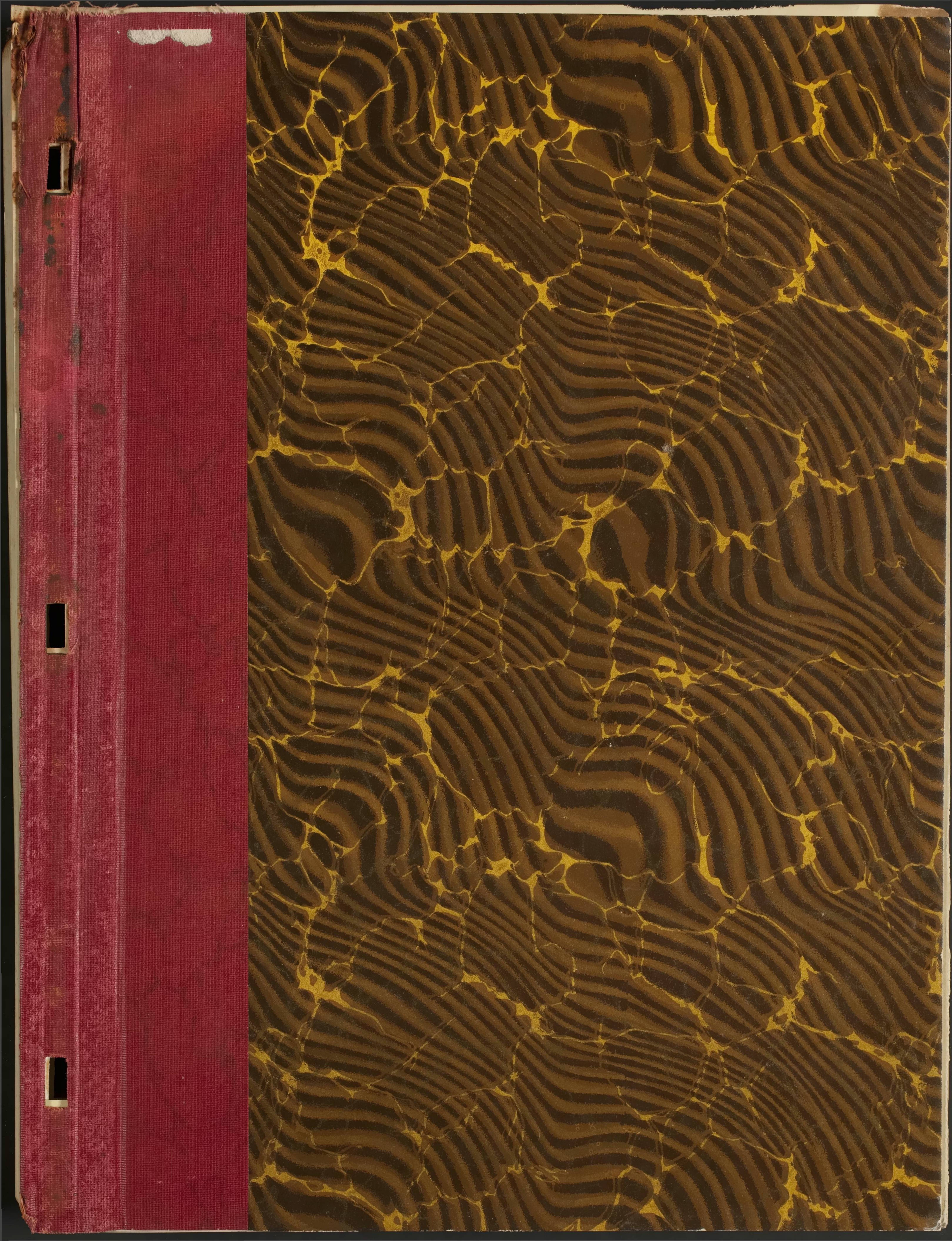


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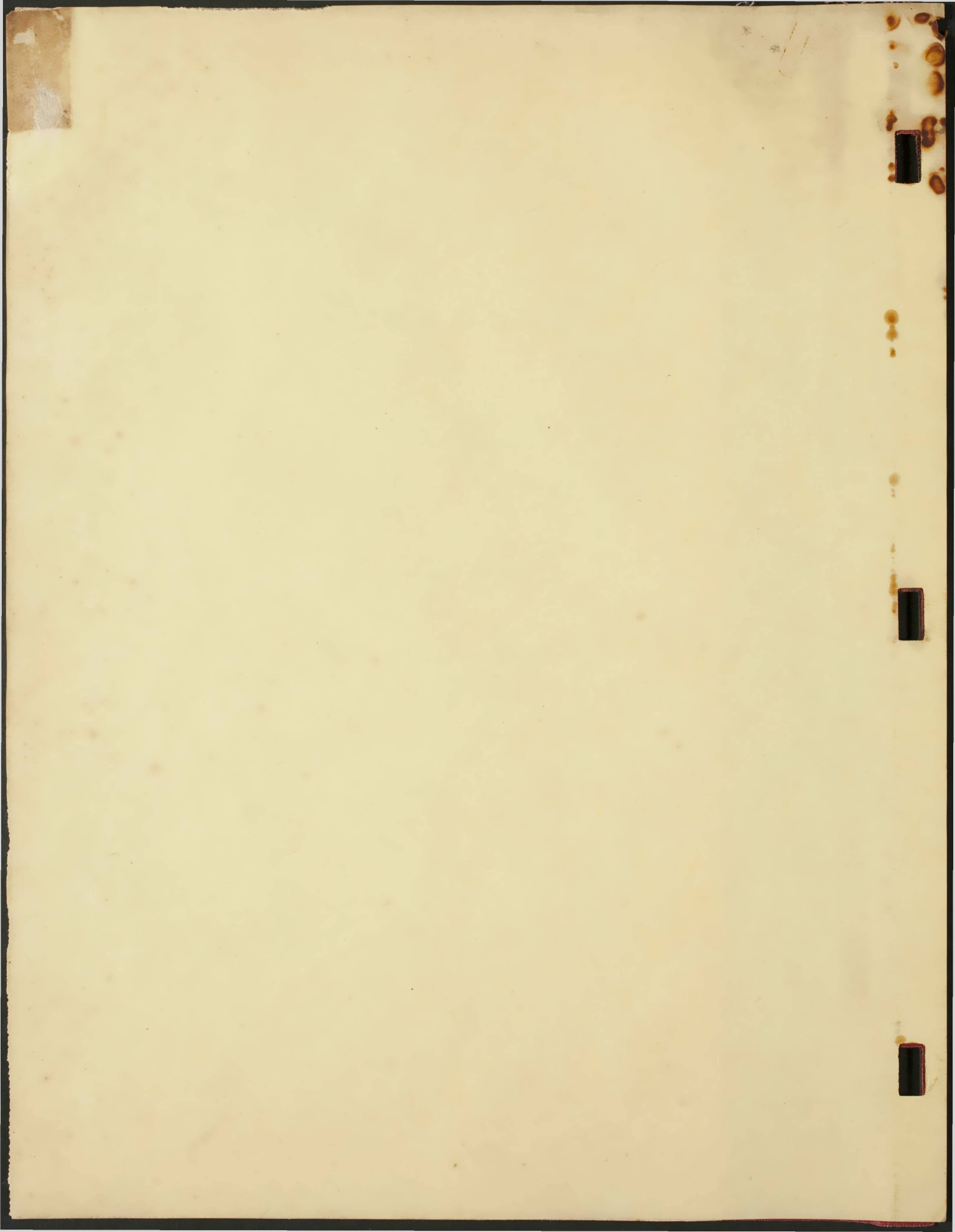




EVER 58941

RECORD
OF THE
*Everglades
National Park
Commission*

Beginning April 25, 1946



ORGANIZATION MEETING OF
 THE EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK COMMISSION
 HELD AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE MIAMI
 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, SHORELAND ARCADE
 BUILDING, MIAMI, FLORIDA, COMMENCING AT
 11:30 A. M. APRIL 25, 1946.

The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Millard F. Caldwell, Governor of the State of Florida.

The following is the roll call of the Commission members:

Present:

Karl Bickel	Sarasota
August Burghard	Fort Lauderdale
Mrs. W. S. Jennings	Jacksonville
Harold Colee	Jacksonville
Fayette Holland	Jacksonville
Richard D. Pope	Winter Haven
Mrs. Joseph L. Gray	Lake City
Mrs. Gillen McClure	Apopka
A. B. Michael	Wabasso
D. Graham Copeland	Everglades City
A. Cliff Johnson	Pensacola
G. G. Ware	Leesburg
Gen. Albert H. Blanding	Tallahassee
Joe Hall	Tallahassee
John D. Pennekamp	Miami
J. Kennard Johnson	Miami
Dr. E. C. Lunsford	Miami
Leonard K. Thomson	Miami

Gilbert D. Leach, Managing Director.

Absent:

Carl Brorein	Tampa
John H. Perry	Palm Beach
Martin Anderson	Orlando
Nelson P. Poynter	St. Petersburg
Carl Hanton	Fort Myers
Mrs. T. V. Moore	Miami
Norberg Thompson	Key West

Gov. Caldwell: This is a meeting I have looked forward to for more than a year, but I had to convince myself that we were not going off on some theoretical tangent that would be just another chapter. When we reactivated this Commission, I did it believing that well within the terms of your commission the Park can become a reality.

I have never been one who was enthusiastic over the turning over of a dead horse. I didn't want to do this job until we had some assurance of success.

I just want to say this, by way of preface to the job, I don't imagine that you have seen a plat, have you, of the proposed area? And I don't imagine that you know a great deal about the facts. There has been an area agreed upon by the Washington officials and by those of you who have been most concerned with this Park, as an area which can be acquired by you into a National Park. By accepting the defined area, we do not exclude adjacent areas which are desirable and which must, as we go along, be made into a part of the Park.

In the area agreed upon, the State owns approximately two-thirds, I think that's about right -- approximately two-thirds of the land. Private owners own about one-third of that property. The State is authorized by law to contribute the public lands which it owns to this purpose. It will be necessary to raise the money to acquire the privately owned lands for park purposes, and to raise that money from private sources. It isn't an unknown sort of thing by any sense of the word. It has been done in a number of instances. I believe the Big Bend was created in that way; the Smoky Mountain Park up in North Carolina was made possible through private contributions. There is a well-defined and established precedent, and I don't know of any effort that was ever made to do it that has not succeeded. It is such a thing that will enable contributors to take an income tax deduction.

This is going to be your job. I'll do everything that I can to help.

I name the Chairman, and I may name the Secretary and the Managing Director. I have made my selection of a temporary chairman. I haven't said anything to him, because I didn't want him to say "No", and naming him this morning as Temporary Chairman, there is nothing he can do about it but accept.

I am going to name one of you as a temporary Chairman, and my purpose in making that appointment is to enable you, as members of the Commission, to study the situation, to determine whether there ought to be a change, and then argue with the man if he objects to undertaking the job.

Mr. Leach is the Managing Director.

I am going to ask Mr. Burghard if he will assume the temporary chairmanship of this organization, to serve until we can see the picture, turn it over a bit more, and determine just what ought to be done. Before I ask Mr. Burghard to take over, I want to say "Thank you, sincerely, for being here." I am amazed at the number who are here. Evidently not more than two or three, or four, are missing.

MR. LEACH: Carl Brorein telephoned from Washington this morning; they wouldn't let him on the plane last night; he will be here tonight, if possible, to go on the trip tomorrow. Carl Hanton wired that his plane was so late there wasn't any use in coming. Mrs. Moore is ill. Martin Anderson is in New York. Norberg Thompson left this week; he is ill; he went to Hot Springs. Mr. Poynter is in New York.

GOV. CALDWELL: Well, I think it is splendid of you to be here, and I believe that this undertaking will make history. If I didn't, I wouldn't have ever permitted myself to let it get along this far. Mr. Chairman, will you move up to the head of the table, please, now?

MR. BURGHARD: Are you referring to me, Governor?

GOV. CALDWELL: Yes. You sit at that head, and I'll sit up here.

MR. LEACH: Pardon me, but I forgot to mention John H. Perry. He is not here.

GOV. CALDWELL: I heard he was in the Middle West and could not be here today.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, Governor, and Ladies and Gentlemen: This is a complete surprise to me, too. Usually there is some priming or some preliminary involved. I think that I am a little inadequate to work with the outstanding group that you have here, Governor, but I'll be glad to do the very best that I can until you decide on a more permanent set-up. I would like to ask you, where do we go from here, now?

GOV. CALDWELL: It seems to me that you ought to give some consideration to your organization. I have thought a good deal about it. You are not going to be able to get these busy people together very often. It will be necessary for you, when you have a meeting, to know where you are going and what you are going to do, and not waste any time on non-essentials.

Arguing from that, I have thought that you probably ought to have an executive committee, to which matters of, we will say minor policy, and perhaps major policy, could be referred for disposition, so that the business of doing this job would not be stymied until you could get a larger group together. It may be that you would like to give some thought to that, and appoint perhaps a temporary executive committee to serve until you become better acquainted with each other and better acquainted with your problem. I just throw that out as a suggestion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me ask you a couple of questions. I received a notice of my appointment to the Commission, and I was flattered, and I wrote you back that I would be glad to serve, and that I had studied some of the other National Park operations, but I haven't read the Act creating this Board, and I am not acquainted with the organizational set-up. I have talked to Mr. Johnson (Kennard Johnson) as a resident of Florida, and I know how important a National Park will be to all of us regardless of where we live, and I know there would be some financing that would have to be done through some private sources. Now, that's the extent of my knowledge.

GOV. CALDWELL: Well, now, if you will just add to that the fact that you are really authorized to do whatever is necessary to acquire this private land, then you have the whole picture. All you have to do is fill in a few blank spots.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, there are twenty-five members of this Board?

GOV. CALDWELL: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: And we should have an executive committee that would pretty well represent the State, and be flexible enough to get together and

decide things that are necessary.

GOV. CALDWELL: It seems to me you might want to get that executive committee as nearly as you could in fairly close proximity. Travel is a factor, and the men and women who are a part of this committee are busy people, and I hope you don't impose on them for too many meetings, because it is going to be a big job. You should have perhaps three, four or five to serve on an executive committee who, on a day's notice, could get together, or be called by telephone on a moment's notice.

MR. KENNARD JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, if you have an executive committee of seven, you have a fair possibility of having four or five together, and I would like to move the Chairman be authorized to appoint an executive committee up to seven to serve in the interim between meetings of the entire Commission.

GOV. CALDWELL: I think you are right about it.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard Mr. Johnson's motion. Any second?

MR. BICKEL: Second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any discussion -- All in favor signify by saying "Aye" (Unanimous).

GOV. CALDWELL: It seemsto me that whoever is best qualified and can put it in the fewest words, ought to give the Commission the picture that you have to work on. I imagine Mr. Leach is perhaps best informed on that.

MR. LEACH: Dating back to 1934, I think, there has been real activity. The activity started in 1928. From 1934 until now we have two Federal Acts and seven State Acts; the seven State Acts referring to and governing the Commission, what it shall do, and what powers it has. The Commission has the right of eminent domain in the accepted Park area.

The Internal Improvement Board has, under two separate Acts, the authority to exchange land outside of the area -- State lands outside of the area for lands privately owned inside the area. Both the Internal Improvement Board and the Everglades National Park Commission have the authority, by law, to transfer in the name of the State these lands to the Federal Government for park purposes under the provisions in these different laws.

The Commission has, under these laws, the authority to accept money, bequests, or land, to be used for park purposes. If the land is inside the Park, to be included in the Park area; but if land is outside of the Park, I presume then it is not covered in the law, and the exchange would have to be made through the Internal Improvement Board.

The Commission is not specifically given the authority to spend money out of the State appropriation for the campaign. That will have to be worked out from funds that are donated. As far as the Commission can go, it has authority to spend the money to further the purposes of the Park, which can cover a lot of things that the Commission can do if they have the money, but the appropriation, of course, hasn't been increased for a long time, and it has been used only partly. Last year there were over \$7,000 turned back unused, because there wasn't any activity.

MR. COLLEE: What is the appropriation, Mr. Leach? \$25,000.00 for two years?

MR. LEACH: Right: \$25,000.00 for two years. There is this fine start in the office of the Commission here in Miami. We have abstracts of title brought up to the first of this year on every piece of privately owned land there is in the Park area, so we have that to start with, and that list the Governor has, and Mr. Pennekamp has a list of it, and I have a list of it.

Now, that is the status. We have a description of the land, we have the authority to acquire the land, but we lack the money.

MR. PENNEKAMP: I would like to say that some of us are a little more familiar than others with this matter, and maybe I can help clarify some of these things. It seems to me, just as somebody who has been looking into this thing for sometime, that what we are going to have to do eventually is develop a campaign throughout the State something like they did in Texas and a number of other places, to purchase the Park. In order to discover what kind of a campaign exactly we shall have to make, and how much money we shall have to raise, it becomes necessary first to answer your question, which is, to find out how many private owners there are, and how much, approximately, it is going to take to acquire their property. Some of it will come by gift, some by purchase and trading, and some of it will have to be condemned, so it seems to me that as your executive committee moves into the operation here, those things will become more evident. It is my opinion, and it is purely my opinion, that one of the first steps should be to inform all the private owners of property in the area of our program to the end that we may open negotiations.

THE CHAIRMAN: John, do you have a rough estimate in your mind as to the size of the job here?

MR. PENNEKAMP: The United States Soil Conservation Survey has made an appraisal of all the lands in the area, and they tell us it has no surface value whatever except for some little areas that have a nominal value. Certainly, the size of the needed fund will never exceed \$2,000,000.00, and it is possible it may be as low as \$500,000.00. Those are horseback opinions based on what we know at this time.

I want to add, at the suggestion of the Governor, that the National Park Service is extremely enthusiastic in this project, and to show that, they are represented by three of their people at this meeting: Mr. T. J. Allen, of Richmond, Va., Regional Director, National Park Service; Mr. C. Raymond Vinten, of St. Augustine, Superintendent, Southeastern Area, National Park Service; and Mr. Daniel B. Beard, Refuge Manager, Everglades National Wildlife Refuge, who is in the territory, operating now, and it may be a good idea to let them tell us something about it.

I would like to present Mr. Allen, Mr. Vinten and Mr. Beard.

MR. ALLEN: I didn't come down to make a speech. I came down mostly to get acquainted, because Ray Vinten has been carrying the ball in this, and Dan Beard has done a great deal, as far as he is concerned, because he is actually on the job. But I do want to keep in closer touch now because the

Park Service looks on this as a new major step, and we would like to keep just as closely in touch as possible and do everything we can to help out.

I was particularly impressed by the Governor's way of presenting the case to this new Commission. I don't think the Director of the Park Service, or the Secretary of the Interior could be any more pleased than to have it done that way, because there is a job to be done, and the Governor stated it very concisely. Sometimes commissions of this sort can spend a lot of time sitting around making speeches and going into raptures of what's out in the Everglades. I think you will have a lot of time to do that, but at this stage, we hope you can keep your mind on the important thing, which is to acquire land and get the Park created. The original law authorized by Congress was back in 1934. Now, there have been lots of obstacles; it was nobody's fault; but they were obstacles that couldn't be met. Now we think both the Federal and State obstacles have been overcome, and from now on we need to get going.

Since 1934, and to show you these things can be done in that period, there have been at least two and maybe three major parks created in other parts of the country. The Big Bend Park was acquired in the State of Texas. They purchased every foot of land in that area except one or two small donations made.

The State of Washington gave the land for purchase of the Olympic National Park on the Olympic Peninsula, - so popular with tourists. Of course, the fortunate part of it was, it was part of a National Forest already and belonged to the Government; others had to be acquired; others have been acquired before this Florida case was authorized.

The Great Smoky National Park was created partly by private donation, and the balance by the States of North Carolina and Tennessee.

Shenandoah Park, in Virginia, was created by the State raising the money, and the land being purchased from that fund. So it is not a new idea at all, but it is an idea that you will have to keep moving to get your job done in the time limit set by Congress, and that's ten years from 1944. Already two years of that have gone by, so you can't lose too much time, because when you get into those things you will find a tremendous amount of detail to be handled. It is not complicated; it is the usual land procedures, but they do take time. The Park Service is ready. Mr. Vinten's office in St. Augustine handles all of our Florida problems, and my office in Richmond, Virginia, and the general offices in Chicago, and the Secretary of the Interior's office in Washington all stand ready to simplify matters and speed up the final conclusion.

A National Park, as you know, isn't just another thing. There are all kinds of parks in this country. They are all worth while, but there are only a very few parks legally and properly classified as National Parks. That means that you have something very distinctive, very unusual; there is nothing else like it, or as good, but that has been determined by the proper methods; and in addition to that, it has a national distinction; it isn't something that is just the best in Florida, or the best in Arizona; it is something that is the best, if not in the world, at least in the United States. There are only sixteen or seventeen National Parks, and by having it created it is getting a world-wide advantage. In fact,

all other countries who are interested in the conservation of lands of that sort come to the United States for advice, and how to do these things, and how it should be managed.

I hope you don't mind my going into that background, but I do think it is wise to remind you, as the Governor stated, to get this land purchased, whether it be by donated funds, or donated lands, or whatever means necessary and the sooner you can get organized to do it, the sooner you will be publicly bragging about your National Park. This year, incidentally, is the thirtieth anniversary of the National Park Service, so all of the Parks around the country have been accomplished in that time, with the help of the different States involved; and during this year we are dedicating several areas already established and which never have been dedicated.

Two weeks ago it was my pleasure to be with the President at a dedication ceremony in Hyde Park, New York. That is not a National Park; it is a historical park. There are two or three classifications. But when the day comes that you dedicate formally the Everglades National Park, and the President comes down to that, I think you will be mighty proud to have something really good to offer to the world.

GOV. CALDWELL: Mr. Allen, we have here in Florida been loosely saying that the Everglades area offers something that is distinct in this country, and stands by itself.

MR. ALLEN: That's right, sir.

GOV. CALDWELL: Is that an overstatement?

MR. ALLEN: No, sir. If that was not a true statement, Congress would not have authorized the area to be set aside and classified as a National Park. They might have permitted it to be set aside as a recreational area, or some other classification, but when you tie the term "National Park" onto it, that means it has qualified as distinctive and unusual.

GEN. BLANDING: I would like to make a suggestion, or if necessary, a motion. I would like to have the Managing Director furnish each member of the Commission with a copy of the plat of the area; not an expensive detailed map, but a mimeographed sketch, if necessary, so we will know something about it; and also a synopsis, as you have stated it.

THE CHAIRMAN: At this time Mrs. Jennings has a word to say.

MRS. JENNINGS: As Chairman of the Florida State Chamber of Commerce Beautification Committee I have spent much time in this work and am quite familiar with it. Because I am the founder of the Royal Palm State Park, I want to present to the Chairman a gavel made of lysiloma wood, taken from that area, and I would like to have a band put around this, and at the time the Park is turned over, I would like you to present the gavel to Gainesville for the museum. I also have a complete copy of all of the laws. I believe Mr. Copeland and I -- are there any others who served on the old Commission? Just Mr. Copeland and I, I believe, were on the old Commission. And I have a story the Chamber of Commerce was good enough to furnish me for the

Shade Tree Plan, which outlines the work up to the present time, and I will be glad to distribute those, if you will let me.

THE CHAIRMAN: I want to accept this gavel on behalf of the Commission, and the Governor, and thank you very much, and it will be presented to the museum at Gainesville as you have requested.

MRS. JENNINGS: I have one for the Governor, too. I would like to have him have one.

GOV. CALDWELL: I would be glad to have it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Beard, could we call on you?

MR. BEARD: My position is this. The National Park movement has been going on here for sometime. In December 1944, Congress passed an Act which authorized the Secretary of the Interior to accept lands and protect them until such time as it could become a National Park, so he delegated that job to the Fish and Wildlife Service. This is another bureau of the Department of the Interior, the same as the National Park Service. We are here, and we are trying to get leases on the property, the State lands and private property, and to set up an organization. We are gathering our equipment and establishing this as the Everglades National Wildlife Refuge, which we will protect, and hold it until you people can get the lands and turn it over as a National Park. We are custodians until you people get the land. I might add, if at any time anybody wants any information on the area, we are down here and in it, and I can be reached through Mr. Leach at any time.

GOV. CALDWELL: How much birdlife can you show the members tomorrow?

MR. BEARD: Not a great deal. Most of the birds are now in their rookeries, and it is so hard to get up there with a large group of people we haven't put it on the agenda. You have to pole your way up in small boats. But if any of you come down later, we will be glad to show you the rookeries. You won't see a great deal of birdlife tomorrow. We are trying to give you as good a cross-section of the Everglades as we can in one day. I hope you all noticed we said 7:30 is the time to leave tomorrow morning, as we have a long ways to go, and the roads aren't so good.

GOV. CALDWELL: After the National Park Service takes this over, then the National Park Service puts in the necessary roads and deepens the channels so people can see the rookeries?

MR. BEARD: That's right. And you must remember the reason this was set up as a National Wildlife area is because most of the birdlife was becoming extinct, together with the alligators. The values of the Park now are mainly biological. There aren't any canyons and mountains and things of that kind.

THE CHAIRMAN: There are mostly birds and trees?

MR. BEARD: You have had hunting, and we have had fires, and as you may have heard, there are a lot of things all this time that have happened down there and have somewhat depleted our resources so far as birdlife is concerned.

GOV. CALDWELL: Your organization and the Audubon Society before you have almost brought back different extinct species, haven't you?

MR. BEARD: Yes, and if it wasn't for them, most of these birds would be gone now. The Audubon Society is going to move out and we will move in, and they will use their warden somewhere else.

MR. PENNEKAMP: Once the area is acquired, then the Government comes in and does all the developing that's necessary?

MR. BEARD: Yes.

MR. ALLEN: I just want to mention something I failed to say before. In 1941, twenty-one million people visited the established National Parks, and that might give you some idea of the Park's value in this State.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have seen the increase year by year, and they have become more and more popular. I think it is the finest operated of all of our Federal services, the National Parks.

MR. COLEE: I think this is a point we ought to stress. This is not a Miami situation, or South Florida situation. If any mistake has been made, I think that's it. This Park belongs to the whole State and Nation. It is a proposition for the whole State.

MRS. JENNINGS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to second that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Hall is representing the State Department of Education on our Commission. There is a magnificent source of information and education, Governor, through the schools, and we are glad we are going to have their cooperation.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have had a few more people come in, and I would like to have everyone stand and introduce themselves.

(Among those who introduced themselves was the Honorable Perrine Palmer, Jr., Mayor of the City of Miami.)

THE CHAIRMAN: I think it would be fine if we got together again after lunch.

MR. POPE: I would like to ask, if the National Park Service takes this land over, the Seminoles haven't declared any peace, but you have to have them out there for the colorful background. Will the Seminoles still live out there? I'm serious.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Bickel says the Seminoles don't care who owns the abstract. -- Now, does anybody else have any questions they would like to bring up?

(Thereupon, at 12:55 P.M., the meeting was recessed for the lunch hour; the Commission members being guests of the City of Miami at Dinner Key.)

AFTERNOON SESSION

April 25

The afternoon session was called to order by Chairman Burghard.

The Chairman called upon Mr. Leach, who made the following statements:

- (1) A legal study and a legal check-up on all laws involving the Park should be one of the first moves.
- (2) It is within the realm of possibility to complete the Commission's task during the administration of Governor Caldwell.
- (3) The question of mineral rights has delayed progress. Through the efforts, however, of former Governor Spessard L. Holland and of Governor Caldwell, Congress has adopted a law which permits the Commission to proceed, with the help of the Fish and Wildlife Service, in the Park program.

Following Mr. Leach's report, the question of approaching the owners of private lands in the area was taken up, and Dr. Lunsford stressed the importance of dealing with these owners in such a way as to encourage their full cooperation in donating, exchanging or selling their land.

FINANCES: Mr. Leach made a financial report as follows, explaining that the office of the Commission is operated under a biennial appropriation of \$25,000.00 made by the last State legislature:

Expenditures from the \$25,000 Appropriation
1945-1947 (To April 1, 1946.)

Salaries and Extra Office Help	\$5,860.00	
Travel Expense, including subsistence and lodging	143.24	
Office Rent	506.25	
Postage	40.00	
Telephone & Telegraph	121.81	
Office Supplies	20.90	
Total Expenditures		\$6,692.20

Remaining appropriation unspent, (as of April 1, 1946)	\$18,307.80
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PUBLICITY AND EDUCATION: Mr. Leonard Thomson, President of the

State Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Harold Colee, Executive Vice President, agreed for the State Chamber to handle a program on publicity and education, and that it should be conducted so as to include the interest of all types of civic and labor organizations.

A general discussion was held on the necessity for attractive and authoritative pamphlets and brochures on the Park area for use in connection with the publicity program. The plan to use an educational program in the courses of study in the schools of the State was also approved.

It was stated that the Florida Congress of Parent Teachers Associations, the Florida State Chamber of Commerce, and the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs had, through representatives, committed themselves to advancing the Everglades National Park educational program when it is undertaken, in anticipation of the fund raising campaign.

The program, of course, contemplated the fullest use of all mediums of public information, such as the newspapers and radio stations.

Manager Johnson, of the Miami Chamber of Commerce, advised that twenty-two Chambers of Commerce in the State had named Everglades National Park Committees, which were awaiting word from the central commission to begin activities.

Mr. Hall suggested that the Governor be called upon to declare a "National Park Week."

LAND ACQUISITION: The discussion again centered on the Park area, and a possible procedure to be followed in line with Dr. Lunsford's earlier suggestion. This discussion embraced the feasibility of direct contact with the land owners by the Commission; of the Governor writing an initial letter to the land owners; and of the employment of an experienced agent to open and carry forward the negotiations. It was agreed that the Executive Committee should take cognizance of the discussion before arriving at a program to be submitted to the Commission.

LAND OWNERS: The Chairman requested that a list of all private owners in the Park area, together with the amount of their holdings and their address, be sent by the Commission office to each Commission member.

DR. LUNSFORD AND MR.

COPELAND INVITATION: Dr. Lunsford extended an invitation to be his guests at his lodge on Windley Island if the Commission decides to make a survey trip westward to Cape Sable and Everglades. At that point Mr. Copeland invited the Commission to be his guests upon arrival at Everglades.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: General Blanding made a motion that the Executive Committee have full authority to proceed along lines discussed at this session. The motion was

seconded by Mr. Pennekamp, and carried unanimously.

The Chairman named the following as members of the Executive Committee:

Mr. John Pennekamp
 Mrs. W. S. Jennings
 Mr. D. Graham Copeland
 Mr. Harold Colee
 General A. H. Blanding
 Mr. Karl Bickel
 Mr. John H. Perry

A motion was made by Mr. Pennekamp that the Executive Committee be increased to eight members, and that Mr. August Burghard be named to act as Chairman of the Committee until it organizes. This motion was seconded by Mr. Colee, and was unanimously adopted.

CONCLUSION: The Chairman thanked Mr. T. J. Allen, Regional Manager, National Park Service; Mr. C. R. Vinten, Superintendent, Southeastern Area, National Park Service; and Mr. D. B. Beard, Manager, Everglades National Wildlife Refuge, for their interest and enthusiasm in support of the Park project, and for their cooperation in making plans and arrangements for this meeting.

Mr. Colee made a motion that the Commission express thanks to the City of Miami, and to the Miami Chamber of Commerce for the many courtesies extended in connection with this meeting, and to the National Audubon Society for the use of their boat for the trip, April 26.

The afternoon session adjourned at 4:40 P. M.

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK AREA

INSPECTION TOUR

APRIL 26

Commission members left the McAllister Hotel at 7:30 A. M., proceeding through Royal Palm State Park to Watson's fishing lodge, where boats were taken for a trip through Coot Bay, Whitewater Bay, Tarpon River, Oyster Bay, Joe River, and up Shark River through the Giant Mangrove Forest:

Making the trip were the following:

Leonard K. Thomson
 August Burghard
 Mrs. W. S. Jennings
 Fayette Holland
 Harold Colee
 Richard D. Pope
 Mrs. Joseph L. Gray
 Mrs. Gillen McClure
 A. Cliff Johnson
 G. G. Ware
 Gen. A. H. Blanding
 Joe Hall

Also:

T. J. Allen
 C. R. Vinten
 D. B. Beard

The party returned to Royal Palm Lodge, Paradise Key, at 5:30 P. M., where they had dinner. Mr. Burghard, chairman, was toastmaster. Each member was asked to give a brief statement of his reactions, and impressions of the trip. All were enthusiastic.

Mr. Leach declared the Miami office ready to proceed to negotiate through its abstractor and appraiser, J. H. Meyer, when:

1. Strategy is agreed upon;
2. Map and description of State lands outside Park is furnished by I. I. Board;
3. Money is available.

To emphasize the magnitude of the job ahead, Mr. Leach explained that if two land deals a week could be made, it would require a year and a half to get the Park, and that by making three deals a week, the task could be accomplished in a year.

General Blanding was requested to ask Mr. Fred C. Elliot, Secretary, Internal Improvement Trustees, to furnish the Commission with a list of State-owned lands outside the Park area, which are available for exchange for lands inside the area. This General Blanding agreed to do. He also agreed to take up with Mr. Elliot the matter of the hiatus in dispute between the Model Land Company and the I. I. Trustees.

Mr. Pennekamp was requested to contact Mr. McGregor Smith, of the Florida Power Company, to determine whether his Company, as a public service, would assign its legal department to the pressing purposes of this Commission.

Mr. Burghard announced that the date of the next Commission meeting will be set by the Executive Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 P. M., April 26.

OFFICIAL MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK COMMISSION
AT THE LUNSFORD LODGE ON WINDLEY ISLAND
JUNE 15, 1946.

Pursuant to an official call by Chairman August Burghard, the Executive Committee was called to order at 1:00 P. M., on June 15, 1946, by the Chairman.

Members of the Committee present and answering roll call were:

Chairman Burghard
John Pennekamp
General Blanding
Harold Colee
Mrs. W. S. Jennings
G. G. Ware

Gilbert D. Leach, Managing Director of the Commission.

In addition to committeemen present were:

Dr. E. C. Lunsford, the host;
T. J. Allen, of the National Park Service, Richmond, Va.
Ray Vinten, Florida representative of the National
Park Service, St. Augustine, Fla.
Dan Beard, Manager, Everglades National Wildlife Refuge;
McGregor Smith, President, Florida Power & Light Co.
W. M. Preston, Attorney for the Commission, through the
courtesy of Florida Power & Light Co.

Members of the Committee unable to attend were:

Karl Bickel
D. Graham Copeland
John H. Perry, originally named, was unable to attend.

LEGAL RESEARCH: Chairman Burghard opened the business session with a review of the splendid work in legal research and findings performed for the Commission by Mr. Preston, and on motion of Mr. Pennekamp, seconded by Mr. Ware, the selection of Will Preston as attorney for the Commission was approved on behalf of the Commission, and the thanks of the Executive Committee were extended to Mr. Smith and Mr. Preston, who were both present.

The Chairman gave briefly the findings of the attorney which dealt, (a) with the legal authority of the Commission and its officers,

and, (b) the procedure to be followed in dealing with the Internal Improvement Board in matters of land exchanges, (c) also the disbursing of money and adherence to the budget.

(d) One of the important matters dealt with by Mr. Preston was the rendering of his opinion that the Commission has authority to handle in its own way any monies received by donation, and that it is not necessary for such monies to be passed through the offices of the State Treasurer and the State Comptroller; however, in his opinion, all monies disbursed from the appropriation made by the Legislature, the budget as set up must be observed in detail, subject to revision quarterly if the Budget Commission agrees. Handling of all funds from any source is subject to strict audit.

On motion of Mr. Colee, seconded by Mr. Pennekamp, and passed unanimously, the Executive Committee agreed to proceed along the lines suggested by Mr. Preston's opinions.

LETTERS TO OWNERS: Under this heading, the Chairman read a letter written in the Governor's office, condensing the draft prepared by Mr. Preston, which was designed for the Governor's signature, and to be sent to every land owner within the bounds of the first unit of the proposed Everglades National Park. After considerable discussion, in which it was brought out that while the letter prepared by Mr. Preston was of considerable length, it carried information and presented a picture not touched upon in the shorter draft prepared by the Governor, Mr. Colee moved, seconded by Mr. Pennekamp, that the Chairman and Mr. Preston proceed to re-draft both letters with the end in view that the short letter be sent by the Governor, and the longer letter follow shortly afterwards as coming from the Everglades National Park Commission.

During the general discussion of these two letters, many angles of the land acquisition procedure were touched upon by different members.

LAND ACQUISITION: It was conceded by all that funds outside of the appropriation by the State are absolutely essential before the Commission can proceed with its work in preparation for the acquiring of land. Mr. Pennekamp moved, and Mrs Jennings seconded, that the Chairman be authorized to select members to "tap" various sources for funds for specific purposes. Discussion brought out that Mr. Allen is in contact with a man in the Park Service who has had considerable experience in land acquisition for Park purposes. He reported that he had contacted this man just before he left for Florida, and that by going direct to the President, he feels sure that he can get a leave for this man for whatever time is necessary to handle the work of land acquisition in the Park area. A rough estimate of the cost of this work for the first year was placed at \$10,000, and it was agreed that the first efforts of the Executive Committee will be to obtain this fund by donation or by several donations.

I. I. BOARD LANDS: At this point the Chairman called upon General Blanding to report on his contacts with Secretary Elliot, of the Internal Improvement Board, and with Governor Caldwell, on the subject of preparing a list of State owned lands which the Board will be willing to exchange for lands inside the proposed Park boundary. General Blanding reported that the I. I. Board is very emphatic on one point, - that being an insistence upon values of lands being considered as the basis of exchange, and no deals be proposed whereby lands in the Park area that have practically no surface value would be offered on an acre exchange basis for lands outside that can be used for agriculture.

In this connection Mr. Ware moved, seconded by Mrs. Jennings, that General Blanding ask the I. I. Board not to dispose of State land within the larger proposed boundaries of the Park, as the agreement between the State and the Department of the Interior is that nothing will be placed in the way of later acquisition of land within the original proposed boundaries.

Without motion, but following a discussion which showed everyone in agreement, the chair requested General Blanding to invite Mr. Elliot to the next meeting of the Commission.

RECOGNITION FOR CONTRIBUTORS: The chair brought up the subject of the "Gold Book" plan of recognition for contributors, and of a proposal that a monument at one of the entrances be erected, and upon it there be a bronze plaque carrying the names of the donors of land for Park purposes.

During the discussion of these matters, Dr. Lunsford brought up the matter of asking the Government either to run a special coinage of a half dollar on behalf of the Everglades National Park, or to issue a special stamp which would spread the work of the development of the Park idea. This was made a matter of reference for future work in Publicity and Public Relations.

Mr. Colee moved, seconded by Mrs. Jennings, "that a memorial monument be erected in God's wilderness" with a plaque showing the names of donors of land. This being passed, the Chairman appointed Messrs. Colee and Leach as a special committee to work up a concrete idea and present it to the Committee as soon as possible.

SCHOOL PROGRAM: Chairman Burghard read letters exchanged between Joe Hall, of the Florida Superintendent of Education office, and himself, in which Mr. Hall set up a proposed plan for disseminating through the schools of the State information regarding national parks in general, and the proposed Everglades National Park in particular. Chairman Burghard had asked Mr. Hall if it were possible for the Department of Education to finance this part of the campaign, and the answer was that Mr. Hall had taken the matter up with Supt. Colin English who had agreed for the expenditure of as much as \$800.00 in cash, and the use of facilities of the Department for packaging and mailing a proposed booklet of forty pages. Provision for 4,000 copies of this booklet

was included in the plan submitted by Mr. Hall, but it was the concensus of all present that if the booklet so prepared could be utilized to advantage in general publicity that a special fund be solicited for the purpose of securing many thousands of extra copies.

It was moved by Mr. Colee, and seconded by Mr. Ware, that Mr. Hall be requested to proceed immediately on the preparation of this book, and that the Executive Committee Chairman set up a special committee to solicit funds for additional copies.

COLORFUL STATIONERY: At this point Mr. Burghard submitted colored drawings for the proposed letterheads and envelopes for the Commission. There was considerable discussion as to the cost of these letterheads, the sum set up for stationery and postage being entirely inqdequate to cover a sufficient supply for use when real activity gets under way.

After listening to the discussion and looking at the drawings, McGregor Smith asked the Chairman what his estimate was as to the cost of an adequate supply. The Chairman's reply was that it would be somewhere between \$1,000 and \$1,500. "All right", replied Mr. Smith, "I'm foolish about colored letterheads and literature, - you go on and order this work done, and I'll pay the thousand dollars." There was no motion made, but there was spontaneous response from everyone present to this added gesture of generosity from the man who had already made the greatest contribution that has so far been given to the Commission, - that of furnishing high grade legal talent without cost to the Commission.

There was some discussion as to whether names of the Commission members or of its officers should be on the letterhead, and it was pointed out that the Commission membership may change from time to time, that to have a large supply of expensive stationery with the wrong names printed on it would detract from its value and be extravagant.

Mr. Ware proposed that the printing of whatever names were decided upon as desirable, should be done in small lots as a separate operation, and that he would contribute \$100.00 towards this.

Mrs. Jennings moved, seconded by Mr. Pennekamp, that the names of all members of the Commission be printed either on the reverse side of the letterhead, or in whatever manner those planning the printing may decide.

PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING: At this point the Chairman called upon Mr. Pennekamp to discuss his ideas of publicity and plans for carrying forward the work of the Commission and expediting it. Stating that this took him very much by surprise, Mr. Pennekamp nevertheless proceeded to expound some excellent ideas, all practical, which led to a motion by General Blanding, seconded by Mr. Ware, that a Special Committee be appointed to plan and coordinate a full program for carrying out the objectives of the Commission. Chairman

Burghard named Harold Colee as Chairman of this committee, other members to be named later.

BUDGET: The matter of the budget was brought up, and the Chairman explained that a revision had been made taking up the unused portion of this year's appropriation and re-budgetting the next fiscal year starting July 1. He had a copy of the budget with him, but as the blanks are so intricate and so many of the items do not apply to this particular Commission, he gave up attempting to read it in full and explained how it was handled. Mrs. Jennings then moved, seconded by Mr. Ware, that the budget be approved.

Discussing the budget, and the red tape necessary to handle funds, it was proposed, but not officially moved, that a Legislative Committee be appointed by the Chairman sometime in the near future so that plans can be prepared and Attorney Preston consulted on necessary legislation at next year's session.

FUTURE MEETINGS: The Managing Director mentioned an invitation from D. Graham Copeland, one of the members of the Committee, to hold the next committee meeting at Everglades City at the Rod and Gun Club. Chairman Burghard suggested that as Ray Vinten was planning to take the Committee to Dry Tortugas that it would be a fine time to combine the two. Mr. Vinten being present agreed with that idea, and it was agreed that at some future meeting we would accept Mr. Copeland's invitation for a weekend, and spend one day at Fort Jefferson, the National Monument at Dry Tortugas, Mr. Vinten furnishing the plans for the trip.

Mr. Colee moved, and everybody seconded (insisted upon being listed as having seconded) that the Committee write the host, Dr. Lunsford, a letter expressing in more detail the pleasure all guests enjoyed during the Committee meeting at the Lunsford lodge on Windley Island.

Official adjournment was had at this point, but discussion proceeded and at least two important agreements were made. Dr. Lunsford and John Pennekamp agreed to contact the theatre chain owners for funds for specific purposes, and General Blanding and John Pennekamp agreed to get in touch with Lykes Bros., for the same purpose.

It was informally decided that the next meeting should be held in the northern part of the State, - preferably Jacksonville.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF
 Executive Committee
 Everglades National Park Commission
 Jacksonville, Florida
 October 21, 1946

The Executive Committee of the Everglades National Park Commission met in Jacksonville, Florida, on October 21, 1946, at 9:00 o'clock A. M., pursuant to notice and call thereof duly given by the Chairman of the Commission. Mr. August Burghard, Chairman, presided at the meeting.

The following members of the Commission were present:

Gilbert D. Leach, Managing Director
 General Albert H. Blanding
 Mrs. W. S. Jennings
 John D. Pennekamp
 Harold Colee

The following visitors were present:

Senator Spessard L. Holland
 Tom Allen
 Dan Beard, Jr.
 M. H. Gallatin
 James L. Cartwright,
 Robert H. Fite,
 Will M. Preston,
 C. Ray Vinten,
 Fred Elliot
 C. Kay Davis

Upon Chairman Burghard calling the meeting to order the following proceedings were had:

MR. BURGHARD: I would like to start by having the group know each other and I suggest that we introduce ourselves. First, I want to present Senator Holland here and tell him how pleased we are he has come. All of us know Senator Holland.

(Introductions made)

MR. BURGHARD: Would you like to have the minutes read -- do you want a resume of the Windley Island meeting? Are there any questions about the Windley Island meeting, or the minutes of the meeting?

MRS. JENNINGS: Mr. Chairman, as long as we have so much to do

and everybody was there, nearly everybody, I move that we dispense with the reading of the minutes.

MR. BURGHARD: And approved?

MRS. JENNINGS: Yes

(Motion seconded by Mr. Pennekamp and unanimously carried.)

MR. BURGHARD: There are five principal things we hope to cover in our meeting today. They are (1) the protection and conservation of the area until such time as the Government takes it over, (2), the all important business of acquisition of the land, (3) the publicity and promotion and fund raising to acquire the land, (4) a new budget which must be submitted by November 15, and (5) of course, is the consultant on income taxes and other things. I think we have that in the person of Mr. Preston. To take these things in their logical sequence I believe the most important thing is the protection of what we have there now. Two weeks ago there were several of us went down the Tamiami Trail and around the Loop Road as guests of the Audubon Society. We passed about four cars in which were men with shotguns. We saw two cars just loaded down with orchids. Mr. Beard is with us today and he told us the Federal men down there have no more authority in the Everglades National Park than in Broward County or Duval. A week ago John Pennekamp and I met with the Governor in Miami and at Mr. Beard's suggestion we asked him if he would deputize five Federal men with State commissions so they could post the Park area and protect what we had down there. The Governor took our suggestion and the act of the Legislature which made that possible and he is to let us know what his conclusions are. I am just wondering, John, if you have heard anything from Wigginton or the Governor.

MR. PENNEKAMP: I will call him now. (Left the room.)

SENATOR HOLLAND: Why is it the Federal men haven't the authority?

MR. BEARD: The Fish and Wildlife Service was to take over the area and protect it until it became a national park. Things move slowly. The State lands were to be turned over to the Federal Government as part of the National Wildlife Refuge. The Department of the Interior would not accept the State lands as described by the State in the original conveyance. As far as I know, the Department of the Interior has not yet accepted those lands from the State. Therefore, we have no jurisdiction over the State lands. As to the private lands, we have a form of lease which people seem afraid to sign. We can't do it in an informal way. We have to pay them \$1.00 a year. Very few lands have been leased to us. The President has not yet signed the order closing the area; it takes about six months to get the President to sign that. So our organization, the Federal organization there, can enforce the Federal law which relates to migratory birds, but we have no more power in that area than anywhere else.

Deer have been killed there but we couldn't do anything about it. It's not closed to hunting, collecting orchids or anything else. It is closed insofar as alligators are concerned because of a State law but we can't enforce it ourselves. We get good cooperation from the State and we could call State men in. There are two State men down there in about two and a half million acres.

MR. BURGHARD: What about the orchids, plants and fire protection in the area?

MR. BEARD: There is no fire protection in the area at the present time. Last year 75% of the area that was burnable was burned. The orchids are being taken out constantly. They are not supposed to sell them but you have to catch them selling them, of course. Rare orchids are so rare now you can hardly find any. They are going deeper and deeper into the country. They can use airplanes now and there are more air boats out on the trail now. The place is being gutted but there is nothing we can do about it at the present time.

MRS. JENNINGS: Was it your idea, then, that these Government men be appointed to represent the State, too?

MR. BURGHARD: Mr. Beard said his five men would accept appointments from the State, without salaries, that would give them authority to post the land, to make arrests. We are going to be several years in acquiring the land and it is going to be a gutted area before we can get in there unless it is posted and protected. This seems to be the most vital thing we have facing us immediately...this business of having the Federal Government accept that as a game preserve. Dan, you say that takes about six months. When was it applied for?

MR. BEARD: I don't know. I don't even know that it has been applied for, but I believe it has.

MRS. JENNINGS: Couldn't the warden at the State Park be a paid deputy, too?

MR. BEARD: Yes

MR. BURGHARD: I am shocked to know that the area was not yet considered a Federal Refuge.

SENATOR HOLLAND: It is quite at variance with my understanding. We had a conference at Tallahassee in November or December of 1944 and the attorney for the Wildlife Service sat in on it. The Attorney General or an assistant was assigned to draw the necessary papers. We directed the preparation of deeds and it was my understanding it was to be done right then. It was our understanding they would transfer the necessary men. I am amazed that there has been a hiatus because it was clearly understood. The very proposal of the Wildlife Service had been accepted and they were ready to go.

MR. BEARD: We are preparing to do it.

MR. BURGHARD: The board should go on record that every possible effort to protect the land and growing things and living things in there be done to preserve it. Dan says it will take a generation to bring the orchids back to their original condition. We saw two cars just loaded down with them.

MR. COLEE: Are they taken for commercial use?

SENATOR HOLLAND: Collectors take them.

MR. BURGHARD: I think this Board should have on its minutes that we want every possible action taken by the State and Federal Governments to preserve and protect what we have there until it becomes a national park. That is rather elemental.

MRS. JENNINGS: I so move.

SENATOR HOLLAND: I have just been shown the minutes of the second meeting of the Board at which the papers were produced by the attorney for the Wildlife Service and the Attorney General. It was stated by the attorney for the official Wildlife Service that they were in proper shape, the shape they wanted them. We adopted it and executed the papers immediately. As I recall the statement was made that the protection of the area would begin at once.

MR. BURGHARD: It is not yet a Federal Refuge.

MR. VINTEN: Any land titles, although they may be approved by the Bureau, have to go to the Department, to the Secretary's office and be reviewed by the Secretary's legal staff. Although the official Wildlife Service draws them up they have to go to the legal department of the Department of the Interior for review. They came back and said "we want details of this land description." When that is satisfactory to the Department then they will accept it.

MRS. JENNINGS: They ought to be able to do it in two years or resign and get out.

MR. BURGHARD: Gentlemen, what do you think of this? We ask our Managing Director to work with Senator Holland and Mr. Beard, who represents the Government down there, and see that this thing promised two years ago is brought into immediate being and that that area is posted and protected. I was shocked to see what I saw there in just one Sunday afternoon: They can haul everything out of there, burn up the rest and kill off the remainder.

MRS. JENNINGS: There are not so many roads but what they can take two men and arrest them as they come out.

SENATOR HOLLAND: So far as orchids are concerned it would be impossible for them in years and years to go in and strip the area.

MR. BURGHARD: Dan, will you comment on that?

MR. BEARD: Ask Mr. Gallatin -- he has been there.

SENATOR HOLLAND: One man can be in there years and cover only one small part of the terrain.

MR. GALLATIN: It is pretty hard for them to get back in from the road very far in that loop area where most of the orchids exist in the western part of the area. I have seen them take them out by the truckloads several years ago.

MR. BURGHARD: What disposition was made of those?

MR. GALLATIN: Sold -- being shipped to New York to one of the dime stores.

SENATOR HOLLAND: You're talking about an area bigger than some of the States. It's a vast area and difficult to get into.

MR. GALLATIN: The loop area in there is the place where most of the orchids exist.

MR. BURGHARD: I believe our Board should through our Managing Director, Mr. Beard and Senator Holland, get the agreement made two years ago put into effect, attempt to have Federal men deputized as State men and post and protect the area.

SENATOR HOLLAND: I don't know what is holding it up so far as the Federal Official Wildlife Service is concerned but I am going to try to find out.

MR. BURGHARD: Would you like for me to send you a copy of the letter we sent to the Governor on that?

SENATOR HOLLAND: Yes.

MR. PENNEKAMP: This disputed title which the Federal Government is refusing to accept. They are refusing to accept it for national park purposes?

MR. BEARD: Yes. Our Bureau will accept the title but it has to go to the Secretary's office and there his attorney looks it over. Apparently there is where the trouble is. They have not accepted the conveyance as yet.

MR. BURGHARD: There is one more minor phase to report in connection with this protection and conservation of the area.

MR. C. K. DAVIS: Made a very detailed report on reconnaissance of the plans. (Read).

MR. BURGHARD: Senator, we are asking the Governor to deputize these men so they can post and protect the area.

We now come to the ultimate purpose of the Governor in naming this Commission and that is land acquisition. After twenty years of effort I don't believe we can say we own a single acre of land in the whole area. Mr. Leach has quite an agenda, quite a program to present to this group in connection with land acquisition and that is where most of our discussion should center today. We are indeed grateful to Mr. Elliot of the I. I. Board for coming over and for the work he has done in getting up the descriptions of the State owned lands that are for exchange. Mr. Leach has a large file of communications from landowners in the area. Gilbert, would you like for me to call on you now? Would you like to state the reaction of the landowners to the Governor's letter and our letter?

MR. LEACH: If you are ready to take up that subject, yes.

MR. COLEE: I understand 180 individuals are involved as owners of this land.

MR. LEACH: It took 155 communications. Of course, sometimes one man would be representing several different owners. Before we start in with Mr. Elliot, before we ask Mr. Elliot any questions, I would like to give you a report on the letters that were authorized at Windley Island...one letter from the Governor, and one from the Commission. I don't know how many our Chairman received in reply to the Commission's letter in addition to the ones that replied to the Governor's letter. I have in this only one that replied to both letters at once. I encroached on you with one in this file. There were 155 letters sent; all evidently reached the owners except seven in Monroe County whose lands were recently sold for taxes and no addresses were available. There has been a good deal said about how many returns we had. Out of a list of 155, a list that depends upon the action of county officials in being accurate in securing the addresses of land owners, I think we did pretty well -- we located all of them but seven. Forty-one replied. That letter was signed by the Governor of the State of Florida. Of course, it asked for donations but forty-one owners replied out of 148 that were contacted. Twenty are willing to sell. Two simply refused to sell. Nine asked for further information. Five are willing to trade. One of those is 520 acres, another five acres, one of 15,680 acres although part of that isn't exactly in the Park, one for 115 acres. Then I have with me a list of 18 parcels that are owned by one little family group which I want to take up with Mr. Elliot in your hearing so you can get an idea of just what our problems are going to be. Three are willing to donate, with reservations. One is John S. Szady -- he has twenty acres and wants to reserve 300 by 300 feet on which his gasoline business is located. Max Swift is willing to donate

with the reservation that the conveyance is not to warrant title. One man is willing to donate without any strings except one; if other Park landowners will donate. (Read names and reservations, etc.) So, I think the job that was given to Harold Colee and myself to plan a monument or memorial to the people who donate land in the Park might just as well be forgotten. That committee should be discharged.

MR. COLEE: I don't agree with you. My idea was to offer them something for their land. We should tell them we have something in return for what they are giving. We haven't, as I understand it, in the Governor's letter or in August's letter, said anything about the fact that "we want to honor you in return for what you are giving." We are not ready yet to consider a memorial or develop a correlated or a consolidated program with State-wide agencies in support of the Park until we find out how much money it is going to take to buy the land plus condemnation proceedings.

MR. LEACH: Mr. Elliot, I have here sixteen parcels -- I said eighteen -- of land ready to be traded, they want to trade for an equal amount of land in value that your Board holds. Here are some of the problems. (Read letter from Ivar Axelson). Until we can get some kind of working arrangement with the Internal Improvement Board, until we know how to proceed, of course, all we can do is stall off these folks who are ready to begin talking trade. We have to tell them something. All we tell them, of course, stalls them off. There is no way for us to trade. After all, the I. I. Board is the one doing the trading. They haven't even appointed us as their agent to do their trading.

MR. PENNEKAMP: Don't we work up details and submit it to them?

MR. LEACH: Maybe so.

MR. ELLIOT: I was under the impression that the National Park Commission would work these exchanges up to a certain point -- develop these exchanges. Then when that has moved along that far and approved by the Trustees then the exchanges would be effected.

MR. LEACH: When we ask for a trade we have to know what we can recommend and what is reasonable.

MR. PENNEKAMP: When you come to an agreement where you are satisfied and Kay Davis has given the best advice possible of appraised values, we can then say to the Board that we think this is a good trade. We ought not to stall. I move that you appoint a committee to immediately inform the landowners who are willing to trade that we are ready to meet with them and work up these trades.

MR. COLEE: I second that motion.

MR. BURGHARD: It isn't going to be quite that simple, although that 's a good motion. Any discussion? General, were you going to say

something? All in favor that we begin immediate trading as rapidly as possible signify in the usual manner.

(Motion unanimously carried.)

MR. PENNEKAMP: Approximately how many acres of land have been offered for trade?

MR. LEACH: We have one on the fire right now of 9,600 acres. We have another of 38,200, I believe it is. That is a good sized one.

MR. PENNEKAMP: I would like to know approximately how much money we are going to need in the end to condemn and everything else necessary to get the land. I think before this meeting ends we should set up a committee of some kind to select the agency that is going to put on the drive, when the drive is going to start -- lets get this thing going.

MR. COLLEE: Everyone is waiting for accomplishment of the land feature. I think, too, when the Model Land Company, through the gracious handling of the Senator here, reaches a conclusion on some basis, whenever that publicity breaks, those people owning so much land giving it, you are going to see the bricks falling on the whole thing.

MR. BURGARD: Gilbert, what have you there now?

MR. LEACH: Would a list like this be ready to submit to your Board, Mr. Elliot?

MR. ELLIOT: We would want a description of the lands privately owned, description of the lands State-owned on which exchanges are offered and the basis of exchange, acre for acre or value for value, subject to the statutory reservation for 50% of the oil and oil products and 75% of phosphate and other minerals. That is required under the statute.

MR. LEACH: We have a list, if the committee approves of the trade, which does exactly that except on the oil right exchange if they trade us land that has full mineral rights. Folks down there are selling oil rights, not selling land. They talk oil rights -- that is the main thing. Every trader puts stress on oil rights -- he doesn't want to trade a lot of acres down there with full mineral rights for a few acres that might be good farm land. We have to have some sort of working basis because wild guesses down here won't be the same as wild guesses in Tallahassee.

MR. PENNEKAMP: We know any land we acquire in the Park area must be free of all reservations so, so far as these people are concerned who want to retain some hold on the mineral rights, we can tell them they can't do it.

MR. ELLIOT: Could it be put on the basis that the land received by the State in exchange shall have a reservation of the oil and mineral rights equal to the oil and mineral rights reserved by the

State in the land exchanged to that party?. If the State received a deed in which there is reserved to the owner, a private person, 25% of the oil rights and 75% of the phosphate and other minerals and received in exchange a deed making the same reservations by the State, the transaction insofar as the oil and mineral rights are concerned would be invalid.

MR. BURGHARD: Fee simple only title.

MR. COLLEE: You mean give them the equivalent of their mineral rights in some other land owned by the State.

MR. ELLIOT: Yes, when the State exchanges land then they exchange the equivalent in minerals.

MR. LEACH: I have another proposition along that line. For instance, some of the land in the Everglades Park area has been deeded to the present owner with a reservation by the former owner of, say, 25% of the oil rights. That means we would have to swap with both of them. The man who deeded the land has no interest in the land, only in the oil rights, and it is going to be difficult to clean his 25% oil rights off. These deals are something we must know something about how to go about trading.

MR. PENNEKAMP: I suggest we set up this committee, get these people together, have a small group meet once a week and go over all these things.

MR. LEACH: That's fine. I wanted to bring that out. I especially wanted Mr. Elliot to know of it.

MR. COLLEE: In the Texas situation, in the establishment of their Park. When the State of Texas established a national park, didn't they have the same situation involving oil lands and rights, and such?

MR. ALLEN: They just condemned the whole area.

MR. COLLEE: I think we have led the people of Florida to believe that we are going to raise a big sum of money to buy the land. That should be discouraged. Everybody has it in his head that "they are going to raise money and are going to pay a great price for the land we own." They don't care anything about the general welfare of the State.

MR. BURGHARD: In Miami a week ago the Governor said in his opinion the key to the private lands down there was the Model Land Company. Here is a letter from a man eighty-four years old; he says he owns eighty acres in the park; says he has visited Yellowstone and Glacier (read part of the letter). Two or three of the owners have come back and wanted to know what Model Land Company has done.

MR. BURGHARD: Gilbert, I would like to have you report on the

correspondence you have had. I hope we can open negotiations with Mr. Hawkins and the Model Land Company. Over the years they have been negotiated with and negotiations have gotten up to a certain point and then dropped. Since this Commission has been reactivated, as yet nobody has any confidence that we are going to be any different from any preceding Commission, these fishermen, orchid collectors and hunters have no respect for us, and everybody is waiting for us to show some force or power. I am going to get our Managing Director to read some correspondence he has had with the trustees of the Model Land Company. Do you want me to read it, Gilbert?

(Letters read by Mr. Colee).

MR. BURGHARD: You have heard that. I understand at one time they were practically ready to trade and the water has been pretty well muddied up by us. The Governor says all the money they have spent in the Everglades area has been a mistake. I don't know. What is the best way for us to proceed now to acquire the Model Land Company's tract?

MR. PENNEKAMP: I think we are all agreed, Senator, we have talked about this a great deal. You figure in this plot so we might as well put our cards on the table. We think the approach should be based -- this is my consensus -- on that last letter in which they indicated a willingness to trade or, in other words, a willingness to dispose of the land. I think if you will make the approach together with the help of any members of this Commission you want to select -- I think the members will volunteer to go with you any time, any place. Maybe with your help, influence and background we can bring that trade to a head faster than any other trade.

SENATOR HOLLAND: They made a firm price in 1945. That was during the Legislature of 1945.

MR. PENNEKAMP: We would like to trade with them.

SENATOR HOLLAND: They will trade as to part -- for anything saleable. They are trying to liquidate their holdings, but they want to get something out of it. They have the same oil prospects that anybody else has. Plus that, they have some good land for which they have had real offers, substantial offers, for agricultural use. Of course, there's not much of that. They are not willing to agree that the cost of developing the highway was a waste as that's the only way you can get in there now. Certainly the State of Florida is going to need a way to get in. They are not willing to admit that the canals let salt water come in or have hurt it. They want to get something back for their investment that is reasonably like what they have invested in it. I think any other large property owner would feel just that way about it. I don't know of anything further I can do about it. I'm willing to help in any way I can. I feel like we are wasting a lot of time talking about these small trades because it isn't contemplated to establish a Park until after the oil question has been exhausted. If we get the Model Land

Company land ---- their best proposal was to convey it lock, stock, and barrel. You have a policing question. I think that is the thing that must be crossed. I am not persuaded you can't have quite a satisfactory park even without acquiring some of these smaller holdings. I know because I have gone to North Carolina and Tennessee and talked to some of the people instrumental in getting together that area. They didn't try to get 100% of the affected lands. The Great Smoky Mountain National Park was set up without the local agencies acquiring 100% of the land. There are scattered holdings around that have been acquired from time to time since and some has not yet been acquired. I think we should just bend every effort on putting through the Model Land Company deal. You see, here is the problem in acreage. These figures are approximately correct although I don't believe they are exactly correct. They state here that the area was reduced during the November or December conference of 1944. There was a total of 1,355,000 acres. Of that, about 600,000 acres are water, bays, keys, etc. My recollection is that there is only one key in the Florida Bay whose title has clearly left the State government. As to the land area, this pamphlet states that about 500,000 acres are State-owned lands and about 255,000 privately owned. Of that 255,000 acres two-thirds or better are Model Land Company's.

MR. LEACH: Who owns the water surface?

SENATOR HOLLAND: The State. If you add to what the State has already deeded, both water area and land area, the Model Land Company's holdings you have almost a completed park area. It seems to me that it is the Model Land Company question that is the crux of the whole situation.

MR. LEACH: Do you remember the firm bid made?

SENATOR HOLLAND: I don't remember. Ray, do you remember the figures?

MR. VINTEN: \$400,000.

MR. COLLEE: Based on 216,000 acres?

SENATOR HOLLAND: Everything they had west of a stated line.

MR. LEACH: They have quite an investment in the highway.

SENATOR HOLLAND: That was an over-all price. It included the investment in the highway, included taxes paid all these years, included the original cost. It covered all those things.

MR. LEACH: All this coming out is bringing to a conclusion what we hope to show here today.

GENERAL BLANDING: At our first meeting it was stated that

the Government would not accept this unless everything was cleaned up inside the boundaries.

SENATOR HOLLAND: They have never said that. Originally the Federal Act described the large boundaries and said that the Secretary of the Interior could declare a park of all or substantially all of the area when it had been deeded in fee simple to the Federal Government but we ran into two things, first, the difficulty of getting the whole area together and, second, the wisdom of getting it together. It was suggested that certain lands be excluded. I suggested exclusion of the land north of the Tamiami Trail and they acceded to that. They agreed to the restricted area and themselves suggested the elimination of more than the State suggested. Negotiations were had and it was finally agreed that an amendment to the Act should be offered cutting down the boundaries. Whenever in the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior we had secured enough lands in that over-all boundary to make a park he was authorized to go ahead and do it. The second change was that during the time of the completion of this oil question, at least for a period of ten years, they could accept and subject to the guardianship of the Fish and Wildlife Service a title short of fee simple title. There were two other changes which I won't mention here, there were four changes in the original act accomplished by the amendment. After passage of that amendment came these conferences in Tallahassee in the fall and winter of 1944. The point I am trying to make now is I think the key to the whole situation is the Model Land Company's land. Acquisition of that land should be the thing we should go after. I don't believe you are going to find them unwilling to come to something like a reasonable figure. At the time we were talking during the Legislature of 1945 we planned to buy with State funds. We couldn't get together on a value that would take care of the situation. Now you are talking about buying partly by exchange of State lands and partly by purchase through money raised out of public subscriptions. It seems to me now is the time to go back and work out the details. I think the negotiations ought to be handled by Millard together with Mr. Hawkins. I believe that is where the trade will be made.

MR. PENNEKAMP: We talked to the Governor about that and he suggested that you would be the man.

SENATOR HOLLAND: I will be glad to do anything I can. I have wanted to get the two of them together. It seems to me that is where the deal is finally to be made. The trade has got to be made or not made by acceptance or rejection by the Governor of terms proposed by Mr. Hawkins, or the other way, acceptance or rejection by Mr. Hawkins of the Governor's proposal.

MR. PENNEKAMP: It seems to me that the suggestion you made at the last session of the Legislature might apply here. Remember you had a bill introduced that just missed being passed under which if Model Land Company or any other landowner didn't want to make a trade we could use State money obtained from tradeable lands for the purchase.

SENATOR HOLLAND: That was my suggestion to the Governor. I didn't know how far that bill went. You've got a session approaching now. Here's something of tremendous importance to the whole State. The folks down in our part of the State have gone along gladly on other things more important to other parts of the State, like the Capitol Center at Tallahassee. We are fully justified in going to the Legislature and saying we have to have some public money to complete this thing or at least to acquire the Model Land Company's property. Make it a specific proposition. Submit it to the Legislature and have it passed.

MR. COLEE: Spessard, with your close relationship with Senator Loftin, General Counsel of the Model Land Company, is it possible that an arbitrary amount could be set up during a conference with the Senator, you and Millard?

SENATOR HOLLAND: I am willing to help. I think the time has come when it is important to bring Mr. Hawkins and Millard together to discuss this thing. We are not going to make any headway until you do. Millard is a lot better trader than I am.

MR. BURGHARD: You would sit in on such a meeting?

SENATOR HOLLAND: Yes.

MR. PENNEKAMP: Would you sit in on that meeting, Kay? I suggest you set up that conference, August.

SENATOR HOLLAND: It would be well to ask the heads of the two Houses to delegate at least one good strong man to sit in at the conference so the Legislature will feel bound. If you can get the State to take over the handling of the negotiations with the Model Land Company and then put through their negotiations by an effective purchase -- you don't know yet whether there is going to be a park, how these oil questions are going to be determined -- if you could get the State to do that and assume raising of the money to take care of that, that limits, and gives you a supplement to your operation.

MR. BURGHARD: Tom Allen, we are glad to have you down here. The General has in his mind, he got from you Park men the idea that we had to own the entire park area and present it to you in fee simple before a park could be made out of it.

MR. ALLEN: That is right as marked on that map as the minimum boundary. The intention is that the entire originally proposed and authorized area does not have to be presented immediately. The Secretary has indicated he will accept lands within that minimum boundary.

MR. BURGHARD: Can any owner be permitted to remain in the area temporarily or permanently?

MR. ALLEN: Legally, but the Secretary of the Interior expects

everything within that line to be purchased and presented.

MR. BURGHARD: If we acquire the Model Land Company's property we are ready to acquire others.

MR. PENNEKAMP: If you get that you establish a par acre value for the other.

GENERAL BLANDING: At some of the previous meetings the Government said you had to have every acre of land inside the boundaries before the Government would okeh it.

SENATOR HOLLAND: That isn't what the Federal law says.

MR. ALLEN: Legally that is proper. Under the present understanding when the Secretary of the Interior set that line he expects every acre inside that line. He can always change his mind.

SENATOR HOLLAND: The reason I believe he won't insist upon it is they are more interested in extending it in other directions than acquiring every single part of this. They are very keen, for instance, to extend northeastward.

MR. BURGHARD: Sunday before last we were out on the Loop Road built by Chevelier Corporation. "In here", the game warden told us, "is one of the best turkey areas in the country." I want to bring up one more thing here. The State appropriation is \$25,000 biennially, \$12,500 a year. Our Managing Director, our office rent, meetings of this Committee, and such, have just about used up the funds we have. We couldn't call a meeting of the entire Commission because we didn't have enough funds to do it. We have attempted to supplement our funds at the Governor's suggestion. We contacted the Florida Power & Light Company and they very kindly turned over the services of Mr. Preston to us. Mr. Smith gave us an additional \$1,500 for colored letterheads. I have talked to Kay Davis, he has an office with a number of men, he has bulldozers, surveyors, a number of things we badly need. Kay, may I tell what you talked to me about? (Mr. Burghard outlined confidential discussion.)

MR. DAVIS: I believe we could divide our work so we could do useful work both in that area and in the National Park area. I am thinking primarily of reduced personnel.

MR. ALLEN: I think what you want to do is swell, but no one short of Congress can change that appropriation.

MR. BURGHARD: We have a \$100,000 job to do and it puts us in the position of having to appeal to our friends over the State for funds. As Kay is set up he can stay in Fort Lauderdale and do nothing for another year, or he can go out there and survey this area and do the things needed to be done for us to proceed. Senator, you don't think it possible for us to do that?

SENATOR HOLLAND: I don't know. When you start transferring an activity from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of the Interior, it requires Congress to do it. When the Department of the Interior itself has put us on notice that it is not interested in any developmental work and Congress states there won't be any development it is quite clear that there will have to be a complete change in congressional policy to bring about what you would like to see.

MR. DAVIS: After you have it down to a survey party what little money is left could well be used in the Lake area.

SENATOR HOLLAND: You would have to accomplish a complete change of mind in the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture.

MR. ELLIOT: Why not change the project?

SENATOR HOLLAND: You mean have two departments work together on the same project?

MR. ELLIOT: Not actually work together but just broaden the scope of these Everglades studies so as to include certain work done in this area.

SENATOR HOLLAND: I think the thing to do is bear down on getting the Model Land Company's land and getting the Wildlife Service in actual operation.

MRS. JENNINGS: I noticed the drag lines. Mr. Davis, I wonder if you could use the drag lines a little ways to put ditches in there and give water protection.

MR. BURGHARD: We could use them anywhere if we could get them.

MRS. JENNINGS: The Government has already spent \$220,000 on CCC camps.

MR. DAVIS: The bill under which we are operating is a special congressional act which stated the money is to be expended for fire protection, conservation of soil and water. My idea was that we could continue to operate under that special act on those special things. That would permit us to do the things we want to do and not necessarily conflict with the present policy.

MR. BURGHARD: Supplement what our State officials are already doing.

MR. DAVIS: I made a survey of the Everglades to find out where the good lands are and for water control.

MR. BURGARD: We were reactivated last March. We have found our where we stand. We know better now where we are, the condition of the Park. The Federation of Women's Clubs didn't want to turn over their park until they were sure we were going to establish the Park. Isn't that right, Mrs. Jennings?

MRS. JENNINGS: The State gives us a small appropriation annually and the Federation didn't want to turn it over until we were sure.

MR. BURGARD: We ought to get this thing going. Senator, you talked about the seven and a half years we have to go from your 1944 meeting on the oil situation. Is it your opinion that it is going to take that long to bring the Park into being?

SENATOR HOLLAND: Might not be then. We sought to get the Federal Government committed to something practical. At the same time it would recognize that there was a practical problem there in connection with the oil possibilities that had to be explored. They did it when they amended the Federal law. We got out of the picture every condition we could eliminate. The condition that still remained in there was this: whether or not the oil explorations and production would so harm the area as to make it inadvisable for them to go ahead with the Park project. It couldn't be foreseen whether it would or not. They say from experience elsewhere, on the coast of Texas and Louisiana, that the Fish and Wildlife Service, if consulted about details of the exploration and production of oil, could minimize the damage greatly. In short by working something out that was temporary we would have a greater assurance of getting something permanent. Nobody ever tried to cross that bridge because they didn't know what the situation would be after the exploration and production of oil, if oil was found there to be produced, and we just have to go through that period of time. We got them to put it on this first ten-year basis. It may be at the end of that period explorations won't be completed or the production of oil won't be completed. They still won't be able to say go ahead and develop the Park. Then it will be necessary for State and Federal authorities to explore the situation again to see if it is necessary to work out an extension. The thing we sought to do was get them committed to something and at the same time get the State secured by having that ten-year period in there. If the Park hasn't been established the lands revert to the State. That is as much as can be accomplished while oil is in the picture. If we can get the State committed now to purchase the Model Land Company acreage and it actually purchases it -- it is going to have to be purchased -- then it is going to take the chance as to whether there is going to be a Park. If it doesn't become a Park, if it isn't desirable to establish a Park in the judgment of the Federal people at the end of the ten-year period because of damage of exploration, then the lands come back to the State, and the State, instead of having what it originally started with, will have that amount plus the Model Land Company's land and any other that has been acquired. If the lands are acquired with the State funds, the State will be the only one

that will have a continuing chance, a continuing interest in what shall happen in that Model Land Company land. If you raise private funds to buy the lands and buy them and then later no Park is developed, I don't know what position you are going to be left in, but it will be a very different situation from that in which the State will be left. As to you folks raising private money to buy the lands in the hope that these questions will be so adjusted that a Park will come at the end of ten years or earlier, you may be in a different situation. Nobody in Washington, Tallahassee or anywhere else can tell you that there is going to be a Park until this exploration and production of oil is behind us.

MR. COLEE: We will have to wait that long?

SENATOR HOLLAND: Yes. The State had a great stake in there itself because it owned over 500,000 acres of land, owned all of the submerged land to the extent of over 600,000 -- over a million acres of State lands. Imagine what will happen in South Florida if oil is produced in South Florida. The private owners have the prospect of getting back their investments or making a profit out of their investments if oil is discovered and nothing can preclude them from having that opportunity. If we condemn it, we have to condemn it subject to any potential value of oil production. Nothing can take that away from the people. We are in a good position to deal with Model Land Company because the State owns half of the minerals in that land. There was an absolute impasse that no one could get over because private owners of up to several hundred thousands of acres were saying, "I am not going to play ball on an immediate establishment even if the State is willing to forego its chance to get oil." Even if the State would, still you had these large private ownerships which required the giving of necessary time to work out any potential value that was there. There has been a good deal of exploration since that time. The attorney for the Fish and Wildlife Service was furnished copies of the oil contracts as well as the oil leases which were attached to the contracts and made a complete examination of them and the action of the Federal people was based on a complete understanding of the oil situation, at least as complete as we could give it to them out of the State offices. The Humble people and others in that area cooperated.

MR. COLEE: Are capped wells any indication that they have found oil?

SENATOR HOLLAND: They haven't found oil there. My understanding is that the State offices have full information on what happens in all these wells. It is required that they be furnished with that information. How about it, Mr. Elliot?

MR. ELLIOT: No indication, no hopeful indication has been found except in Sunniland.

SENATOR HOLLAND: The stuff is so deep and conditions are so bad -- mosquitoes in summer and all that kind of thing -- it requires not just ordinary wildcatting, it requires real money and lots of it, careful engineering and long commitments. None of us would want to preclude the

State or private owners from the possibility of producing any oil actually there.

MRS. JENNINGS: Even if it all goes back to the State it wouldn't keep us from protecting the area.

MR. BURGHARD: No. When the Governor called us in, in Miami, in March, he said he wasn't interested in turning over a dead horse. He was optimistic that this could be done very much earlier than eight years. We have a very aggressive group of men who have put in a lot of time and effort. If we have to wait eight years the main thing to do is get Dan Beard set up to protect it and let's get on something else.

SENATOR HOLLAND: I think the first thing is to get protection under way, then get this big key tract added to the State acreage. Then there is no objection to continuing the acquisition of these chips. Every time you can find someone to trade you minimize your final problem. We wouldn't want anybody to go away feeling that there is no assurance of our getting the Park.

MR. ALLEN: We should recognize the oil rights and possibilities, but we should be sure that we protect the area for a possible future Park. We can go ahead and buy land, not oil rights, then it would be properly protected. If later the oil rights business clears up, then it will take a second and final step to become a national park. I would not let the oil condition stop the acquisition of the land.

MR. BEARD: If we can acquire the surface rights now and get them it will be much better.

MR. PENNEKAMP: (Read from his printed speech.)

MR. BURGHARD: It discourages me to think about waiting eight years. It looks like we don't need a Commission, we need a protection area.

MR. VINTEN: Mr. Chairman, some months ago I wrote you a letter on the general history of the area. I have been following it now since 1934, through all the negotiations. Here's a practical outline of the whole problem as I see it. In the course of this past twelve years we have been confronted with obstacles, sometimes those obstacles were minor but they were very important at times. Right now the oil problem is important but I think the more important problem confronting the Commission is one where we recognize this obstacle at its face value. If we recognize it at its face value we can say, "Here's our program in land acquisition." Get the lands in the Park the best way we can. If we can get them with oil and mineral reservations, get them and put in surface rights. If there is a way of getting them with a certain agreement with the owner whereby he retains the oil and mineral rights for ten years and then conveys them, get them that way. If you can get them in fee simple, get them in fee simple. Senator Holland will remember back in 1942, we recommended, when Director Drury was present at the meeting, that the best

way to get started was to set up some kind of holding agency so that as lands were acquired they could be put in this holding agency. Now have that holding agency the official Wildlife Service. Regardless of the reservations in the title that can be passed over. Take this period, say, take eight and a half years and divide it into two periods of four and four and a half years. In the first period, if it takes that long, get all of the surface rights into the holding agency. Then spend the rest of the period in eliminating the reservations, etc. Title to the surface rights is the important thing we are confronted with now! That's why the law of December 1944 was passed -- so the official Wildlife Service could be the holding agency for surface rights. We are confronted with the obstacle of oil but we shouldn't worry about it but get the surface rights and you will have a big part of the land ownership. As time goes on the value of that reservation is going to depreciate until finally condemnation will wipe them out. I wouldn't pay any boom value on oil reservations at this time.

MR. PENNEKAMP: I made a comment about the bill that Mr. Elliot drew up last session. The idea was not to appropriate money at all. It was simply so we can say to the owner of land that we could trade outside land for his. If he is unwilling then we can sell that outside land and give him the money for his land. It was not a matter of appropriating money to pay him off.

MR. COLEE: I thought the bill was to appropriate money to buy land of the Model Land Company.

SENATOR HOLLAND: No, there were two bills. That money had to come either from sales made from that time on or proceeds from sales made before that time. At that time we had sold enough State lands where we could put into the appropriation bill the requirement that the funds themselves be the proceeds of public lands sold. Even if the Model Land Company's holdings were acquired that would not eliminate any question whatever with reference to oil because the portion of the minerals that belongs to Model Land Company plus what belongs to the State are equally subject to exploration contracts and leases which have a long time to run.

Adjournment for lunch.

LUNCHEON SESSION

Introduction of the following guests were made:

Mayor Frank Whitehead, Jacksonville
 J. Ken Atwood, President, Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce
 W. S. Johnson, Exec.V-Pres., Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce
 Thomas C. Imerson, City Commissioner
 Guy Simpson, City Commissioner
 Philip M. Ulsch, City Commissioner

Earle Jones, Secretary of City Commission
Howard Belote, County Commissioner
Tom Marshall, County Commissioner
Mayor Perrine Palmer, Miami

MR. BURGHARD: John Pennekamp is a representative of the Commission. I am going to call on him for a word or two before Senator Holland speaks to tell what our objectives are and how we are going up to now. We started off in Miami, and, John, if you will bring them briefly up to date I will appreciate it.

MR. PENNEKAMP: What I have to talk about is two million acres of land and water which has been in the throes of the Congress of the United States and the Legislature of Florida for twenty-five years. It is the most involved, is the word litigious -- full of litigation -- most involved real estate in the entire United States from the standpoint of litigation for a reason that most of you know. It is tied up with a lot of oil prospectors and hopefuls and also tied up with about 155 owners, all of whom are sure that the minute they agree to do some negotiating with us and we have their names on the line, an oil well will spout off every two feet. That is the practical problem which we are confronted with as we undertake to bring into being this area of about one million three hundred thousand square acres; originally it was two million acres but it has been reduced in order to get it accomplished, if possible. We find that there are three major arguments against the development of this Park. We would like to tell you what they are and give you the answers so that as this thing moves along if the arguments are presented to you, you will know the answers. In some areas of Florida, objections are made to the establishment of this Park on the ground that it will interfere with hunting. There are just two kinds of hunters: one is the wanton killer and we can dispose of that fellow by saying it is a good idea to end his career. The other is the sportsman hunter and he is a conservationist and knows that when you protect a large area you make his fun greater because you permit animals to recreate themselves and multiply. The second objector is principally the commercial fisherman. That is a delicate subject in some sections of Florida, and especially in that area down there. During the war when the Government made -- as a matter of fact, when the Government educated millions of men who never before ate as well and as thoroughly in their lives -- when it became necessary to enlarge the production of our solid foods, the State of Florida was called upon to supply additional millions of pounds of fish. Just one of the incidental great contributions this State made to the success of the war. In order to provide all these additional pounds it was necessary for us to let down some of the bars that existed in this State and permit of the coming in of destructive seines and other things. In the interest of conservation alone, it is imperative that we protect some area of our State. The fishing in Florida is not as good now as it was a few years ago. Probably half of this area is water and it is a great area in which we can bring back that thing we have lost. What I have said about hunters applies to

birds and animals.

Horticulture -- a couple of weeks ago August and some other people were out in the Everglades and they saw truckloads of orchids being stolen and moved out; a great many are destroyed and sold. All of this is being destroyed. Some development took place down there which was designed to improve the area but instead it has permitted salt water to come in and destroy the area. We believe this area is more valuable than the development of oil facilities down here. Up until now, as you know, the production of oil in Florida has not been anything to stand up and scream about. We have some producing wells. One or two are temporarily cut down because they ran out of storage facilities. Production costs up to this time have been far in excess of reasonable commercial production. There is no indication at all that we are going to have gushers -- there is not a producing well among the few wells there within forty miles of the boundaries of the Park. This Park we think will attract many people to Florida, that it will attract so many people to Florida that the value of their visits to this State will be greater than all the oil embraced in this Park. There are no wells in the Park at this time. In 1941, which was the last year before this of normal automobile and tourist travel in the United States, twenty-one million people visited the national parks of the United States. Most of the national parks are open for a very short time. Yellowstone is open for three months of the year. This Park will be open twelve months in the year. It will be a distinct departure from any kind of national park we have had before. Those in the past were designed to reveal unusual and geological formations. The great appeal of this park is biological, the waters, plants, animals, horticulture. We who live in Florida don't remember the difference between what we have down here and what the whole of the United States wants to see -- we have been used to this. I come from a part of the United States where if you went swimming the mud trickled off your chin. We will get more than our share of people because we will be open four times as long, we will have a park with a new appeal, it forms a link in the great region which embraces the apple country of the Cumberlands, U. S. Highway No. 1 embraces that great bi-secting of the country that begins in Washington State and moves down to the Salt Lake country, to Mississippi, the land of cotton, and down into the Everglades. We are at the end of a great funnel. Here is a most extraordinary thing from a realistic standpoint about this park. Nobody can get to this park unless he traverses the whole of the State of Florida. They can go down one side and up the other -- down the middle of the State and up the coast. Nobody will use the same road twice. The whole State is going to profit. That kind of tourist is not the kind to go to a hotel and hole up. He does business with the laundries, he buys medicine at the drug store, he eats in the restaurants -- he is a very profitable tourist. We think the whole of the State of Florida should work like the devil to bring this park into being now. We hope you will help us by just explaining these things to people and by feeling pretty good about what we are trying to do. We would like to wind up this twenty-five year old job. We think we can accomplish it very soon.

MR. BURGHARD: When our distinguished Senator was Governor in 1944 he called a meeting which was attended by our present Governor, then Governor Elect. He set up the program that is resulting soon in the creation of the park. He has come over here at considerable trouble and loss of time. Senator Holland.

SENATOR HOLLAND: Thank you. I haven't any fixed series of remarks to make. I don't know exactly what Harold had in mind when he asked me to talk. I will just hit and miss, will discuss some of the things about it which, it seems to me, make it so valuable, some of the things that have to be done from now on out to make the park a reality. First, with reference to its value. I don't think any other one project now pending or being discussed or thought of in this State begins to compare in potentials to the State as a whole with the Everglades National Park. It will bring in many tens of thousands of additional tourists who wouldn't come except for the Park. They will see many new things, they will come back, they will stay and invest their money here and help build our State to even greater heights. It will produce many millions of additional dollars in tax revenues. It will bring tremendous revenues to hotels, restaurants, people in private business and to my mind is just about the biggest single business proposition now pending. I speak of it as a business proposition, one under which the people of the State, by investing a little additional money, can go far toward making a reality of the Park. It will be of tremendous value to all the State if and when it is established and developed as a park.

With reference to things there: one reason it is so desirable as a park is that it has so many things which can't be found anywhere else in the United States and some nowhere else in the world. Such things as the great white heron, the roseate spoonbill; such things as swim in the water, the manatee; such things as the crocodile. Yes, we do have crocodiles in Florida and the only place they can be found in Florida is down there at the tip of the State. They are well worth preserving; they are very interesting and are found there and there alone in the United States. Such things as tree snails by the millions and hundreds of different kind and varieties. Such things as variegated vegetation which can't be found anywhere else, the madeira tree, the royal palm. There are so many other types of life -- three types of mangrove alone. Birdlife, of course, literally by the hundreds of thousands. Of course, there will be visits to the nesting areas. I have just touched on some of the things you will find there; I couldn't do justice to it if I had the rest of the afternoon. There is no other place in the United States where these things can be found. It is not good for anything else unless the oil situation should develop because it is not arable land. The development of a park for visitation will bring value to this State that can't be brought any other way. Incidentally, it begins just west of Homestead and Florida City, runs down to the end of Florida Bay and then follows the Inland Waterway which is inside the Keys there on the Florida Bay side -- in other words, it doesn't include the habitable Keys -- it goes on down and sweeps back to the tip of the peninsula and up the peninsula until just about Lostman's River, comes back to the Tamiami Trail and down to the beginning. I haven't mentioned the animals there, the deer, bear, panther, there is just a profusion of wildlife there. Now with reference to what

is going on as to its establishment. A lot has been done already but what makes it possible to wind it up is what counts. State legislation has been passed, Federal legislation has been passed. Federal legislation in the beginning simply permitted the setting up of the Park there, a considerably larger area than is presently proposed. It is now back to 1,355,000 acres. The Federal law as now amended permits the Wildlife Service to come in under a ten-year care taking agreement to conserve the value there while the oil problem is being worked out. The Park itself will not be developed until fee simple title can be given to the Government. The Federal Government, I think, was very generous to amend its original act as heavily as it did amend it in 1944, both by permitting the cutting back of the boundaries, giving the Secretary of the Interior such latitude that he could create a Park out of any major portion of the area he felt adequate and permitting this period of caretaking by the Wildlife Service preparatory to setting up of the Park.

Arrangements have been made between the State and Federal Government under which there is a ten-year period for the ripening of the plans and to see whether or not oil is to be produced there and, if so, whether that production will hurt the area for national park purposes. The State has conveyed, subject to the right of reclaiming at the end of ten years, the lands in the restricted area that belong to the State, amounting to over five hundred thousand acres and all of the water area, including Florida Bay and Whitewater Bay. A few of the Keys have been conveyed away and that presents some problems although they are not major problems. The major problems are two in number. One, the exploration and production of oil. If it is demonstrated that there is no oil there the area can be used for national park purposes and we can certainly get the Park because the Federal Government wouldn't commit itself -- it has to put in wardens and take care of the animal, bird and vegetation life -- unless it was looking toward the establishment of a Park. In the event oil is discovered and produced there is still a possibility of having a Park because if it is discovered and produced without impairing the value of the area for Park purposes that would in no sense impair the desirability of having the Park there. The Fish and Wildlife Service, when we conferred with them, felt that by having proper safeguards you could reduce to a minimum the chances of destruction. I hope that will be the case. At any rate, if no oil is found we can have a Park. If oil is found and produced but without essentially hurting the area we can still have a Park. The first problem of oil is one that we can get around but it will take time.

It is important that all other things needed to be done should be done. It is necessary to safeguard all of the life there so that when they get through with this exploration and production of oil, there will still be the same urge and necessity of having a park there.

The second big problem has to do with the acquisition of privately owned acreage within the Park area. I am quoting from a memorandum but as I recall in addition to the 660,000 acres which the State has the right to convey and has conveyed, in addition to other lands

which the State likewise has the right to convey and has conveyed, there are somewhere between 250,000 and 300,000 acres of privately owned acres that lie within the presently discussed boundaries. The acquisition of that acreage is a task that must devolve upon the State and the people here because the Federal Government proposes, if it develops the Park there, to put in an amazing amount of money to make it such that it can be visited -- there will be guest houses, houses for the personnel, it will require protection in many ways. They will have to do many expensive things, it will be a long and most expensive matter to develop the Park. They know that and we know it. They have prescribed as a condition, before taking it over as a National Park, that the State instrumentalities give the area to be transferred into a national park. It will preserve the natural values there so it can be enjoyed and visited and so it will be profitable, cultural, educational and enjoyable to the citizens of the Nation. It is our job to get the rest of the area in the Park. That is one of the big problems, maybe the biggest problem this Commission, headed by Mr. Burghard, has had.

I am sitting in because as a member of the Legislature and for a while as Governor, and since that time in an effort to be of help to Governor Caldwell, I am exceedingly anxious that those negotiations come to a conclusion and that we really have this Park. This Commission is going to have to carry the ball. It will have to ask the Chambers of Commerce, the Counties, the communities and all effectively functioning civic and public agencies in this State to help it. It should never get down to the basis of being a sectional matter.

AFTERNOON SESSION

MR. PENNEKAMP (Temporarily presiding): The first part of this meeting which, incidentally, will not be very long because several of us have appointments which will require us to leave after a while, is going to be taken up with an explanation of some of the things in the Everglades Park area as to values, soil values, things discovered by means of a survey, and C. Kay Davis, who is the Engineer in Charge of the United States Soil and Geological Division, is the man who will take over at this time.

MR. DAVIS: We were requested to make a soil survey in the Park area to determine the character, position, and productivity of the soils in the area in order that the Commission might have full knowledge of the agricultural values of the properties that lie in the area. This survey was made by Mr. Gallatin, a member of my staff. I would like for Mr. Gallatin to discuss what he found in the area and then I will talk for a minute or two about the hydrologic conditions.

MR. GALLATIN: This small map (which was prepared by Mr. Vinten's office from the original map) shows the area covered by the survey, - a part of which was covered by the Everglades survey. In the southern part of the area we have the Flamingo marl soils which are very deep. They are at present contaminated by chlorides and as a result are not at this time classed as land suitable for development of agriculture. To the east and west along the coast, are found the Mangrove swamp and Tidal Marsh areas. The Mangrove

swamp is derived from partially decayed mangrove, vines and ferns, and the soils found in the Tidal areas are a mixture of materials such as sand and marl, ocean ooze, or marls. The distinguishing feature of these areas is that they are affected by tides. In the west part of the Cape Sable area there is a large area of peat which averages 60 to 108 inches in depth. This peat is derived from a saline type of sawgrass. There are several more areas of this same type of peat to the north of White Water Bay. While it has sufficient depth and is of the type of peat that could be developed, it is surrounded by brackish water and the samples taken show that it is high in chlorides. These areas are not suitable for development due to inaccessibility, lack of potable water, and because water control would not be feasible due to low elevation. To the north of White Water Bay several large areas of peat derived from needle grass were mapped. These areas are not suitable for development even though they are of sufficient depth, because they lie at too low an elevation, are contaminated with chlorides, are inaccessible, and because it is doubtful that adequate supplies of fresh water could be obtained for flushing the chlorides from these areas. The areas colored in green on the map are the Ferrine marls, the same type soil that is used in the Homestead area for truck cropping. However, with the exception of a small area in the southern part along the Park boundary and a smaller area near Royal Palm Park, all of this area lies at too low an elevation and is underlain by a permeable type of rock. The use of this land is dependent upon a low water table. While there is a small acreage of the deeper Ferrine marl the area in the south lies at a low elevation and without complete protection from high tides this area cannot be considered for agricultural development at present. The Rockdale soils to the west of Royal Palm Park are classified as land suitable for the growing of seasonal crops or such crops as citrus. It is too low in elevation for mangos or avocados.

The area to the north is Rockland which lies at an elevation between the Everglades proper and the higher rock rim. It is not classed as land suitable for development. To the north of this is an area of Loxahatchee Peat which is derived from the partial decay of aquatic plants. It is shallow and is not suitable for development for agriculture. North and West of this are two areas of Ochoppee marl. The sandy phase and normal Ochoppee. Neither of these areas are suitable for other than occasional use when the water table for the area is low. The soil is shallow and is underlain by the Tamiami formation which carries as much or more water than the Ooletic formation.

This shows you that we mapped quite a few different soils. This has been simplified by making our land capability map. The basis for the land capability map is the grouping of soils of like character or use. We know that the average person wants to know what the land is good for. The yellow (Class II) land is suitable for intensive use. The blue (Class IV) is suitable for seasonal usage or specific crop usage. The purple (Class VIII) land is land classified for use as recreational areas or water conservation areas.

Along with this survey we took samples throughout the area to determine what or how much of the area was affected by chlorides. In this portion of the Cape Sable area chlorides ran around 30,000 part per million.

We should have taken just the surface crust of the soil; the chlorides would have been 100,000 parts per million. A lot of you saw the original map and you will remember I originally stated the only agricultural land we had in the area was this little land along here. At that time -- when I made this reconnaissance survey of the Everglades National Park area I had nothing to join up with it but a general soils map. I did not have all the detailed mapping that I actually needed in making the join-up of this area with our Everglades survey. On getting the final field sheets back we found the only farm area is the small area around the Royal Palm Park area.

MR. COLLEE: That means with the exception of that slight yellow section most or all of the land involved in the Park has very little, if any, agricultural value?

MR. GALLATIN: No value to agriculture. It is affected by higher tides. There isn't any question as to what that area is good for. It cannot be used for agriculture; it is not accessible, there is no source of fresh water. There is no way of getting crops out.

MR. COLLEE: I think we should emphasize that -- so these fellows won't think they are giving something away.

MR. BEARD: How does it compare with agricultural lands around Homestead?

MR. GALLATIN: Same type of land but it is shallow. The use of it is dependent upon the water table in the area. If there is a highwater table you can't get in to farm. It lies at an elevation of about four feet above sea level. There is no way of getting water control on the land.

MR. DAVIS: While we were making the soil survey, some of the property owners were busy cruising their timber. There are some hardwoods, red mangrove, mahogany, and capaputs, that have a commercial value. However, I can't quite envision any piece of equipment at this time that could take any appreciable amount of timber out.

I would like to say a word about the water problems in the proposed Park area. We know that unless there is continuous fresh water supply flowing toward the sea there will be a movement of salt water toward the land. We know that at one time there was enough water west of the Miami Canal in Dade County to inundate the land surface because the organic soils would never have been made unless this was so. Those conditions have changed; today the soils are deteriorating rapidly. We recently made a study of a 675 square mile area which extends west from 20-Mile Bend on the North New River canal to the Collier County line, south to the Trail, then east to the dike west of Pennsuco, and then north to 20-Mile Road. This 675 square mile area is the recharge area for the coastal cities. As best we can collect rainfall and evaporation data, a supplemental supply of 240 cubic feet per second is needed to supplement the rainfall if we are to stabilize the $2\frac{1}{2}$ foot fresh water contour. A $2\frac{1}{2}$ foot fresh water level above sea level is necessary in order to suppress salt water below the depth at which

the municipal water supply is drawn. If I can make that clearer: by having fresh water at $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet above mean sea level, we suppress salt water 100 feet. This $2\frac{1}{2}$ foot contour at the present time is just immediately west of Hialeah. In 1904 it was at Biscayne Bay, which shows that salt intrusion is coming into the area because we don't have enough fresh water supply moving toward the ocean. In order to preserve this Park area in its present condition we must have all of the fresh water we can get because when we change from fresh water to salt water we change the forage in the area. If the forage is limited to such plants that will live in salt water, we will lower the value of the area for a National Park. I don't know how we are going to effectuate a completely satisfactory solution of the problem. We have collected sufficient data to enable those in authority to act in an intelligent manner toward a solution of these water problems. Whatever is done to aid the fresh water supply for Miami will be a direct contribution toward the fresh water supply for the Park area.

The suggestion was made this morning that since the project with which I am presently identified is completing its work, we might find some way of diverting certain qualified personnel to assist in effecting a solution to some of these water problems in the Park area.

MR. BURGARD: What do you think of us pursuing the matter further and attempting to have Kay transferred to us for a year, if it is within the realm of possibility. Do you see anything wrong with that, Tom?

MR. ALLEN: No.

GENERAL BLANDING: Wouldn't it be possible to get your present organization, the Agriculture Department, to allow you to do this work as an adjunct to some agricultural work? Can't you tie it in so they will agree it should be done as an agricultural proposition?

MR. DAVIS: I don't think so. The Research Division of the Soil Conservation Service is limited to the collection of field data. We have about enough of that. I doubt if the governmental departments will change their policies to conform with isolated problem areas. It would be simpler to work under that governmental department which is adapted to what needs to be done.

MR. COLLEE: I move that efforts be made by you as Chairman of this Executive Committee, in cooperation with John Pennkamp, Mr. Leach and Kay, to work out some plan whereby we can secure the services of Kay and his organization in any way in any project. Just what that is we don't know but we'll leave it to you master minds.

(Motion seconded by General Blanding and unanimously carried.)

MR. BURGARD: Gilbert, you have the matter of the budget. I think what we are going to have to do is break this up into committees.

MR. LEACH: The gist of the whole thing was told you when you were told that it must be submitted on or prior to November 15 prior to the meeting of the Legislature.

MR. BURGHARD: Could we get a budget committee to work with you? Will that be satisfactory to the rest of the Board?

MR. COLEE: In preparing the budget -- I understand it is \$25,000.

MR. LEACH: There isn't anything for that period.

GENERAL BLANDING: This is a new session.

MR. BURGHARD: For a good many years they have had this limited budget and nothing has been done particularly about acquiring the land. Now we want enough money to get the land.

MR. COLEE: Wasn't a lot of this money left over during the period the Commission was inactive?

MR. BURGHARD: But it goes back into the general fund. I had three things to talk about this morning. We have discussed protecting the area, acquisition and now promotion and publicity and, maybe, fund solicitation.

MR. LEACH: This chart is based on how those things should be taken up.

MR. BURGHARD: Joe Hall of the State Board of Education has done a fine job on working with the schools and it takes time, a year, to get a subject in the school curriculum. Miss Swearinger, head of that department, was down in South Florida several weeks ago and as a commissioner I promised her we would get from Dan Beard and others all the pictures and material she needed. We didn't want any plain black and white stuff... wanted beautiful pictures and booklets of the area. The Florida News & Photo Service, which is a branch of the State Advertising Division which, I believe, is a creature of the State Chamber of Commerce -- Mr. Swalm has been interested in our development and a gentleman from his office was up here today and asked for a little more publicity and asked how they could help. Mr. Jim Cartwright, representing the Chairman Saxton Lloyd of Daytona Beach, is here. Jim, I would like to get you to come down a little further and tell how you might help through your organization in publicizing the Park.

MR. CARTWRIGHT: The State Advertising Commission cannot use any of its money for advertising within the State of Florida. All money for advertising has to be spent out of the borders of Florida. However, that's not necessarily true of the publicity part of the State Advertising setup because the publicity can originate in and be sent out of Florida but if it is good enough the newspapers in Florida would pick

it up and use it. I know I speak the minds of the Advertising Commission when I say they would like to see this park developed because it would be another attraction, it would be the outstanding attraction in Florida. As attractions go now we are limited because they are not owned by the public or the State. We cannot publicize privately owned projects but there would be nothing in our by-laws or in the law written and passed in Tallahassee that would prevent the Advertising Commission from utilizing and advertising this project, to my way of thinking. I don't know of a more worthwhile project. After listening to the discussions at this meeting I believe you fellows are a long way from publicity. You have a lot of work to do before you get to that point. I don't believe in starting a big publicity campaign until you are definitely assured of the groundwork first.

MR. BURGHARD: We need publicity on raising funds to acquire the land. Before publicizing the Park, we have to publicize the need for it.

MR. CARTWRIGHT: That would have to be done within your own Commission. You could augment your own Commission with a citizens committee that knows publicity. You can draw on publicity men from every section of Florida that would give you their advice, help plan the promotion of that campaign.

MR. BURGHARD: The most desperate and immediate need is land acquisition and land acquisition money.

MR. CARTWRIGHT: You want me to explain our company's position? I received a letter from your Chairman requesting from the company that I represent the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of promoting this work. I took that letter in to the President of the company, the man who passes on such things, and I told him I thought this was a worthwhile State project and that we should be deeply interested in it. He agreed. Right now we are not in a position to give a yes or no answer because we are tied up in litigation, along with Paramount, in the United States Courts and with our uncertain status we couldn't appropriate any \$10,000 at this moment. However, it will be given consideration and the record of our company is that we have been very liberal. Whether they would go \$10,000 or not I couldn't say. Until this court decision is cleared up and we know where we stand the matter will have to remain in abeyance.

MR. BURGHARD: You think it would be about the first of the year before you'll know that ?

MR. CARTWRIGHT: Yes. The request hasn't been turned down or approved.

MR. ELLIOT: I have to leave at 3:00 o'clock. I want to express my appreciation over being with you and learning better some of your problems which I think the Trustees can help you out on.

MR. CARTWRIGHT: I suggest to the Commission that in raising your money you set up a regular publicity committee and meet with the chairman and formulate your plans.

MR. BURGHARD: The Governor has received some letters from a man named Abram Wychell. He raised the money to purchase lands for Mammoth Cave National Park, Shenandoah National Park, etc.

MR. COLLEE: Does he know anything about Florida?

MR. BURGHARD: I never heard of him.

MR. LEACH: He was the man that Mr. Coe had ready to make the campaign for the Association when the Association was to raise two and a half million dollars. He is the man.

MR. BURGHARD: Ralph Grassfield has come to see me; he knows about Florida. I mentioned him to the Governor and he said he liked him. Too, there's our friend Karl Lehmann, of Tavares. He was head of the National Bond program. There was a suggestion from Bill Johnson of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce -- he hadn't heard the Senator's proposal that the State purchase the tract of the Model Land Company. He said the State, as the park is for the whole State, should come up with the funds to purchase most of this land.

MRS. JENNINGS: I think the Governor's suggestion that they take it from the I. I. Fund is good -- that is money gotten from the sale of lands, it doesn't come from taxation.

MR. BURGHARD: I have a letter from Mr. C. M. Goethe of Sacramento, California. He wants to make contributions to this. I understand the National Park men know him.

MR. COLLEE: What kind of contributions, financial?

MR. BURGHARD: To send out items to newspapers all over the country under a Florida postmark. He has raised funds, has trust funds set apart to promote national parks.

MR. COLLEE: I think everything should be sent out officially from my office here.

MR. PENNEKAMP: I think all of those things should be referred to the committee set up at the last meeting.

MR. BURGHARD: We need a committee to arrange for a meeting of the Senator, the Governor, heads of the Senate and the House on the Model Land Company proposal before the Legislature meets. I think maybe the Managing Director should be authorized to name such a committee at the earliest possible moment and see that that action takes place.

(Motion to that effect made by Mr. Pennekamp, seconded by Mr. Colee and unanimously carried.)

MR. COLEE: On raising money -- we have discussed Wychell, Lehmann and Grassfield. Do we want to take any action here today -- do we want to lay plans for a discussion with these fellows as to what their proposals are? Do we have their proposals?

MR. BURGHARD: Mr. Wychell -- we don't know whether he has his organization set up or not. Three or four nights ago I had occasion to talk to the head of an Auditorium Committee in Winston-salem, North Carolina. They had the American City Bureau handle that that they got it all, raised nearly a million dollars. There are a lot of possibilities for fund raising. If we want to do it we can do it with the minimum overhead and with the maximum amount of money coming in.

MR. COLEE: I think Grassfield is the most capable one to do it. He used to be General Manager of the State Chamber and has been successful in raising money for your local chambers. He knows the State Chamber, knows the organizational set up. I think he is one of the best if not the best organizational men we have in the State today. I believe that under our direction a man like that, one we know and who knows the people and the section and the abilities of the sections, would best serve our purpose. I am for a man that knows Florida first. I think it's the wrong idea to bring a stranger into our community and try to have him sell something like this when he doesn't know this section.

MR. PENNEKAMP: The Governor seems to have some opposition to that procedure. I suggest it be referred to Harold's committee.

MR. COLEE: Don't misunderstand me -- I think Karl Lehmann is tops, but whether he wants to wear himself out I question. If he is interested he is a possibility.

MR. BURGHARD: I would like to leave it to the committee's judgment.

MR. COLEE: Isn't one of the things we have to figure out the amount of money we have to raise? Aren't we a little hasty in selecting a man until we find out how much money we have to raise? You can't start a campaign until you know what you are going after.

MR. PENNEKAMP: We are going to call in all the people who have land down there and make deals with them.. It shouldn't be long before you have a good idea how much you'll need.

MR. COLEE: I want to see this consummated before Millard goes out of office. If we will set a deadline for this thing I think we will come near doing it. I think the quickest way is to work on

Model Land Company, then get others in, then start the campaign of raising the money.

MR. LEACH: Everything that has taken place today fits into this picture with a little adjustment. Some of you are old enough to have driven a team of horses and occasionally you get two willing horses on a team but when you hitch them up they are not a team -- one will lunge forward and the other will pull back, and the wagon stays where it is. We have some wonderful pulling horses but they lunge and until we get them to lunge at the same time the wagon is not going to move. I believe in system. I have given a great deal of study and analysis to the way the wagon can move and the way we believe it should move. All of this I have prepared is, of course, subject to your disapproval, approval, change or alteration but it is a start. I have prepared a chart and I am going to let you glance at it; it doesn't take long to see the whole thing. (Chart is passed around.)

(Read prepared document "In presenting a chart as the proposed basis" etc)

Accompanying that we have figured out a financial set up:

(Read prepared document "Report and suggestions as of October 21, 1946, by the Managing Director) etc.

MR. COLEE: Why don't we attempt to set a deadline of sixty days, get an appraisal man -- if we have him lets use him and if not, lets employ somebody -- and get the appraised value of all the land we want to purchase. Lets say to those people, the owners of that land, "We want the land and are willing for you to retain the oil and mineral rights." We could meet again in sixty days to hear all the details, what this appraisal man has to say as a result of his investigation, what the condemnation price will be for the land. Kay tells me he could give us the condemnation price for all the lands involved. Then wouldn't we have a picture of about how much money it would take to run this thing?

MR. PENNEKAMP: Yes.

MR. COLEE: Lets get the land without the mineral rights. Say to the owner, "You keep the mineral rights, give us the land" because in three or four years he is going to find that there is no value attached to the rights. Get the appraised value first, plus the condemnation purchase price of the property, then we will have some figures, Gilbert, that we can lead to. Haven't you an appraisal man now?

MR. LEACH: An abstract man now.

MR. COLLEE: Couldn't he with Kay get appraisals and condemnation values -- couldn't the proposal be made to these individuals that we will let them retain the oil and mineral rights?

MR. BURGHARD: It wouldn't be in keeping with Gilbert's program.

MR. COLLEE: I think it wrong to ask for donations from some and say to others that we will pay them. Then if we go to the Legislature with a proposal to buy the lands there is no telling where the thing will go.

MR. BURGHARD: You have any objection to that, Gilbert?

MR. LEACH: That's phase numbered two. My idea is to take first things first and that we do this horse trading first. When we can't horse trade any longer then we'll pay.

MR. BURGHARD: We have had six months now.

MR. PENNEKAMP: I think it would be best to handle it as we said this morning. Come to grips with the owners right away. We are talking about everything but what we should do to get the land.

MR. DAVIS: When you bring the owners in, here's John Smith, - all right. You are going to ask him to donate his land -- are you going to let him retain the mineral rights?

MR. PENNEKAMP: Tell him "We need this land and there are four ways we can get it. Which do you prefer: Do you want to give it, negotiate for it, trade for it or are you going to make us go to court for it?"

MR. DAVIS: The land and his mineral rights, or just the land?

MR. PENNEKAMP: Just say, "If you want to give us this land without the mineral rights, all right". We have to bring them in and talk to them across the desk.

MR. BURGHARD: Always reserve the right to condemn for fee simple.

MR. BEARD: Haven't you got to do something before the Legislature meets to prove that you are in earnest?

MR. PENNEKAMP: If you put over this deal with the FEC you will know what that deal is. That meeting should take place within the next month. If we have to go to New York on it lets go to New York.

MR. FITE: It occurred to me that if the owners of the property are called in or a meeting is arranged with them and some member or representative of this Commission and there is a discussion of acquiring the land four different ways, it will soon become known that the Commission has some authority.

MR. COLEE: Bob suggested that we give a legal order to all owners to attend this official meeting for the purpose of discussing the turning over of this land for the park. In the meantime, we hope to have worked out with the Model Land Company a solution so Model will say, "We have listened to your discussion, we know what it means to Florida and we are agreeable to this." Wouldn't all the little fellows say "We are in on it, too."

MR. BRUGHARD: Mr. Leach has put a lot of study and thought into this. He may be justified in his statement about the lunging. Gilbert has been tied up until recently with interests up the State and hasn't always been in the Miami office. He is down there all the time now and is ready to go 100%. Maybe some of us are a little impatient.

MR. COLEE: Ask Will Preston as attorney for the Board what he thinks.

MR. PRESTON: I don't know of any kind of a legal order that you can give them except to file condemnation proceedings and serve them with a summons. That's the only kind of legal summons I know of.

MR. BURGHARD: Would each of you like to have a copy of Mr. Leach's suggestions here?

ENTIRE GROUP: Yes.

MR. PENNEKAMP: I would like to move that you appoint a committee of three, including the Managing Director, to prepare the budget. Make the committee statewide. I think Gilbert could put the budget together, submit it to whomever you appoint in the State, and see how it works out. Figure in the Managing Director, land acquisition man, appraiser, everything needed in the office, including a bigger office. I move the appointment of that committee.

MR. BURGHARD: Gilbert, you see anything wrong in us trying to anticipate things by contacting these people?

MR. PENNEKAMP: I don't think we are getting anywhere that way. We have to bring the owners in and find out what they want for their lands.

MR. BURGHARD: We have a motion to appoint a three man committee. Is there a second to the motion?

(Motion seconded by General Blanding and unanimously carried.)

MR. PENNEKAMP: I move that you appoint another committee of three to study the legislation which we will need to present next April and, with Will Preston, prepare the necessary bills.

(Motion seconded by Mr. Colee and unanimously carried.)

MR. BURGHARD: I will ask Gilbert if he thinks his office as constituted is in a position to contact the owners and get them in for a discussion.

MR. LEACH: I think so -- we are already in touch with a good percentage of them.

MR. COLEE: Do you know the proposal upon which you are going to instruct your men to talk with them? Have we arrived at a proposal yet? We could say to the man, "We want this land without the mineral rights -- we'll let you retain them. There is no agricultural value to the land. Now if you won't give it to us what is the best price you will offer -- we can condemn it later on."

MR. LEACH: In preparation for that meeting we are going to have to get with Kay's office and get something to talk about.

MR. COLEE: Are you going to do it one by one?

MR. LEACH: No, the plan was to call them all in for a meeting.

MR. BURGHARD: You will have a meeting of the attorneys.

MRS. JENNINGS: Aren't you going to consider the exchange of lands?

MR. BURGHARD: Yes, that's number one.

MR. ALLEN: Every time I go to Washington they want to know what they are doing down in Florida on the Everglades National Park. You are perturbed over the need to sell the State, raising funds. I think you are over the hump on that score. Just bring the people in and say "We intend to take it." Don't say you would like to have the property.

GENERAL BLANDING: We have had a choice assortment of

misinformation in the past. I would like to see a written statement of the total amount of these lands, the amount to be acquired. I move that the Managing Director be caused to furnish each member of the Commission with a statement of the total amount of land in the restricted area, the amount owned by the State, the amount to be acquired and the amount which is Model Land Company's.

(Motion seconded by Mrs. Jennings and
unanimously carried.)

MR. BEARD: When this land is gotten, who gets the land, who is it turned over to, the Commission or the United States?

MR. BURGHARD: In the name of the State of Florida.

MR. BEARD: Until it is conveyed for National Park purposes.

MR. PRESTON: You are right. It may be conveyed to the United States but in the event the Park is not established the land will revert back to the State of Florida.

MR. BEARD: Held in the name of Florida until the Park is created?

MR. PENNEKAMP: I just talked to the Governor. He said he had given that detail to Wigginton, who isn't in the office, and he hasn't heard from him. He will call back as soon as Wigginton shows up.

MR. LEACH: I had a private talk with Mr. Elliot before he left. He is going back and try to work up a general fund of information which we can use and if we hew pretty close to the line the I. I. Board will trade. Did I understand correctly that the State had already transferred its lands?

MR. PENNEKAMP: Yes. Something is wrong with it, though. It is not in fee simple, the State is making some reservations.

The meeting adjourned.

REPORT TO
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK COMMISSION

On Activities of the Executive Committee
Including Meeting in Jacksonville,
October 21.

Dear Members of the Commission:

Several valuable results have come from efforts put forth by your executive committee, individually and collectively, since last report. This Committee held a meeting at Jacksonville on October 21 and verbatim minutes were taken. After much time had elapsed we received type-written copy of these minutes and there were 78 pages typewritten, letter size. As these minutes consisted largely of discussions leading up to decisions it was felt that it would be an imposition upon members of the Commission to ask them to read the detailed report, therefore we are presenting you herewith a running account of what has been done recently by your Executive Committee and your Miami office.

It having come to the attention of Chairman August Burghard and member John Pennekamp that the United States Department of Interior had not yet formally accepted the restricted deed agreed upon by that Department and the State of Florida, and because of this, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Department, with Mr. Dan Beard in charge and his several wardens, were practically without authority to take protective measures, these two members met with Governor Millard Caldwell when he was in Miami and put the case before him. Returning to Tallahassee he investigated his authority to name these men as State Wardens without salary, and at the meeting in Jacksonville, Mr. Burghard received by telegram from the Governor the word that he would immediately issue commissions as State Wardens to these Federal men who have been assigned to work in the Everglades district. That is one of the outstanding accomplishments up to the present, as it provides protection against poachers, both hunters and orchid gatherers, as well as other trespassers.

At the meeting in Jacksonville all members of the Executive Committee were present except Mr. G. G. Ware, Mr. Karl Bickel and Mr. D. Graham Copeland, and we had as guests U. S. Senator Spessard L. Holland; Thos. J. Allen, Regional Director, National Park Service; Dan B. Beard, Refuge Manager, Everglades National Wildlife Refuge; C. K. Davis and M. H. Gallatin, of the U. S. Soil Conservation Department; Robt. H. Fite, Vice President, and W. M. Preston, Attorney, of the Florida Power & Light Co., C. Ray Vinten, Coordinating Superintendent, Southeastern National Monuments; Fred Elliot, Secretary and Engineer, Internal Improvement Board, and Jas. L. Cartwright, Member of the Florida Advertising Commission.

Your Committee took up with Mr. Elliot the matter of land exchanges between the I. I. Board and owners of acreage within the Park boundary. Senator Holland, who was Governor at the time the present arrangements were made and was associated with Governor Caldwell in planning

these trades, took an active part in this discussion. Your Managing Director presented 16 definite proposals for exchange with description of the land involved both in the Everglades National Park area and in the lands north of this area under control of the I. I. Board. Mr. Elliot stated that several matters would have to be settled by the Internal Improvement Fund Trustees before he could accept officially a definite proposal for land exchanges. However, the Internal Improvement Board expects your Commission to handle the details of these proposed exchanges and present them to the I. I. Board in approved form. This your Miami office is prepared to do, starting immediately upon word from the Board and forms upon which to make proposals. The Executive Committee voted to have the Chairman name a Committee to work with the Managing Director in reviewing and passing upon proposed trades. This Committee has been named, with Mr. Leonard Thomson as Chairman, and Mrs. T. V. Moore and Mr. Will Preston as members. Further action along this line is being taken both in your Miami office and at Tallahassee.

Since the meeting in Jacksonville Mr. Elliot has furnished us a concrete statement showing exactly what must be done to pave the way for these exchanges.

Meanwhile your Miami office is proceeding to carry out as nearly as possible and under the restrictions which still stand, instructions contained in a motion which was approved to have contact made with each owner of land in the Park area with a view to ascertaining whether a trade can be arranged, or whether it will be necessary to acquire the land by purchase or condemnation.

Your Executive Committee was faced with the problem of planning a budget for the two year period beginning July 1, 1947. With a deadline of November 15 to meet, our request for an extension was denied officially, but we were given to understand that we should be a little late in filing this budget. At the present date a budget based, of course, upon guess work has been prepared, and is now being passed upon by the Special Budget Committee, consisting of Mr. G. G. Ware, Mr. John Pennekamp and Mr. Will Preston. It will provide sufficient funds for semi-annual meetings of the entire Commission and more frequent meetings of the Executive Committee. Under our present budget we have sufficient funds for only one more meeting of the entire Commission prior to next June 30.

One of the matters presented to the Committee was the chart and proposal of method of handling the business of land acquisition as presented by the Managing Director. This plan has already reached you in accordance with a motion unanimously carried at the October 21 meeting. Your Miami office would appreciate some word from you either in approval, disapproval or criticism of that plan.

At this Jacksonville meeting your Committee was given some most valuable information by Mr. C. K. Davis and Mr. M. H. Gallatin on the character of the soil and the fresh and salt water condition obtaining throughout the area of the proposed Park. Supplementing this, several maps

were furnished by Mr. Ray Vinten that will be of extreme value in handling trades or purchases in the Park area. These are colored maps which show soil conditions. Mr. Gallatin's information was included in the minutes and will be available in handling these trades and purchases. Mr. Davis also had some suggestions which were not in a sufficiently completed state to pass on to the Commission, but they promise to be of extreme importance as the Commission proceeds in its work of providing a Park site. He will continue to keep in touch constantly with Chairman Burghard and members of the Executive Committee.

For the State Advertising Commission, Mr. Cartwright explained, speaking in lieu of J. Saxton Lloyd, Vice Chairman, that the Commission would be able to assist in out of State publicity when we are ready to begin active solicitation of Park funds in the way of donations, but that the Commission under the Act governing its activities cannot assist in the educational work inside the State.

There was very valuable contact made by your Executive Committee at the Jacksonville meeting through the courtesy of Mr. Harold Colee, a member of the Committee, and Executive Vice President of the Florida State Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Colee was not only our host at the luncheon given in the George Washington Hotel, but had invited to share this lunch, the Mayors of the Cities of Jacksonville and Miami, the President and Vice President of the State Chamber of Commerce, three City Commissioners of Jacksonville and the Secretary of the Commission, and two Commissioners of Duval County. These people were given a very comprehensive picture of the present situation and information regarding the potential value to all of Florida, and particularly to the "Gateway City", of the establishment of this National Park. Mr. Pennekamp first gave them a picture of our problems in acquiring the land for this Park. He was followed by Senator Holland who gave much of the history leading up to the present situation and described what he had found at the Park on several visits. He reviewed particularly the situation that exists as to oil prospects and oil leases in the Park area. All of this made a deep impression upon the Duval County guests, several of whom had very little previous knowledge of the Park or the plans for establishing it.

Following out these plans as outlined, your Miami office and your Executive Committee are overlooking no opportunity to push the work or further the interests of the Park, and from time to time we will make reports similar to this as events justify.

Sincerely yours,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

By Gilbert D. Leach
Managing Director.

POSTSCRIPT -

As the tentative draft of this report was submitted to

Mr. John D. Pennekamp along with other members of the Executive Committee for checking as to data and facts before it was sent out, I did not include something that I believe all of the members should know.

Both Mr. Pennekamp, who is the Associate Editor of The Miami Herald, and Mr. John S. Knight, the Publisher of The Herald, are so thoroughly sold on the idea of having this Everglades National Park that they overlook no opportunity regardless of expense to further the cause. You probably are aware that the actual reactivation of the Commission by Governor Caldwell followed a luncheon given by The Herald with Mr. Pennekamp as host, although Mr. Knight was present, at which luncheon there were representatives of many civic organizations throughout the State, including the President, Leonard Thomson, and the Executive Manager, Harold Colee, of the Florida State Chamber of Commerce.

Since that time The Herald has overlooked no opportunity to publicize the value of the Park and to emphasize the value of cooperation on the part of all citizens of Florida. One of the best pieces of publicity we have had was a booklet giving the address of Mr. Pennekamp delivered to the Fort Lauderdale Rotary Club. Following this there was a full page on the front cover of the Magazine section of The Herald on Sunday of last week. The Herald has caused 5,000 reprints of this page to be made and is using them for distribution at the booth which The Herald has caused to be set up to portray the Everglades National Park site at the 50th Anniversary celebration exhibit at the Miami Auditorium, opening November 25 and running through the week. This Herald booth on the Everglades and the Park site is a three dimensional portrayal of the area which is to become the Everglades National Park. From the first day of the opening of the exhibit this was the center of attraction for tourists and for residents alike. It took more than a month to make this portrayal and those who built it were working against a time limit or, as the newspaper would put it, a deadline. The actual cost of the display itself was considerably over \$1,000, and the additional expense incurred by The Herald has run the cost to around \$2,000. Special cases are being built to contain this display and it will be available for shipment by express to fairs and exhibits anywhere in the United States.

When the wonderful objective of our Commission has been accomplished we are going to owe much of it to this unselfish devotion of John D. Pennekamp and the lavish expenditures for publicity and goodwill of The Miami Herald.

G. D. L.

LUNCHEON MEETING
October 28, 1946

With John Pennekamp as host a luncheon meeting was held at the Seven Seas restaurant in Miami on this date, with U. S. Senator Spessard L. Holland as guest of honor.

Present also were: Congressman Dwight L. Rogers, and the members of the Dade County delegation to the Florida Legislature; also Chairman Burghard; Attorney Will M. Preston, Managing Director Leach, Harold Colee, C. Kay Davis, Dan B. Beard and Henning Heldt, of The Miami Herald.

The object of this luncheon meeting was to discuss further with Senator Holland some of the ideas and suggestions offered by him at the meeting in Jacksonville one week previous. The Senator reiterated his belief that the key to the situation was the Model Land Company, and at Pennekamp's suggestion he agreed to join Governor Caldwell and members of the Executive Committee of the Everglades National Park Commission in a conference with Carl W. Hawkins, Florida Manager of the Model Land Company. This matter was discussed at considerable length and was finally left in the hands of the Managing Director to arrange the time and place for a meeting with Mr. Hawkins.

Further discussion was had in a general way regarding the advisability of asking the Legislature for an appropriation to defray the expenses of purchasing or condemning privately owned lands whose owners refuse to consider exchanging their property for State owned lands in other counties.

MODEL LAND CO. MEETING
November 23, 1946
Jacksonville

After much correspondence with the Governor's office and with Mr. Hawkins, it was finally decided to hold the meeting in the office of Harold Colee, Executive Manager of the Florida State Chamber of Commerce in Jacksonville, on November 23.

Representing the Commission were Chairman Burghard, Attorney Will Preston, John Pennekamp, Harold Colee, and Managing Director Leach. Accompanying them, with special maps his Department had prepared, was C. Kay Davis. Neither the Governor nor the Senator was able to attend. Mr. Hawkins was accompanied by his attorney, Mr. L'Engle.

Both the President-elect of the Senate and the Speaker-elect

of the House were invited to be present. Neither was able to attend on that date, but both were represented by Legislator Charles A. Luckie.

Mr. Hawkins stated that since he submitted a price on the western portion of the Model Land Company's holdings in the Park area, he had had a new appraisal and he verbally submitted a new price of \$5.00 an acre for the surface, and \$1.00 an acre additional for the 50% oil and mineral rights held by his Company.

He declared that most of the land proposed for trading purposes by the Internal Improvement Board was worthless as to surface and a great part of it was land that his Company had let revert to the State for taxes. For that reason, unless more desirable land could be had from the State his Company was not interested in making a trade. He was very anxious to have certain maps and these were later sent to him from the office of Mr. Davis and from the Miami office of the Commission.

No answer was made by any member of the Commission to the offer verbally presented by Mr. Hawkins and the meeting adjourned to the George Washington Hotel where Mr. Colee was host to everyone at Luncheon. Further discussion was had during the luncheon but nothing definite came of it and the offer stood as made.

LUNCHEON, December 30, 1946

Another luncheon with John Pennekamp as host was given at the Down Town Club restaurant at Miami on December 30, to consult with the Dade County delegation to the Legislature.

The host presented to them the entire Park situation and told them that it looked as if the best solution was to get the Legislature to appropriate \$2,000,000 for the purpose of completing the acquiring of land in the Park area. All of the members of the Legislature present were favorable and literature was given them so that they would be well informed in discussing this matter with fellow members of the law making body.

Senator Coleman suggested that as the Hialeah racetrack was giving a cocktail party for the members of the Legislature the next afternoon, it would be a good opportunity to contact members from other portions of the State, and he thought it would be best to arrange for some member from the north tier of counties to introduce the bill, both in the Senate and in the House. He volunteered to take Pennekamp and Leach out to Hialeah and the three of them would do some missionary work.

The next day this idea was carried out and the response on the part of the Legislators was very promising.

MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
 With Newton B. Drury, Miami
 Chamber of Commerce Directors'
 Room,

January 14, 1947

Preliminary Meeting

As called by the Chairman, a preliminary meeting of the Executive Committee was held at 2:00 P. M.

C. Kay Davis presented maps showing classification of lands in the Park area according to their value from an agricultural standpoint. He requested that the Miami office of the Commission prepare a map showing the exact location and the extent of lands owned in large blocks. (This was furnished a few days later.)

There was considerable discussion about getting something authentic from Mr. Elliot of the I. I. Board before February when a New York representative of the Model Land Company would be in Florida. In this connection Mr. Davis stated that he had found many discrepancies between two maps furnished him, both purporting to be land proposed for exchange by the I. I. Board.

The Committee authorized the Managing Director and Mr. Davis to make a trip to Tallahassee, if necessary, to get the maps straightened out. (This was done within a few days by correspondence.)

After discussion regarding possible legislation that would be needed, Chairman Burghard directed Attorney Preston to proceed with the preparation of legislation requesting appropriation by the Legislature.

Meeting of Executive Committee
 With Newton B. Drury

Members of the Executive Committee present were:

August Burghard, Chairman
 Mrs. W. S. Jennings
 General A. H. Blanding
 John D. Pennekamp
 Gilbert D. Leach, Managing Director

Commission members residing in Miami were present as follows:

Mrs. T. V. Moore
 Dr. E. C. Lunsford
 Leonard K. Thomson

Others present were:

Will M. Preston, Attorney for the Commission
 Newton B. Drury, Director, National Park Service, Washington
 Thos. J. Allen, Regional Mgr., National Park Service, Richmond, Va.
 C. Ray Vinten, Coordinating Supt., National Park Service,
 St. Augustine, Fla.
 Dan B. Beard, Refuge Manager, Everglades National Wildlife
 Refuge, Miami
 C. Kay Davis, of U. S. Soil Conservation Service,
 Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

The following members of the Executive Committee were unable to attend because of conflicting business engagements:

G. G. Ware
 Karl Bickel
 D. Graham Copeland
 Harold Colee

Chairman Burghard called upon Mr. Allen to introduce Mr. Drury.

MR. ALLEN: "I don't know that Mr. Drury needs a great deal of introduction, as he has been active in Park work for many years. The Park Service is very proud of him and the leadership he has given us through the War, and before, and is now continuing. He will be a great inspiration and help to you with the Everglades National Park project, as he has had wide experience with similar projects elsewhere, and it is with great pleasure that I introduce Mr. Newton B. Drury, Director."

MR. DRURY: I regret that I have been unable to get down sooner; the best I could do in the past was to be represented by the Regional Director. You have gone along in great style. I feel that we are well represented down here with both Ray Vinten and Dan Beard to assist in the Park work. I am very glad of the chance to be here and feel that I can gain a lot more than I can contribute, but I will be glad if there is anything in my experience in National Park Service that I can pass on to you. I believe that I could be of more help to you if I could have a review of what the Commission has been able to do, and what they feel they are up against, and to the best of my ability I want to answer questions as to what you think the National Park Service can be doing from now on. I don't claim to have any great experience in this sort of project, not quite similar in oil, but there are always valuable resources

on the land. I am glad to be able to say this to you. You probably feel that this thing is not going as fast as it can be going. I have found that on so many of these projects that there is the feeling that everything is lacking, and it will all suddenly be brought to a focus. (Referred to book on this kind of project from Branch of lands.)

This, as far as I can see, is the only major national park project which has any chance of consummation that is before us at the present time.

I have here a copy of our "Action Record." It begins with the suggestion to the Department of the Interior in 1923 that the Everglades was so important to the country that it should be preserved in all its natural qualities; this record runs through all these pages showing the action taken in Congress and the Department of the Interior, different conferences that have been held right on down to the present time. Perhaps a copy of this might be of interest to the Commission. It shows what has been done here in Florida and in the Federal offices to further this project. It might be well to outline a simple course of action and have some aggressive type of organization to carry it out. Mr. Chairman, if you care to give sort of a brief outline...., I will be glad to give you information and suggestions as to what we suggest and hope for.

MR. BURGHARD: We have a number of questions, but we will answer some questions first. I came into the picture ten months ago. Mr. Leach was selected by the Governor for our Managing Director, and has offices in Miami, but our active member, Mr. John Pennekamp, who is editor of a Miami paper, is largely responsible for the Governor reactivating this Commission, and I would like to call on you, John, to tell Mr. Drury what we have attempted to do up to now.

MR. PENNEKAMP: Some months ago I talked with Mr. Drury in Washington and found that he knew more about the project than I do. About all we have done is to pull loose ends together and wander around to find the channel in which we are going to move to get somewhere. We are just before, and will probably determine this afternoon the method we will employ to acquire the remaining land in the area to turn over to the National Park Service. We think if we can accomplish what we are planning, it will be possible to do this within 18 months. We discovered that the State has attempted to turn over to the National Park Service State owned land which has not been accepted. We hoped it would be worked out before this.

(Spoke about conservation, and absence of real authority on the part of the Wildlife Service.)

We would like to feel sure before we make commitments that this reduced area is definitely acceptable for a National Park. We want to be sure that we will not have to go back and explain that we do not have enough for a National Park. We will have to know within a month or two what the National Park Service is going to do to develop the land. The people of this State want to know what they are going to get in return.

MR. DRURY: With regard to the long period of time that has elapsed is a situation which I am familiar with in connection with other projects. People think it is an old story, 'lots of talking and not much done.' There has been a tremendous amount done. It is well to explain to the public that this groundwork is a most important part. Statutes have been made. That is why I say that even though you get discouraged about time, it all suddenly comes to a head in most of these matters. Our problem is to work together and see that it happens soon. As I see it, the Commission was set up primarily for the purpose of acquiring the land and vesting in Federal ownership, first as a Wildlife Refuge, later to become a National Park. The Commission can do a great deal if it will keep behind conservation of the Everglades during the period while we are trying to work out the National Park...

The question of assuming jurisdiction, and the slowness of the Federal Government in accepting lands already tendered, I am honest to tell you that I was a little surprised myself to find that they have gone so slowly... There is correspondence in the Secretary's office in Washington that will cure the whole situation, - a memorandum to Secretary Krug on December 20 transmitting a letter which when he approved it, he would send to Governor Caldwell indicating our satisfaction with conditions set forth in his letter of October 30.

I guess you are all familiar with the points as to acquisition of land within the minimum Park boundaries which came from the meeting in 1944. It is understood that when lands within the designated boundary are accepted and transferred to the Federal Government free and clear of all reservations... the Everglades National Park will be established. You understand, of course, that Congress has passed an Act, that when to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, it can be declared to be a National Park. (Read letter from Governor Caldwell.)

I know that it is the aspiration of this Committee to cut down from ten years to ten months, or a reasonable period of time. Our suggestion of ten years was to allow time to clear up obstacles of various kinds. (Spoke about expansion, protection of the area and surrounding territories.)

While the limits of the National Park might be this minimum boundary, I think it is just as well to recognize that when you establish a National Park you are not through so far as the protection of vegetation and wildlife is concerned, because the surrounding country has quite a bearing on conditions. I have had a little experience with the preservation of Forest Parks, and have seen that when established, you still have the problem of seeing that the surrounding country is not turned over in a manner that will have a detrimental effect on the areas you are trying to preserve. That is true of any area established as a Wildlife Refuge. I can understand your apprehensions that these Park people as soon as they have accomplished something will come back for more.

There is still a duty that I think both Florida and the Federal Government owe to the surrounding country problems of soil conservation and drainage which are being studied and acted on. The more those projects succeed, if the Park is established, the better will be the conditions within it.

MR. PENNEKAMP: What will happen when we acquire the land and turn it over to the Park Service?

MR. DRURY: Mr. Ickes wrote a letter establishing the basis of transfer of lands on September 20. When Governor Caldwell's letter involving three points came, I recommended that as a basis for acceptance of land. It is now up to the lawyers to decide upon exactly the right phraseology. I wrote another memorandum explaining what we had in mind. I think you were probably told by Mr. Vinten or Mr. Beard previously that there was one delay because of the fact that the lawyers insisted upon a more accurate description of lands than was incorporated in papers, but that is entirely cleared up. Mr. Beard gave me quite an outline of the figures involved, the total acreage, the amount of State lands and School lands that have been tendered to the Federal Government, and it is a very impressive total. I can only promise you that I will exert myself to see that we get that one step nailed down as something definite that has been done, - 847,147 acres of land and water, including school lands; 461,000 of this being submerged lands.

MR. DRURY: (In answer to a question from Mrs. Jennings). The deed contains the proviso that if the Federal Government allows oil to be extracted, the State of Florida will get the benefit of royalties.

MR. PENNEKAMP: Is the State going after fee simple title?

MR. DRURY: The best way will be to have the State buy out total interest.

MR. BURGHARD: Mr. Davis talked to a geologist about the oil that has been found in the area, and this geologist stated that all oil found so far has been seepage oil, that real oil is far down and impracticable to get to; he thinks that oil, if there, is 40,000 feet down.

MR. BURGHARD: Our serious problem is raising money to buy land, and be able to tell people what the Federal Government is going to do when we give them that land.

I was surprised to know that Mr. Hawkins, of Model Land Co., set a higher value on land than oil leases.

to know about literature which can be used to answer requests.

MR. LEACH: One thing I should have reported earlier in the meeting, - I have been trying to get with Dan Beard, who said he is going to get out a new descriptive booklet, and I have plans for a map which I would like to be made a part of this booklet.

(A discussion was held as to the time and place for a meeting of the entire Commission, and the meeting was tentatively set for sometime in February, and the place, probably a location in the central part of the State, - Orlando, Ocala, and Tallahassee being mentioned.)

General Blanding made a motion that the meeting be adjourned.

Adjourned at 4:45 P. M.

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

Held at Ocala, Florida, March 8, 1947

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Prior to the open meeting at Hotel Marion, an executive session was held for the purpose of acquainting members with the new situation which had developed within the week. This report was given by Chairman John Pennekamp of the special committee named to confer with Governor Caldwell.

Contact with the Governor was made at the Columbus Hotel in Miami on the morning of March 1. The night before, the special committee met in the Commission office and decided to ask the Governor only not to oppose presenting the matter of funds to the Legislature and not to veto an appropriation should it be passed.

Besides the members of the special committee, C. K. Davis of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, went to see the Governor. Mr. Davis had prepared a number of large maps, one of which showed the roads that visitors to the Park would have to travel inside Florida. Chairman Pennekamp made the presentation, using an estimate of the amount of money visitors would spend in Florida and how much of this would go to the State in gasoline taxes. Immediate acquisition of key areas to stop despoiling of the Park was urged.

After asking some pertinent questions and weighing the answers, Governor Caldwell announced that he believed there was a certain fund out of which the Florida Cabinet could appropriate a sum, probably half a million dollars, for the immediate use of the Commission in acquiring key areas. He proposed that those present go to Tallahassee the following Tuesday when he would call an executive session of the Cabinet to discuss the matter.

Four members of the Cabinet were present at this session and Chairman Pennekamp presented the case exactly as he had told it to the Governor. The Cabinet members accepted the problem as one requiring immediate attention, then ascertained that the money was available. The question of the legality of using the fund for this purpose was left to the Governor to submit to an attorney and it was agreed that the entire question should be gone over at the open meeting of the Cabinet the following Tuesday.

That was the situation on the date of the meeting of the entire Commission and it could not be discussed in open meeting.

OPEN SESSION OF COMMISSION
March 8, 1947

Chairman August Burghard opened the session at 10:00 o'clock a. m., with the following members present:

John D. Pennekamp
Mrs. T. V. Moore
Carl Brorein
Martin Anderson
Karl Bickel
Mrs. W. S. Jennings
Fayette Holland
Harold Colee
J. K. Johnson
Mrs. Gillen McClure
A. B. Michael
D. Graham Copeland
G. G. Ware
General A. H. Blanding
Joe Hall
Nelson P. Poynter
Gilbert D. Leach, Managing Director

Dr. E. C. Lunsford, piloting his own plane, arrived just as the meeting adjourned.

Robert H. Fite, vice president of the Florida Power & Light Company, was introduced and invited all the men of the Commission to come to the Company's camp at Orange Springs for dinner that evening and spend the night. A number accepted and he apologized to the ladies for not being able to invite them also.

Illustrating his points with placards and pasted pictures, Chairman Burghard gave the members a running account of what the Commission had accomplished in the ten months since it was named by Governor Caldwell, and told some of the immediate objectives.

Protection of the bird life in the Park area and the adjacent territory was stressed by W. L. Towne of Atlanta, district head of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Classing the Everglades National Park as one that will rate as a "superlative", Regional Director Tom Allen, of Richmond, urged members of the Commission to get their legislators interested in and familiar with the proposed Park area.

Harold Colee suggested that letters be addressed to all members of the Legislature and to all chambers of commerce in the State, also to use every effort to get and keep active the support of the Press.

Mrs. Jennings moved, seconded by Mrs. McClure, that every member present pledge himself to see all the members of the Legislature they know. This was done and specific pledges were made by certain

members to see that certain Legislators were contacted and urged to use every effort on behalf of the Park.

Representing the Model Land Company, Engineer Malcolm Pierney, of New York, presented maps and discussed at length a proposed three-way trade out of which the Commission might get some land inside the Park area, a third party might get some of the company's land outside the Park and the company might acquire certain property it would like to have for a proposed extension of Road 199. On motion of Mrs. Moore, seconded by Mr. Holland and passed, a committee headed by Mr. Pennekamp was named to go further into the matter with the engineer.

After general discussion of various matters pertaining to Commission activity but without any definite motion on any of the subjects, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p. m.

STATE CABINET MEETING

March 11, 1947

An open Cabinet meeting with Governor Caldwell and every member except Attorney General Tom Watson present, was held in the old Senate chamber of the State Capitol in Tallahassee on March 11, 1947.

Representing Everglades National Park Commission were John D. Pennekamp, chairman of the committee; August Burghard, chairman of the Commission; Will M. Preston, the Commission attorney; Gilbert D. Leach, managing director, and members General A. H. Blanding, Martin Anderson, G. G. Ware, A. B. Michael, Fayette Holland.

Presentation of the Park subject was repeated by Mr. Pennekamp practically as it was given one week earlier at the executive session. Discussion followed by the Cabinet and the Governor reported that he had a legal opinion to the effect that the use of the proposed funds for the purpose was legal. It was then agreed unanimously by the six members present that the sum of Five Hundred Thousand (\$500,000) Dollars be made available to the Everglades National Park Commission for the purpose of acquiring by purchase or condemnation, key areas in the proposed Park boundaries.

The Cabinet also recommended to the Legislature, soon to meet, that the sum of Two Million Dollars, less whatever amount was necessary to replace the fund advanced by the Cabinet, be appropriated for the purpose of acquiring all the privately owned lands in the area.

(Not a penny of this sum was ever used for reasons that will appear in these records.)

ACTIVITIES LEADING UP TO FEDERAL
PLAN OF LAND ACQUISITION
AND PARK DECLARATION

Following the conference with Governor Caldwell on March 1, 1947, there were developments which changed the entire aspect of the Park situation.

When prospects of immediate cash with which to procure important areas in the proposed Park boundaries, became evident, it was suggested by Regional Director Tom Allen that it might be possible the National Park Service, with its Federal authority and its land acquisition personnel, could be used to handle the actual procurement of property. This suggestion was taken to Governor Caldwell and favorably received.

On March 5, the day following the executive session of the Florida Cabinet, a four way telephone conversation was held by Director Newton B. Drury of the National Park Service, he being in his Chicago office; Regional Director Tom Allen in his Richmond office; Legislative Chairman John D. Pennekamp of the Everglades National Park Commission in Miami, and Chairman August Burghard in his office in Fort Lauderdale. At this meeting by telephone the groundwork was laid for development of the plan which was later followed. Governor Caldwell received a report of this discussion and he, in turn, contacted U. S. Senator Spessard Holland in Washington, explaining the trend of the developments and requesting that he contact the Secretary of the Interior Julius Krug.

All parties were in agreement as to the general plan by the following Tuesday when the Florida Cabinet approved in open session the plan of making half a million dollars available for immediate land procurement.

Further impetus was given on March 12 when copy of a Resolution was received from the Everglades Drainage Board, agreeing to donate 6,100 acres of lands held within the proposed Park boundaries. This was the culmination of negotiations begun several months previously between the Commission and Secretary K. M. Throop of the Board, when the Commission furnished a list of such lands standing in the name of the Drainage Board.

Throughout the month of March details of the proposed plan to have the State of Florida furnish the U. S. Department of the Interior with funds and the Department to take over in toto the acquisition of all non-State lands within the agreed boundaries known as "the 1944 boundaries", were worked out and a definite setup was made to offer for the consideration of the Florida Legislature at the 60-day session to begin in April.

Prior to the meeting of the Legislature, the Commission provided

every member with literature describing the area and data concerning the plan of acquisition. Individual members of the Commission contacted all the Legislators with whom they were acquainted and explained the proposed setup. The reaction was extremely favorable and when the session opened the first appropriation bill considered was the one for the Everglades National Park.

A hearing was held by the joint Senate and House committees on appropriations and on public lands on April 15, 1947, with Senator W. A. Shands presiding. On behalf of the Everglades National Park Commission, the presentation of the subject was made by Legislative Chairman John D. Pennekamp. He was supported by Chairman August Burghard, Managing Director Gilbert Leach, Attorney Will M. Preston and Engineer C. K. Davis of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, who had prepared important maps showing the location of the Park with relation to the remainder of Florida and to the rest of the United States.

Mr. Pennekamp's presentation was terse, forceful and factual. Several persons interested in oil leases were represented at the Hearing but Mr. Pennekamp pointed out that the State's interest was preserved in the agreement with the United States Government and in its land acquisition the Federal Government would deal fairly with all owners.

The joint committee went into executive session and came out with a recommendation to both Houses that the bill as introduced be passed.

The following day, April 16, 1947, the Florida Senate passed the bill by unanimous vote.

On April 17, the Florida House passed the bill by a vote of 83 to 6.

On April 24, Governor Caldwell signed the bill and it became a law.

Following is the wording of the Act:

"Chapter 23616 (No. 2)
(Senate Bill No. 59)

AN ACT Appropriating Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) From the General Revenue Fund of the State of Florida for Providing the State of Florida with a Fund in such Amount to be Transferred by the State of Florida (by warrant upon requisition therefor by the Governor of the State of Florida) to the United States of America for Use by the United States of America or the National Park Service Thereof in Paying for the Acquisition of Privately Owned and

other lands and interests within the Everglades National Park area by the United States of America or the National Park Service Thereof, and in Paying for the Costs and Expenses required in Connection with such Acquisition; and Repealing all Laws and Parts of Laws in Conflict Herewith.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. There is hereby appropriated out of the General Revenue Fund of the State of Florida the sum of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) for providing the State of Florida with a fund in such amount to be transferred by the State of Florida (by warrant upon requisition therefor by the Governor of the State of Florida) to the United States of America for use by the United States of America or the National Park Service thereof in paying for the acquisition of all privately owned and other lands and interests within the Everglades National Park area by the United States of America or the National Park Service thereof, and in paying for the costs and expenses required in connection with such acquisition.

SECTION 2. That all laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed, provided, however, that any Appropriation Act passed by the Legislature of the State of Florida at its 1947 Session and appropriating sums for the salaries and current operating expenses of the Everglades National Park Commission shall not be affected by this Act.

SECTION 3. That this Act shall take effect immediately upon its becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor April 24, 1947
Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 24, 1947."

Pursuant to a promise made to the Florida House by Rep. Richard V. Simpson, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, the warrant for the amount appropriated in this Act was not made out until after adjournment of the Legislature. In fact, it was issued under date of July 10, 1947, but was personally delivered by Governor Caldwell to Secretary of the Interior Krug on June 20. On that date, at a ceremony attended by Florida Senators and members of Congress, Secretary Krug formally declared Everglades National Park as the twenty-eighth in the Nation's chain of Parks.

Meanwhile, on June 17, Florida's attorney general Tom Watson, filed suit in the Leon Circuit Court to enjoin the payment of this check to Secretary Krug. Judge May Walker set the hearing for June 19. Attorney Will Preston was in New York but he flew to Tallahassee to appear for the Commission. John Pennekamp flew from Miami for the hearing. Judge Walker dismissed the suit. The following day the warrant was delivered and the Everglades National Park was created. Later Watson carried his suit to the Supreme Court but lost again.

ALTERNATE FINANCING PLAN

Should the Governor and the Florida Legislature not have been so favorably impressed with the Commission's presentation of its case, an alternate plan of financing would have been brought into use without delay. Although it was not necessary to use it, the developments of this plan should be included in this record of the Commission's activity.

On December 5, 1946, the managing director of the Commission brought to the attention of five of the leading money-raising organizations in the United States the possibility of a necessity for fund raising on behalf of the Everglades National Park. Three of these were interested to the extent of making a preliminary examination of the proposition. These were Pierce, Hedrick & Sherwood, Inc; Charles W. Gamble & Associates, Inc., and the John Price Jones Corporation.

On December 12, Mr. Charles W. Gamble telephoned from New York and stated that he was to some extent familiar with the project and would send a financing plan for study, following this later by a personal visit to Miami.

It happened that Mr. Bayard M. Hedrick, president of Pierce, Hedrick & Sherwood, was in Miami and his secretary contacted him from New York. He called at the Commission office on December 11 and went over the project, checking the legal authority of the Commission to receive and handle funds, its right to acquire lands for the Park and its authority given by the Legislature to acquire lands by condemnation in case of necessity.

Mr. Hedrick visited the Commission office twice more in

January and February. By this time the Commission was making headway towards approval of the Legislature on furnishing the money. However, definite plans were discussed and agreed upon after Mr. Hedrick had investigated the project itself and sounded out some prospective donors, all under the blanket of secrecy until after the action of the Legislature should be known. In his opinion, there would not be the slightest trouble in raising the full two million dollars net. He once remarked that it would be just as easy to raise five millions if that much should be necessary. Incidentally, Mr. Hedrick bought an attractive home in Miami on one of these trips.

COOPERATION WITH PARK SERVICE

On May 6, 1947, a meeting was held in the office of Attorney Will M. Preston to plan for the taking over by the National Park Service of the obligation to secure, using the \$2,000,000 appropriated by the Florida Legislature, lands within the 1944 boundaries of the Everglades National Park not already owned and/or transferred by the State to the Department of the Interior.

Present were Donald Lee, assistant chief attorney for the National Park Service; Thomas J. Allen, regional director; Ray Vinten, supervisor of Monuments and Memorials; Daniel B. Beard, slated to become superintendent of the new Park; Attorneys Preston and Stuart Patton, and Chairman Burghard and Managing Director Leach of the Commission.

Attorney Lee announced that he had viewed the abstracts of title existing in the office of the Commission and found them to be inadequate for his purpose. He stated that he would require certificates of title on all lands before proceeding with any acquisition program. The Commission records, he stated, would be of value to the firm or person who would prepare the certificates, particularly the records for all Dade County lands. These records for Dade County, the managing director promised, would be completed up to May 31, 1947. Monroe County records, he stated, could not be brought up to date without long and expensive research.

The question of whether negotiations for trading outside State lands for lands inside the Park area should be continued was introduced by the Commission's managing director. He stated that many owners had agreed to negotiate such trades and the land could be acquired in that manner, in all probability, for less cash than in any other way. He inquired whether some provision would be made by the National Park Service for paying the State for such lands thus traded.

Attorney Lee was of the opinion that all such trades were "off" when the Park Service took over. Director Allen said it would be very acceptable to the Park Service if the Commission went ahead with such trades, then donated the lands like other State lands had been donated. "Not after the State has given you two million dollars with which to buy these lands," replied the managing director.

On the day following this meeting, headquarters for the land acquisition office was decided upon at Dinner Key where the City of Miami agreed to furnish space without charge. On July 17, 1947, Major L. M. Gray, Land Acquisition officer for the National Park Service, arrived and established his offices at Dinner Key.

Full cooperation has been given Major Gray by the Commission. Every record has been made available to him.

PLANS FOR DEDICATION CEREMONIES

When it became assured that the Everglades National Park was to be declared, members of the Commission began to discuss the desirability of having a public Dedication ceremony and, if possible, having the President of the United States dedicate the Park. The national publicity for the new Park thus to be obtained would be impossible to secure in any other manner.

These discussions were informal and not a matter of record until the evening of April 26, 1947, when the Executive Committee had been called to sit with the special budget committee to revise the proposed budget. The original budget had been prepared long before the Legislature met and was planned to cover expenses that no longer would be incurred.

At this meeting it developed that if a Dedication ceremony were to be held, it must be provided for in the budget. This was done and the rough draft of the budget completed. It was then suggested that Chairman Burghard should name a special Dedication Committee and those present preferred that such a committee be headed by some outstanding citizen not a member of the Commission. Much discussion followed but choice of the committee was left to the Chairman of the Commission. Within a few days he named the following members:

McGregor Smith, chairman, Harold Colee,
G. G. Ware, Karl Bickel, Joe Hall and Kennard
Johnson. Not as members but to assist in every
way possible, he named himself, John Pennekamp,
Will Preston and Gilbert Leach.

This committee held its first meeting on May 26, having dinner at the Miami Colonial Hotel and adjourning to the Everglades Hotel for its business session. In addition to the members of the committee and those officially named to assist, three Miami members of the Commission were invited to attend. These were Mrs. T. V. Moore, Leonard Thomson and Dr. E. C. Lunsford. Mr. Thomson attended. Actually, he provided the spacious mezzanine lounge as a meeting place.

Discussion was all of a general nature, suggestions ranging from a pageant in the Orange Bowl to a wilderness meeting inside the Park area. It was finally decided that future plans must depend upon the securing of the President of the United States and whatever time he could be induced to be present should be settled upon as the Dedication date. All was left in the hands of McGregor Smith, chairman of the Dedication Committee, until he called for action on the part of his helpers. Meantime, contact would be made with President Truman and Secretary Krug.

The summer passed without definite word from the President.

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 25, 1947

Meeting of the executive committee of the Everglades National Park Commission, called by Chairman Burghard, was held in the office of the Commission, 604 Biscayne Building, Miami, at 7:30 P. M., September 25, 1947. This meeting was called primarily for the purpose of discussing plans for dedication of the Everglades National Park, and the chairman of the dedication committee, McGregor Smith, was invited to meet with the executive committee.

Present were:

August Burghard, Chairman
 John D. Pennekamp, Member
 General A. H. Blanding, Member
 Gilbert D. Leach, Managing Director
 Will M. Preston, Attorney
 McGregor Smith, Chairman, Dedication Committee
 Dan B. Beard, Supt. Everglades National Park
 Miles Collier, of Everglades City
 Mr. Smith, Chief Clerk, National Park Service

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Burghard.

Mr. Preston read a letter recently received by Paul Scott, Attorney, from the Postmaster General requesting photographs, one of which could be used for a stamp commemorative of the dedication of the Park. Mr. Preston exhibited the photograph made from the drawing by Garnett McGee, of the white heron with State of Florida as a background. Mr. Preston was asked to have Mr. Scott write the Postmaster General, sending this photograph and asking if it will meet the requirement, and that, if not acceptable, we will be glad to furnish other photographs. And to make the suggestion that the stamp be in green.

Attorney Preston gave a resume of the three law suits that affect the Park and stated that, as attorney for the Commission and member of the legislative committee, he is satisfied with the legal status.

Chairman Burghard named three subjects on the agenda:

Salary of Mr. Leach
Dedication
Source of Pictures

Mr. Pennekamp explained that during the legislative session the bill prepared authorizing a salary of \$6,000 for managing director was withdrawn at his solicitation and that it was his promise to Mr. Leach that he would make some subsequent effort to get that amount of salary for him. Mr. Pennekamp asked Chairman Burghard to write the Governor that if there is some way to work this out within the limits of our budget that we would like to have it done. Chairman Burghard agreed to do this, and requested that Mr. Leach's secretary send to him the status of Mr. Leach's salary.

Some discussion followed regarding the appropriation of \$50,000 to be divided equally for the two years - which will necessitate the expense of the dedication being paid part from the first year's appropriation, and part from the second year of the biennium.

Attorney Preston explained reasons why certain subsequent bills were not submitted to the legislative session, especially one which would provide for a salary increase for the managing director, to the effect that after the \$2,000,000 appropriation bill was passed, it was generally assumed that the Commission office would be closed, but by amendment to the Senate Bill, provision was made for the Commission office to remain open as a contact office. He explained that the law under which Mr. Leach draws a salary of \$4800 was the old law under which the Commission was set up.

Mr. Leach made the statement that if he had been receiving the salary of \$4800 since his appointment, he would be willing to go along at

the same rate, but from the date of his appointment to July 1, 1947, he received only \$3600 a year, which was on an average of \$100.00 per month less than was required to meet his living expenses here in Miami.

PARK DEDICATION

Mr. Beard said he had been of the opinion that the dedication should be postponed because there ought to be a pretty well developed picture at the time of dedication, but that there could not be very much development by next spring, and that since the Secretary of the Interior wants the dedication this year, he would advocate it also.

Mr. Pennekamp said the Park should be dedicated during Governor Caldwell's term of office and that the Secretary of the Interior favors an early dedication; that he had received information from Washington saying that the delegation in Washington is figuring on December 6 and that the President will be here in November or early December and may be available for that purpose. Mr. Pennekamp suggested that we immediately have Senator Holland, Senator Pepper, Congressmen Smathers and Peterson see the President and "pin him down" to an exact date. He said further that it would be up to the Park Service to take the President and his party on a one or two days boat trip in the area, which will be just as effective in December as next spring, and that he saw no reason for delaying the dedication until spring.

General Blanding suggested that the boat trip planned for the President include regions where birdlife may be seen, and not just the giant mangrove trees.

Chairman Burghard inquired of Mr. Beard as to the status of the Master Plan. Mr. Beard said that the plan has no status at the present time, that it will be worked out early next year, and said the Park will be ready for the public in two years. The ceremony planned for December 6 will be the dedication, and not the opening. Beard stated that at the dedication of the Great Smokies roads were built and everything was ready to start, but this would be a different type of dedication.

DEDICATION PLACE AND PLANS

McGregor Smith, chairman of the dedication committee, reported that nothing has been done up to date but that all plans can be worked out within the next sixty days.

It was agreed by all present to have a fish fry and barbecue on the day of dedication.

The following places were mentioned for the dedication:

Royal Palm State Park
Hialeah Race Track
Crandon Park
Orange Bowl Stadium
Everglades City

Royal Palm State Park was eliminated because of no suitable facilities or a large enough cleared space for such a celebration.

All agreed that Everglades City would be the logical place for the dedication. Mr. Bickel's idea that the President come down one way and return thru the State by another route, and the same with Secretary Krug, may be worked out, in the event they do not make the trip by plane.

Mr. Collier pledged his support if Everglades City is decided upon as the place for the dedication, and said everything necessary will be made available to the committee. Suggested that he could have two blocks cleared of small growth and smooth surfaced, and that he felt that he could get from John Ringling North a suitable tent to take care of the crowd in the event of inclement weather, and that the Rod and Gun Club could take care of the Presidential party. The Army Field at Immokolee was mentioned by Mr. Collier as a place where the President's plane could land in the event he flies down or that Naples would be a suitable landing place.

Mr. Pennekamp said that when the President comes to a town the political unit forms the official reception committee, and that whoever the County Commissioners are, or the Mayor of Everglades, would be official.

Mr. Pennekamp said he was very glad that Mr. Collier had come to this meeting and thanked him for assisting very generously in solving the problem, and recommended that the committee proceed along the line suggested by Mr. Collier.

A discussion followed regarding suitable boats for the Presidential party and others to make the trip into the area. Mr. Collier said they had at Everglades small cabin guide boats which would be available - that the Navy will cooperate that they will no doubt want to provide their own facilities for the Presidential party for safety reasons, and other less important groups could be accommodated in the small boats and transferred to coast guard boats.

In reply to a question from General Blanding as to where the birds are to be found in early December, Mr. Beard replied that they are beginning to congregate in upper Shark River.

Mr. Pennekamp agreed to write to Washington sources to have the date of September 6 or one near then agreed upon and he will ask Senator Holland, Senator Pepper, Congressman Smathers and Peterson to help him out on this.

Mr. McGregor Smith said he would find out who the chef was who prepared the barbecue at Pahokee recently. A capable chef at Everglades City known to Mr. Collier was also mentioned, and still another, Carl Mahon, was mentioned by Mr. Preston.

Mr. Collier said he thought he could get the Tamiami Bus Company to furnish buses. Also suggested a motorcade from Miami to Everglades should the President come down by way of Miami. Road patrol along the Trail would be necessary and it might be advisable to issue passes to get in to the dedication.

Mr. Pennekamp proposed to write to Washington at once suggesting that the President participate in a parade in Miami then proceed to Everglades City to take part in the dedication with State officials. Will try to get the exact time fixed. Will have the Florida delegation renew invitation.

Mr. Collier will report to Chairman Burghard what Everglades can do to take care of the crowd.

Mr. Burghard thought it appropriate to have Seminoles present and negro singers.

McGregor Smith said after the date is definitely set he will have to appoint sub-committees to work on this and that.

INVITATIONS

Mr. Pennekamp suggested that invitations be issued on a statewide basis to the Governor, members of Cabinet, and Supreme Court. Others would fall into the general invitation. Limit it to that so nobody would have their feelings hurt. A list of names first thought of to be invited follows:

Governor and Cabinet Members
 Members of State Senate
 Members House of Representatives
 Members Supreme Court
 Congressional Delegation
 Members of Cabinet in Washington
 Members of this Commission
 County Commissioners of Collier County
 Governors of all States (these to be invited by Gov. Caldwell)
 Committee on Public Lands, Senate and House
 Daily newspaper editors in State
 Officers of Florida Federation of Woman's Clubs
 Ernest Coe
 Ted Pratt
 Julius Parker
 Sen. Leroy Collins

Ruth Bryan Owens
Mark Wilcox
Jno. H. Baker
Pat Cannon

PICTURES

Mr. Leach brought up the matter of pictures, and Mr. Beard said he is trying to get a photographer at Homestead to go down in the Park and take pictures as soon as he can, next week probably, and that we could refer people who want pictures to him - his name is Mr. Meeker, of Flagler Photo Shop, Homestead. Mr. Beard said he thought we may be able to get some pictures from Tom Allen, and from the National Audubon Society, also from Charlie Ebbets.

Mr. Pennekamp said that the office of this Commission should be converted into a service office.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Chairman Burghard said the date for another meeting will be set as soon as we hear from Washington.

Dedication committee chairman McGregor Smith was asked to go ahead with his plans and begin to get things worked out. He asked how much we had to spend and remarked that entertainment as now planned would not be as expensive as a formal dinner or other events first proposed.

Chairman Burghard thanked Mr. Collier for attending, and in response to a remark from Mr. Preston that he had hoped that the Collier interests would donate some land, Mr. Collier said that it is impossible to do very much about it at once because the land does not abut the Park area - there is a gap. Said "the desire is there, the problems are not insurmountable, but there are problems to be worked on, and maybe some good can be done. One of the thoughts that might trouble you is having a dedication that others might say is incomplete, but it might be possible that we could combine the dedication with a land grant, thereby making a larger Park. We feel that there are very material advantages for Everglades if we can become its back door." (Several members suggesting the "front door.")

Chairman Burghard said the committee should meet at Everglades City some weekend and look over the ground for the dedication.

Mr. Collier extended an invitation to come over and do a little fishing following the business meeting, and asked that Mr. Burghard let him know as soon as possible when they would come, and thru Mr. Burghard extended the invitation to anyone who is interested in furthering the cause.

Mr. Burghard said perhaps he would invite the F. B. I. man who will guard the President to make this trip.

Mr. Collier suggested that the Secret Service men be invited down right away to look over the ground.

LAND ACQUISITION

Mr. Preston said he is referring all inquiries relative to land to Major Gray's office. The Commission is out of the land acquisition picture 100% except to lend such assistance as possible. Major Gray has set up offices for this purpose at Dinner Key.

Dan Beard, Superintendent of the Park, responsible for the administration of the area, has offices in Redland District Chamber of Commerce, at Homestead. Mr. Beard was asked if any land had been acquired to date; to which he replied that none had actually been acquired - that two appraisers from Washington were now appraising Watson's land and as soon as figures are arrived at, it will be immediately purchased; that Royal Palm State Park land is coming to them very soon - Model Land Company land has not been touched yet. Will have a corps of appraisers to go over all of the land. Mr. Beard gave a report of personnel employed: Mr. Smith (who was present) as Chief Clerk, one naturalist, and three experienced rangers. Mr. Beard said for the present he is perfecting his organization and protecting the area, and soon after the first of the year development will be begun according to the Master Plan.

Chairman Burghard thanked all for coming, particularly Mr. Collier and General Blanding. Regret was expressed by the Chairman and others present that other members of the executive committee, two of whom were out of the State, were unable to attend this meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 P. M.

EXECUTIVE AND DEDICATION COMMITTEES MEETING

October 19, 1947, Everglades, Fla.

Before the meeting everyone went on a tour to view four possible sites from which to select the best place for holding the dedication ceremonies for the Everglades National Park on December 6, 1947.

Meeting of the Executive and Dedication Committees of the Everglades National Park Commission, called by Chairman Burghard, was held at the Rod and Gun Club, Everglades, Florida, at 10:00 A. M. October 19, 1947. This meeting was called primarily for the purpose of choosing the site of the dedication of the Everglades National Park, and to appoint the committees responsible for the handling of the event.

Present were:

August Burghard, Chairman
General A. H. Blanding, Member
John D. Pennekamp, Member
Gilbert D. Leach, Managing Director
McGregor Smith, Chairman, Dedication Committee
Thomas J. Allen, Regional Director of the National Park Service
Dan Beard, Superintendent of the Everglades National Park
G. G. Ware, Member
Will M. Preston, Attorney for the Park Commission
C. R. Vinten, Coordinating Supt., Southeastern National Monuments
Miles Collier, Host, representing Everglades

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Burghard, and it was moved and seconded that the reading of the Minutes of the last meeting be dispensed with.

Special announcements were read by Chairman Burghard, including telegrams from absent members and a suggestion by Mrs. Jennings that the Florida Federation of Woman's Clubs be recognized in the program.

An invitation was presented from the Miami Beach Hotel Owners Association to the official parties of President Truman and Secretary of the Interior Krug, should the program arranged permit either or both parties to have a stopover in Miami. Brief discussion showed that it was impossible at this time to definitely accept this invitation but the Managing Director was instructed to express the appreciation of the committees and to take up the matter after definite arrangements have been made regarding the visit of the official parties from Washington.

Chairman Burghard requested a discussion of a suitable site for the dedication program of the Everglades National Park. Following a discussion of some length in which Mr. Pennekamp and Mr. Allen heartily endorsed the selection of Everglades City as being most typical of the Everglades National Park atmosphere and spirit, Managing Director Gilbert D. Leach made a motion that Everglades be selected as the site of the dedication. This motion was seconded by General Blanding, and unanimously carried.

Mr. Pennekamp moved that the site of the dedication exercises be at the bend of the river, north of the airstrip. This motion was seconded by General Blanding, and the motion unanimously carried.

Park Superintendent Dan Beard was appointed Field Director and all committees are to confer and co-ordinate with him on the various phases. It was pointed out that he would be equipped with a special station on the Dedication Day, and supplied with adequate messenger service.

A motion was made by Mr. Ware, seconded by General Blanding, and unanimously carried that \$1,000.00 be appropriated for the hiring of a Public Relations Director. Mr. Pennekamp pointed out that additional photographs could be secured from the Miami News Bureau, without cost. It was determined that there would be no "official photographer" designated.

Mr. Pennekamp suggested that on all requests for photographs of the Everglades National Park, a good picture of Dan Beard be included in each case.

A Local Arrangements Committee was appointed as follows:

Miles Collier, Chairman
 McGregor Smith
 J. K. Johnson (Miami Chamber of Commerce)
 Carl Hanton
 D. Graham Copeland

Program Committee:

John Pennekamp
 Will Preston
 August Burghard

The services of Mrs. Meyer in Mr. Leach's office were ascertained to be available to this and other committees.

Mr. Allen stressed here the need for a brief program.

Invitation Committee:

John Pennekamp

General Blanding, Bartow
 August Burghard, Fort Lauderdale
 Mrs. T. V. Moore, Miami
 Carl Hanton, Fort Myers
 Ray Vinten, St. Augustine
 Will Preston, Miami

McGregor Smith was charged with the responsibility of securing the services of a professional barbecue caterer, and all relative matters, for the serving of an estimated 1,000 guests.

McGregor Smith made available the use of the Directors' Room in the Ingraham Building as headquarters for the various members of the committees in carrying out their work.

It was agreed that Miles Collier would contact Ringling Bros., for the use of tents and similar equipment.

Mr. Pennekamp will confer with the Governor regarding numerous items.

General Blanding will check with proper authorities regarding handling of traffic, the use of loud speaker equipment from the Special Services Signal Corps; first aid and emergency facilities; cooperation of the Florida National Guard and the Florida Highway Patrol in handling traffic on December 6; contact the State Road Department to put the approach highway to Everglades in condition to withstand the heavy traffic it will have to carry on Dedication Day.

Mr. Allen requested that mimeographed copies of the committees be printed and issued to the various members as quickly as possible.

Chairman Burghard stressed the need for getting the invitations mailed at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. Pennekamp advised that the approval had been granted for the Everglades National Park three-cent postage stamp, bearing a cut of the entire State of Florida. It was also thought that the Governor would proclaim an Everglades National Park Day.

Chairman Burghard made the following rough estimates of the amounts possibly to be expended by the various committees:

Publicity Agent	\$1,000.00
Invitations (Printing of)	
Postage, etc.	1,000.00
Barbecue (1,000)	3,000.00
Loud Speaker (Miami agency)	200.00
Dan Beard, Petty Cash	500.00
Speakers' Platform, Bandstand,	
Seats (from circus)	3,500.00
Rod & Gun Club expense	1,000.00
(for press and officials)	

Mr. Pennekamp added to the list of names as recorded in the previous Minutes, to be invited - the following:

Mayor and Council of Everglades
 Monroe County Commissioners
 Dade County Commissioners

Mr. Allen will immediately contact proper secret service authorities to inspect the site for approval.

Further discussion approved having the barbecue at 11:30, with the dedication ceremony starting at 2:00. In this way the gathering could disperse before dark.

Mr. Allen expressed his appreciation to the host for the entertainment of the Executive Committee, and Chairman Burghard thanked all for coming.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

MEETING OF PROGRAM AND INVITATION
 COMMITTEES
 October 28, 1947

A joint meeting of the program and invitation committees was held October 28, 1947, to make further plans for the Park dedication on December 6. The meeting was held at 4:00 P. M. in the Directors' Room of the Florida Power & Light Co., Ingraham Bldg., Miami, Fla.

Present were the following members of the two committees:

McGregor Smith
 Will M. Preston
 John D. Pennekamp
 Carl Hanton
 Mrs. T. V. Moore
 Gilbert D. Leach
 Dan B. Beard

Also present were:

Lt. A. G. Fausett, of the State Highway Patrol
 H. R. Gregg, Naturalist, National Park Service

Mr. Pennekamp gave a report of meeting with general managers of the local radio stations who had agreed to attempt to get the national networks to take the dedication program, but in order to do so the hour had to be changed from 2:00 to 2:30. ABC will not be able to carry the dedication program because of a five hour program they have at that time. The estimated cost of the broadcast is \$430.00 and there is a possibility that the stations may carry the cost. The Station representatives were reasonably sure that an all Florida Broadcast could be arranged.

Mr. Beard had prepared a tentative program, a copy of which he gave to those present, and asked for suggestions. There will be a preliminary program up to 2:30 when the radio broadcasting will begin and the first speaker introduced.

August Burghard, Chairman, has been requested to make the introductions. John Pennekamp was asked to be monitor, and accepted.

It was suggested by Carl Hanton that Deaconess Bedell who ministers to the Seminole Indians in the Everglades be asked to give the invocation.

The time for the barbecue was set at 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

The Presidential party, Secretary Krug, and several other special guests will be entertained at a luncheon at the Rod and Gun Club, Everglades.

As to the matter of parking of cars, Mr. Beard suggested that this be left to the Highway Patrol. Lt. Fausett, member of the patrol, who was present, promised to have a patrolman at every intersection to keep the cars moving, and will have five or six patrolmen in each parking area. Also he promised to use four or five men on the highway from Miami to Everglades to lend assistance to traffic - more if necessary; and the same number of men from Fort Myers to Everglades. The department now anticipates assigning 25 patrolmen, including the Presidential escort.

General Blanding sent word to the committee that the National Guard may be able to assist, if necessary. Lt. Fausett didn't think it would be necessary unless for security purposes.

Mr. Beard has contacted the State Road Department about getting roads into proper shape and will follow the matter up to see that the roads will be in proper shape to carry the heavy load of traffic.

INVITATIONS

The matter of invitations was brought up by Mr. Pennekamp, and Mr. Preston showed several kinds of invitations to similar ceremonies

which had been sent to him by Thos. Allen, of the National Park Service. From these the committee selected a type of formal invitation which they thought appropriate for this dedication. The matter of getting these invitations ready was left in the hands of Mr. Pennekamp and Mr. Beard.

A long discussion followed as to the invitation list.

It was finally decided that those to be invited to the luncheon at the Rod and Gun Club should be limited to the following:

President and party
 Governor and Cabinet (and wife of Governor)
 Members of Supreme Court
 Senator Holland
 Senator Pepper
 Secretary Krug (and wife)
 D. Graham Copeland (and wife)
 August Burghard
 John Pennekamp

The Everglades National Park Commission will be host at this luncheon, and will also be host at the barbecue for the other approximately 1,000 guests.

The wives of Messrs. Collier, of Everglades, will be asked to be hosts to the wives of the special guests.

Lt. Fausett made the request that the official cars, and the cars of the invited guests will be designated by a sticker on the windshield, to facilitate parking. These stickers are to be enclosed in invitations. The color of BLUE was suggested for the cars of the very special guests, and ORANGE for the cars of other invited guests.

Seats will be reserved for special guests, and a section will also be reserved for all other invited guests. A space will be reserved for the press, photographers, etc.

Mr. Beard was asked to proceed to get a public address system set up.

Mr. Pennekamp and Mr. Beard agreed to take care of printed matter including the printing of the program.

Mr. McGregor Smith said he had arrangements for preparing the barbecue in capable hands.

Mr. Hanton requested that Mr. Leach contact the newspaper editors of the State and find out who is coming and send invitations to those and advise them that they will be provided with special facilities.

It was agreed that members of the Everglades National Park Commission should be written a letter and asked if there is any person in their community they would like to have invited, and if so, an invitation will be sent.

Mr. Pennekamp agreed to take charge at the luncheon for the official group.

Mr. Allen will take charge on the platform.

It was decided that invitations should be in the mail not later than November 15.

Mr. Leach read a letter from Comptroller Gay in which he agreed to advance \$500.00 as a petty cash fund, and impressed the necessity for getting receipts for all expenditures over \$1.00.

Mr. Leach said that inasmuch as the site of the dedication is not within the Park boundaries, he wanted to make the suggestion that the Miami Herald three dimensional map be set up out there, as an exhibit. This he made as a suggestion for the program committee.

Mr. Leach showed an aerial view of Everglades City, and suggested that a cut and mat be made of the picture pointing out the exact site of the dedication and be sent to the newspapers. Mr. Hanton said he was also in favor of having this done. A plat of Everglades City, before him on the table, was suggested by Mr. Pennekamp for use instead of the picture.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 P. M.

MEETING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK COMMISSION
Tenth Floor, Ingraham Bldg., Miami,
November 26, 1947 - 2:00 P.M.

Present were:

August Burghard
John D. Pennekamp
Harold Colee
Gilbert D. Leach
Will M. Preston
McGregor Smith
Paul R. Scott
Carl Hanton

Dan B. Beard
Miles Collier
Capt. Jackson G. Flowers, of
the National Guard
Major Henry Noyer, of the
National Guard

Also present were three members of the State Highway Patrol, and Monte Baker, of Redlands Chamber of Commerce.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Burghard and turned over to Mr. Pennekamp, Chairman, invitation committee.

First matter of business taken up was the Dedication program. It was announced that the program as prepared had been approved by the Secretary of the Interior. With a few minor changes the program was given final approval by the committee and released for printing.

The program for the Stamp Dedication, December 5, was then discussed, and approved. A telegram was sent (immediately after the meeting) to Jos. J. Lawler, Third Asst. Postmaster General advising that the Commission had selected Governor Caldwell as the first purchaser of the commemorative stamp.

The following matters of business were taken up:

Official call to be issued to all members of Everglades National Park Commission to attend the Dedication.

The two members of the National Guard present advised that the National Guard would assign 70 men to the Dedication, that public address equipment would be set up, and aid stations based on 8,000 to 10,000 people. The hospital at Everglades will be available. 30 of the force of 70 will be armed, for security purposes.

It was announced by Mr. Beard that Secret Service men will arrive at Everglades December 3 and will have a conference with the National Guard and State Highway Department as to the handling of traffic and other matters. It was suggested that 12 M.P.'s be asked to make headquarters at Sheriff's office. Chairman Burghard will call a meeting at Everglades of a group to confer with Secret Service men, Highway Patrol and National Guard, as soon as Secret Service men arrive at Everglades.

National Guard plans to camp on school ground night of December 5. Dan Beard made request of the National Guard for cooking vessels for preparing food for barbecue. Same was promised. He also advised that comfort stations would be set up, and asked the National Guard to furnish four latrines which they agreed to do.

PARKING SPACE: The three State Highway patrolmen present gave a report of having estimated that they could park 1375 cars in Everglades, but after studying the plat for other possible locations, this number was increased to 1500.

SPECIAL TRAIN: Harold Colee was asked to request the A.C.L.Ry.,

through the State Chamber of Commerce, to run a special train from Jacksonville to Everglades to pick up passengers en route, and if this train is arranged for to advertise it through the papers and encourage travel that way instead of by car, advertising that the train will carry a diner, tavern, day coaches and sleepers. Mr. Colee agreed to handle this matter with the A. C. L.

SCENIC POST CARDS: It was suggested that one of the colored postcards of Park scenes issued by Florida Power & Light Co., be enclosed in each program. It was decided to have 10,000 programs printed.

BADGES: It was requested that Miles Collier have badges made for E. N. P. Commission members, and for the local people who are acting as the Reception Committee. This he agreed to do. Mr. Collier advised that the Mayor of Everglades will be Chairman of the reception and information committees.

Mr. Leach was asked to have badges made for the press and radio and he agreed to attend to this.

Mr. Collier was asked to handle registrations at Everglades. Tickets on the ground will be distributed by Mr. Beard.

Mr. Beard advised that the Tamiami Bus Company is doubling all schedules from Miami and special schedules will be arranged from other points to Everglades. In announcing the wide open invitation through the paper, also stress highway congestion.

It was announced by Mr. Pennekamp that the City of Miami agreed to entertain at a cocktail party, December 5, for distinguished guests. He also announced that it was decided to serve dry martinis before the Club luncheon on December 6.

As to the list of people to be introduced on the program, Mr. Burghard will confer with Mr. Pennekamp on this, later.

Mr. Leach was requested to release to all newspapers at once, the Dedication program and a list of the distinguished guests.

After a lengthy discussion of the many phases of the Dedication ceremony, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p. m.

EVERGLADES PARK 3-CENT STAMP



While the Commission, as such, did not originate the idea of the Everglades National Park 3-cent stamp which was issued by the Post Office Department on December 5, 1947, it had a hand in it. Through John D. Pennekamp, the design which was adopted was prepared and the artist was paid by the Commission.

Shortly after the Florida Legislature had passed the appropriation for securing the remainder of the lands for the Park, the Commission attorney, Will M. Preston, was talking to one of his law partners, Paul R. Scott, and they decided that it would be worth while to try to get the Post Office Department to issue a special stamp commemorating the dedication of the new Park. Mr. Scott was a close friend of the then Postmaster General Robert E. Hannegan who was convalescing at Miami Beach after an illness. Mr. Scott went to see Mr. Hannegan and found him favorable to the idea.

On May 21, 1947, Mr. Scott and McGregor Smith went to Washington and discussed the matter with third assistant Postmaster General Lawler and found him favorable. In July all members of the Florida delegation in Congress addressed the Postmaster General, endorsing the idea and requesting his favorable action.

Messrs. Preston and Scott suggested to John Pennekamp that the Commission secure a tentative sketch for the stamp and Mr. Pennekamp secured the services of Garnett Megee, a Miami artist, who drew the sketch. This was submitted to Daniel B. Beard, Park superintendent, for accuracy as to detail of the great white heron used on the stamp design, and a final draft was approved. This design was sent to Mr. Lawler and received his approval.

When date for the Park Dedication was set for December 6, the Post Office Department set the date for "First Day of Issue" as December 5 and Florida City, nearest postoffice on the mainland to the Park area, was selected as the Post Office through which the stamp would be issued.

On this date, with a program in which Hon. Joseph J. Lawler made the principal address and in which Secretary of the Interior Julius A. Krug, United States Senator Spessard Holland, Governor Millard F. Caldwell and others took part, the special stamp was placed on sale and the cancellations for the first day set a new record for all National Park special stamps, reaching a total sale of 802,500 stamps and cancellation of 466,647 covers. Mr. Lawler presented special stamps and covers to Governor Caldwell, Paul R. Scott, Will M. Preston and John Pennekamp.

DEDICATION OF THE PARK



Under a benign tropical sun and in a setting of cocoanut palms, the President of the United States, Harry S. Truman, on the afternoon of December 6, 1947, at the little town of Everglades, Florida, dedicated the Everglades National Park to the people of the Nation.

The President came from his winter capital at Key West in his plane, the Sacred Cow, landing at the Naples airport where he was greeted by the Governor of Florida, Millard Caldwell, and other distinguished citizens of Florida. In another plane were thirty-five representatives of the national press, radio and movie news reels.

Let by President Truman who drove a car, a motorcade proceeded to Everglades where it was met by Secretary of the Interior Julius A. Krug and other national officials, including Florida's two United States Senators, Claude Pepper and Spessard Holland. One stop was made for the presentation to President Truman and Secretary Krug of two Seminole tribal shirts to show the interest of the tribe in the establishment of the new Park. The presentation was made by Chief William McKinley Osceola and there were about 150 members of the Seminole tribe present for the dedication.

The motorcade proceeded to the Rod and Gun Club where, after a reception ceremony for the President, luncheon was served to about eighty invited guests in honor of President Truman. The menu was distinctively Floridian from stone crabs to lime pie. Inside the hollow U-shaped guest table, Host Claus Senghass had on display, facing the President's seat,

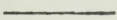
a huge frosted cake in the form of Florida. The first cut made took in Key West and went to the President. There were no speeches.

While the luncheon was in progress, nearly 2,000 guests were served fish, hush puppies, slaw, sandwiches, coffee, soft drinks and ice cream. This was the treat of the Everglades National Park Commission and was planned and carried out by McGregor Smith and his able lieutenant R. D. Hill, of Palm Beach. Included with the guests were the visiting Seminoles.

Eight thousand seats, loaned without charge by John North of Ringling's Circus, were set up facing the stand from which the dedication ceremonies were to be presented. About 6,000 of these seats were occupied and approximately another 1,000 persons were seated elsewhere or circulated about during the ceremonies. Hookups were provided for two national radio chains and the essential part of the program was broadcast to the Nation and abroad. On behalf of the Commission, John D. Pennekamp acted as master of ceremonies. Promptly at two o'clock the program started and was carried out as follows:

- Invocation Deaconess Harriett Bedell
- Selection Fort Myers High School Band
- Introducing Ernest F. Coe
and Other Distinguished Guests August Burghard
- Presentation of Royal Palm State Park Plaque
Mrs. W. S. Jennings and Mrs. L. J. McCaffrey to Mr. Newton P. Drury
- Selection Fort Myers High School Band
- Remarks Senator Claude Pepper
- Remarks Senator Spessard L. Holland
- Presentation of Area to Nation Governor Millard F. Caldwell
- Dedication Secretary of the Interior Julius A. Krug
- Address The President of the United States
- Benediction Rev. E. A. Finn
- Star Spangled Banner Fort Myers High School Band

Wah Nese Red Rock, Soloist



COOPERATION ACKNOWLEDGED

Although several members of the Commission did yeoman work in preparing for the Dedication of the Park, it would have been impossible to attain the success which crowned the day without the wonderful cooperation of others.

Three outstanding contributions were those of Miles Collier and his corporation and the town of Everglades; McGregor Smith and his associates, and Daniel B. Beard, superintendent of the Park, who took over the work of filed director. The Fort Myers High School Bands contribution also was noteworthy. Also that of John North who responded to the request of Karl Bickel for seats for the occasion. The Secret Service, the Florida Highway Patrol, the State Road Department, the National Guard, the Western Union and many others did their bit to make the day a success.

The Colliers, Miles and Sam, put their entire organization to work in preparing for the event. Mrs. Barron Collier, Sr., and Barron Collier, Jr., flew down from New York to be present on Dedication day. Besides their work, the Colliers, the County and Everglades firms and individuals contributed in money, goods or services, a total of \$2,138.75. Of this amount the Collier Corporation contributed \$954.22, the County \$379.49, the Rod and Gun Club \$581.00, and the Everglades Tourist Court, Manhattan Market, Bob Thompson and Dick Moore, the balance. Besides, the Collier Corporation advanced the freight charges on seats from Ringling's and return, \$3,035.95, when it looked like it might be the next fiscal year before it could be repaid by Commission funds.

McGregor Smith assumed full responsibility for serving the crowd. At first it was to be a barbecue but Mr. Smith said they do not raise cattle in the Park area --they raise fish. So it became a fish fry. He knew of a superior recipe for hush puppies and ran it down. He turned over the details of purchasing the supplies and equipment to R. D. Hill. First figures on the number the Commission would invite for the free fish fry was 500 but this was raised to 1,000 then to 1,500 and finally, there were about 2,200 "barbecue" tickets issued. Nearly 2,000 were actually present and served without a hitch.

Dan Beard, named field director by Chairman Smith, was on the scene at Everglades more than anyone except Miles Collier in the weeks immediately preceding the Dedication. He found and bought all the lumber and other materials necessary and superintended and helped build the grand stand, the barbecue stand, the rest rooms and the wire installations. His Park crew at that time was small but all were pressed into service, together with what small wheeled equipment he had. Everything was ready on the dot.

When the Dedication was over, Mr. Beard was authorized by the Commission managing director, after consultation with members of the

executive committee, to salvage the materials and use them for construction work in the Park area.

Because of the cooperation of the Colliers, the Florida Highway Patrol, the Secret Service and the National Guard, the day was not marred by a single automobile accident. This was a feat when it is considered that for four miles between Everglades and the Tamiami Trail, there is only one narrow road and about 2,000 cars had to use it, then had to be parked during the ceremonies and afterwards routed out over this single road.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF
Executive Committee
Everglades National Park Commission
Miami, Florida
January 11, 1948

Chairman Burghard called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Those in attendance were: Chairman August Burghard, John D. Pennekamp, Harold Colee, Managing Director Gilbert Leach, Superintendent Daniel Beard of Everglades National Park. Mrs. W. S. Jennings and George Ware were represented by proxy.

Beard was requested to keep the minutes of the meeting.

Chairman Burghard opened the meeting by reading letters from members who were unable to attend. All letters expressed continued and very active interest in the work of the Commission and the belief that the work is still far from completed. Several members, in their letters, indicated a desire to keep in close touch with the work of the National Park Service, others expressed the opinion that the need for the Commission to support and assist the government will be a continuing proposition.

Chairman Burghard surrendered the chair to Pennekamp.

Colee made a motion that the Commission should pay Pennekamp's costs of transportation for making talks at various parts of the State. Burghard seconded the motion. In discussion, it was the feeling of members present that Pennekamp has been doing a real service to the national park by giving factual information on the area, especially in relation to the oft disputed mineral rights. It was the opinion of the members that there

should be no let up of these talks during the coming year if Pennekamp was willing to continue. Pennekamp indicated he would be willing and the motion was passed.

Pennekamp turned the chair back to Chairman Burghard.

Pennekamp requested discussion on the budget. Prepared statements were given to those present by Managing Director Leach. It was pointed out that the cost of the Dedication was much lower than had been anticipated, but even so the only funds left were for necessary salaries, rent, and related items. Beard said that he still had petty cash money and as soon as a few minor bills were taken care of, a substantial amount of this would be returned which would help the over all financial picture.

Chairman Burghard and others commented upon the very efficient and economical handling of the fish fry at the dedication by Dick Hill. All things included, the meal per person was less than one dollar.

In discussing the financial picture for the rest of the fiscal year, members present felt that all unnecessary expenses should be cut out and extra personnel released. It was the feeling that, since the dedication, a new phase in the activities of the Commission had been reached. Members questioned Managing Director Leach on the organization of his office, especially the work of Mr. Meyer, the land abstractor.

Mr. Leach said that Meyer was often consulted by Major L. M. Gray of the Land Acquisition office of the National Park Service, that he had helped the title investigators recently in Monroe County lands in the park, and that he was useful at the office because of his wide knowledge of the affairs of the Commission over a period of years.

As discussion on this position developed, it became apparent that members present believed that the Commission would be open to criticism at this stage for continued employment of a land abstract man when the federal authorities had an office for this purpose at Coconut Grove.

Colee suggested that if Meyer's services are needed, he could be and should be employed by the National Park Service. Beard was questioned on this and asked if age was against Meyer. He replied that age was not considered any more in such appointments and he outlined briefly the status of Major Gray's personnel. Beard could not, however, express any opinion on possible employment of Meyer by the Land Acquisition office.

Colee then moved that the services of Meyer be investigated by Chairman Burghard and Pennekamp to see if this service of the Commission is still necessary when the Federal government is handling all land acquisition for the State, and that this service be discontinued at

discretion of Burghard and Pennekamp with adequate notice if, after investigation, it is found to be no longer necessary.

In seconding the motion, Pennekamp mentioned that he had received a letter from Meyer several months ago indicating that, in Meyer's opinion, his activities were drawing to a close. The motion was carried.

Chairman Burghard brought up correspondence with Ernest Coe that had been recently received. Mr. Coe wished to know where the Everglades National Park Association could best fit into the changed picture in the future. It was agreed that Chairman Burghard should prepare a reply saying that the Commission believed that the Association had a very definite place and should continue as a functioning organization in the future as in the recent past.

Colee moved that Managing Director Leach should authorize the National Park Service to make such use of the lumber left from the dedication as they saw fit. The motion was seconded by Pennekamp and carried.

Colee then moved that certain cooking utensils purchased through Mr. Hill for the fish fry at the dedication should be given to the men who did the work there. It was pointed out that the cost of the utensils was slight and that Hill's able assistants had worked at the fish fry gratis. The motion was seconded by Pennekamp and carried.

Colee commented upon the excellent speech made by the President at the dedication and offered the thought that it might be reprinted by the Commission. After discussion, it was decided that the matter should be tabled for this fiscal year because of fund shortage, but that the President's speech was a very important statement of policy on conservation and should be reprinted later.

Beard explained briefly to the members the status of the national park today. He said that Secretary Krug and Director Drury were both very deeply impressed with the energetic support of the Commission. He added that the Secretary had called a meeting in Washington for the purpose of discussing the immediate future of the Everglades National Park. As a result of the meeting, top planners from the Regional Office at Richmond are scheduled to be in the Everglades for the next two weeks. It was noted that the land acquisition program is moving forward and that planning for early use of the area must be predicated upon this program and in no way conflict with it. The general legislative situation was also reviewed briefly and it was explained that additional, federal legislation appears necessary in order to "tie up the loose ends" for the future of the national park.

Pennekamp again brought up the budget for the rest of the fiscal year and said that he was sure Managing Director Leach would be able to handle the matter with satisfaction.

Beard brought up briefly the thought that the Commission, as such, has limited appointment, but that a way will be sought for perpetual continuation of the group. He felt that it would be unfortunate for the park and for the State of Florida if this group that has done such outstanding service is disbanded at the end of its appointed term.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p. m.

DINNER MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK COMMISSION
HELD MONDAY, MAY 10, 1948
AT THE EVERGLADES HOTEL,
MIAMI

Present were Chairman August Burghard, John D. Pennekamp, Leonard Thomson, George Ware, Mrs. W. S. Jennings, General Albert H. Blanding, Will M. Preston, Miles Collier representing Graham Copeland, Ray Vinten, Dan Beard, and Managing Director Gilbert Leach.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Burghard.

Messages were read from Karl Bickel, Harold Colee and Tom Allen, who were unable to attend.

Next, Mr. Leach read the following statement of the Commission's objectives:

"In effect, the most important obligation and duty of the Everglades National Park Commission has been taken over by the National Park Service, operating under authority of the Department of the Interior of the United States. That is the acquisition of land and its conveyance to that Department.

However, the need for and the authority of the Commission continues. Under Section 264.02 of the Florida Legislative act creating this Commission, the powers and duties are outlined as follows:

Powers of Commission: Payment of Salaries and Expenses. The said

Commission is hereby vested with all the powers necessary and incident to the accomplishment of the purpose for which it is created, including, in general, the doing of such things as may be necessary to further the interest and bring about the complete acceptance and development of said park by the Federal Government: and when any power is expressly conferred on said Commission it shall be held and construed that said power includes all other powers necessary or incident thereto.

You will note that "Complete Acceptance" by the Federal Government is one obligation of the Commission. Until there is such complete acceptance, there is need for this Commission. That is a long way from accomplishment. In the Legislative Act of 1947, giving two million dollars to the Department of the Interior with which to purchase private and other property in the Everglades National Park area, there is no definition of that area.

Also, as far as I am able to ascertain, there is no record in Washington or Tallahassee actually fixing what is commonly called "the 1944 boundaries" as the basis of agreement between the governments.

At present, the actual Park, formally dedicated Dec. 6 last, is approximately 40 per cent of the area contained in the "1944 boundaries."

The Federal land acquisition program now under way with Major L. M. Gray in charge, does not include all of the area included in "the 1944 boundaries." I am not fully informed as to the exact area that is covered in the present program, or whether a reserve of part of the State's two million dollars is to be held for the acquisition of the remainder of the agreed upon area.

House Bill 3378 by Smathers and Senate Bill 1212 by Holland, if passed, will clear this situation, and, I believe, in case it becomes necessary to use a greater sum than the State's two million dollars, this Act would furnish authority.

Therefore, it would seem that the project now in the making to have the House subcommittee come down here and go over the area as guests of the Commission, is clearly in line with the Commission's authority to "further the interest and bring about the complete acceptance."

In view of these conditions, it would seem that the State Commission is justified and should be continued at least until there is complete acceptance and at least sufficient development to enable visitors to come in great numbers, in order that Florida may get back its investment and begin to cash in on the profit which was one of the motives for its splendid contribution, the greatest ever made by any State for a National Park.

Whatever objectives we agree upon for the coming fiscal year, must be justifiable under the powers and authority granted the Commission by the Legislature. The folders which are just now off the press are a case in point. It was a question whether we had authority to print such literature. I figured it was justified by helping to keep some visitors out of Dan Beard's hair while he speeded up accommodations for them."

In reponse to Chairman Burghard's request for comments on the reading of Mr. Leach's statement, Mr. Vinten said it was his understanding that the \$2,000,000 could be spent only within the 1944 boundaries of the Park.

Mr. Beard was asked about the status of the Park, and he referred the Commission members to his mimeographed report, copy of which was given each person present. Mr. Beard stated that as yet there are no permanent facilities in the Park, but a Master Plan has been developed. Copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

Chairman Burghard asked if all bills for the Dedication ceremonies had been paid, and was told by Mr. Leach and Mr. Beard that all such bills were paid in full.

Mrs. Jennings asked if any monies had been turned over to the Everglades Park fund by Mrs. McCaffrey at the time the Royal Palm Park was turned over. Mr. Beard said there hadn't been any money turned over, and discussion followed as to whether or not such monies could be turned over to the federal government. Mr. Preston said it was his belief that only land could be turned over, not money. Mrs. Jennings was asked by the Commission to look further into the matter, and such motion was made by Pennekamp, seconded by Thomson.

Chairman Burghard asked Mr. Pennekamp to go into the matter of the sub-committee on Public Lands. Mr. Pennekamp said that while in Washington recently, he had been asked by the National Park Service to look into the matter of Senate Bill 1212. This bill may finally establish the limits of the Park. This Bill is being sabotaged by various adverse

interests who are anxious to get their hands on some part of the \$2,000,000, and are trying to force compromises. Mr. Pennekamp and Congressman Smathers visited various congressmen from other states. They found that these adverse interests were asking for a 25-year extension of mineral rights within the Park boundaries. Other congressmen are suggesting a 15 year compromise.

Mr. Pennekamp said he felt that he and Congressman Smathers had undone some of the evil done by unfriendly interests. They decided to reexplore legal status of National Park Service in the matter and see if any new legislation was needed. In the meantime, at a conference of Mr. Smathers, Mr. Pennekamp, Mr. Drury and Mr. Wirth in Congressman Peterson's office it was decided that since no new legislation may be needed, these bills should be permitted to die at this session of congress.

Mr. Pennekamp expressed the belief that the committee members should be brought down to visit the Everglades Park. This will not be until after next session of congress as there may be changes in the committee. The sub-committee numbers about 24, and with the members of the regular committee added, there will be about 30 invited to visit the Park, and a week end trip will be worked out.

The Executive Committee approved John D. Pennekamp's action in Washington and thanked him for his efforts.

Mr. Pennekamp made a suggestion that a committee be appointed to invite any congressional committees the National Park Service thinks it necessary to have visit the Park. This was moved by Mrs. Jennings and seconded by Mr. Thomson, and it was stipulated that this visit should be sometime during the month of March, 1949, if possible. This was voted and approved.

The Commission held a discussion of Ernest F. Coe, who has been spreading the story that he is destitute. It was stated that the National Park Service had offered Mr. Coe \$700 per year for his services as consulting historian. The Miami Rotary Club had also offered him \$25 per week, but he had refused both offers. Pennekamp proposed a motion that Mr. Leach be authorized, if occasion should arise, to make use of Commission's fund to employ Mr. Coe. This was voted and approved.

Next on the agenda was a discussion of J. H. Meyer, abstractor of the Everglades National Park Commission. It was stated that Mr. Meyer's work is now a duplication of work being performed by the National Park Service.

Upon motion of Mr. Pennekamp, the services of Mr. Meyer, abstractor, are to be terminated as of June 30, with regret as it is consensus of this Commission that it cannot further expend State funds for the purposes for which Mr. Meyer was employed. Seconded by Mr. Ware. Voted and approved.

Chairman Burghard expressed the Commission's pleasure in having Miles Collier present at the meeting.

Burghard also expressed the Commission's appreciation to Will M. Preston for the present legal status of the Park.

Mr. Beard explained the Master Plan of the Park to the members, and answered their questions about the Plan.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

A REPORT ON EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

By

Daniel B. Beard, Superintendent

Administrative Set-Up

The Everglades National Park has for some months past been an active operating unit of the United States National Park Service. Headquarters are well established at Homestead, Florida. A basic organization for administration and protection has been built around a nucleus of experienced Park Service men and is now on the job.

The Redlands Chamber of Commerce at Homestead made all the space needed available for the park headquarters, garage, and shops. The building is located directly on U. S. #1 cutoff.

Temporary ranger stations have been established at Paradise Key (formerly Royal Palm State Park) and at Coot Bay about 40 miles inside the park. The latter station is where Everglades National Park Commission members embarked for a boat trip to Whitewater Bay.

Park Visitors

Visitor attendance records have not been started yet in the thorough manner usually done in parks. But park rangers on the ground took sample counts and have conservatively estimated that 20,000 to 22,000 persons visited the area between December and the end of March.

We were all a little surprised at this figure and went over the rangers' data carefully to be sure it was not too high. We came out higher than they did! I consider this very indicative because it is general knowledge that the park is new, facilities are yet undeveloped, and roads

are poor. In fact, local newspapers cooperated with us by emphasizing these facts so that park visitors would not be disappointed.

We learned that our fear of disappointing people in this early stage was generally without foundation. The average visitor seemed to get a tremendous "kick" out of going into an area at its beginning and hoped to be back later as development progressed.

National Audubon Society Tours continued and have taken on the average, 12 people into the area twice a week. The Greyhound Bus Lines averaged 14 twice each week to Paradise Key. It was amusing to see them coming slowly along by a slough where some alligators live, a whole busload of expectant faces crowded to the starboard side of a big Greyhound peering at a nonchalant gator.

Publicity

Park publicity has remained high all winter. Combined newsreel companies photographed by blimp and boat. "Readers' Digest" representatives were here as were "Life", "National Geographic" (again), Warner Brothers Studios, "Christian Science Monitor", several Florida and out-of-state newspapers, and a regal array of free lancers both photographers and writers.

Master Plan

National Park Service technical men have made numerous trips to the Everglades. These technicians have represented the professions of forestry, wildlife management, landscape, architecture, engineering, concessions management, and government administration. Members of the National Parks Advisory Board have also been here. Working with the local staff, Regional Director T. J. Allen and C. R. Vinten, they have developed a tentative master plan already presented to Director Drury and Secretary Krug.

Master Plans are necessarily confidential documents because, as in this area, they can effect land values if the details become public knowledge. We hope to be able to let the Everglades National Park Commission see a copy soon.

The Everglades master plan foresees an area where minimum road construction will lead to overnight accommodations of various types and boat centers. The nature of the area is such that a way must be developed for getting the park visitors out in boats. The present plan is generalized, but intense studies of individual sections of the park must be completed prior to developments.

Wildlife Conservation

The wildlife of Everglades National Park is already responding to National Park Service protection. At certain seasons of the year,

alligators are no longer an uncommon sight. They do not flush and dive any more upon the approach of people. Bird concentrations which vary greatly with water and food conditions are likewise losing their fear of man. Some of the most spectacular bird displays of the winter season occurred at our well protected Coot Bay Ranger Station.

Shortage of boat equipment until recently has not permitted us to exercise as much protection to west coast areas as those that are accessible by road and some of the die hard poachers have admittedly been active there until very recent date. But "Rome wasn't made in a day" and the results thus far are significant. No bird rookeries were "shot up", no orchids collected by the truckload, no rifles have been seen along the Ingraham Highway all winter - for the first time in history.

Unfortunately, an attempt seems to be underway to get Florida Bay cleaned of its fish resources before that area becomes a part of the national park. Most of the "gutting" is being done by other than local commercial fishermen and is a graphic but sad example of what happens when the fisheries resource is not regulated in a way that will perpetuate the supply for both commercial and sports fishermen.

Fire Protection

Chief Ranger Semingsen and his staff have been carrying on a successful campaign against fires in the Everglades in close cooperation with state and local agencies. Normally, by this time of the year, major conflagrations have swept the pinelands and Everglades. Park personnel, including a ranger's wife, have put out several small fires and fought some big ones that threatened to enter the park. Fire season is still with us though and we are not "over the hump."

Long Pine Key in the park shows already an increase of broad-leaved hammock growth which can eventually result in a spectacular subtropical "island" over ten miles long that will be comparable to Paradise Key (Royal Palm State Park) provided it continues to be protected.

The Everglades grasses and sedges are lush and reproducing well. As fires are kept away and humus permitted to accumulate from decaying vegetable matter, the broad expanse of the Everglades prairies will come back.

Several fire towers are planned. One we hope will be erected soon and all plans and estimates are in on it. Fire tools, pumps, trailers, and trucks are now ready for emergency use.

Interpretation

One of the most difficult tasks in this new park will be to give the public a better understanding and appreciation of the area. We call it

"interpretation". This is carried on mainly by the Park Naturalist and his staff. The devices most often used are publications, museums, illustrated talks, wayside exhibits, self-guiding nature trails, and guided trips. The purpose of interpretation is to give the public a better appreciation through knowledge of the natural phenomena of the park. It is a difficult task requiring scientific knowledge, resourcefulness, a touch of showmanship, and understanding of human nature. We have the man to lead it and expect to use additional personnel for the winter season.

The acting Park Naturalist is already gathering Kodachrome slides and movies in the field for his talks, black and white pictures for publications, and synthesizing an astounding array of already published works on the area.

Interpretive work is expected to begin about December 1, and will grow with the years.

Land Acquisition

The Land Acquisition office is separate from the park administrative office, but close liaison exists between the two. That office is charged with the job of purchasing the private lands within the park. Funds used were donated by the State to the United States and amount to \$2,000,000. Two strategic tracts commanding interior waterways have already been obtained and our flourishing Coot Bay Ranger Station is located on one of them.

Title and ownership have already been gathered. Sales records indicative of park land values have been compiled. A land acquisition priority was set up and the program is underway.

Staff

You may be interested in the type of personnel now at the park and the Land Acquisition office. Here they are.

Park Staff to July 1, 1948

Daniel B. Beard, Superintendent

Earl M. Semingsen, Chief Ranger. Formerly a district ranger at Yellowstone National Park. A man with long National Park Service experience, trained as a forester in college. During the war, Mr. Semingsen was a lieutenant in the Coast Guard and did valuable air-sea rescue work.

James H. Smith, Chief Clerk. Formerly, he was at Chicamauga Ehattanooga National Military Park in Tennessee handling fiscal accounts. For a period he was chief clerk of the National Park Service office at St. Augustine under Superintendent Ray Vinten.

Millard E. Dilley, acting Park Naturalist was trained in biology at college and once taught the subject. He came to the park from the U. S. Sugar Corporation at Clewiston, Florida. Mr. Dilley is well known for his ornithological work in Florida and is a skilled photographer. During the war he was a lieutenant commander in the Navy. He is a member of the American Ornithologists Union.

Edward P. Stephanic, Park Ranger, came to Everglades from Blue Ridge Parkway, another National Park Service area. He studied forestry and wildlife management at the University of Michigan later working with the Michigan Department of Conservation. In the war, Mr. Stephanic was an Army lieutenant in the China, Burma, India theater.

Erwin Winte, Park Ranger, knows the Everglades country well. He served as a Florida State Conservation Officer for about eight years before coming with the National Park Service. He was with the military police during the last war.

Marcus Barney Parker, has charge of boats. Mr. Parker is known to everyone who has visited the deep Everglades in the past ten years. He was with the National Audubon Society, then the Fish and Wildlife Service, and was the "law south of the Tamiami Trail" during this period. His knowledge of the country and his sincerity of purpose make him a valuable addition to the staff.

Luther Jones, formerly of the Army Air Force is auto mechanic. Mrs. W. M. Bradley is clerk-stenographer. Three seasonal fire control aides are currently employed and one laborer.

Land Acquisition Office Staff

L. M. Gray, Project Manager, has been associated with the National Park Service since 1933, first in the Director's office then Region One. In World War I he served as a major in the Corps of Engineers and in World War II held important engineering posts at Charleston, S. C., and Atlanta, Georgia, with the army.

Robert M. McKey, Chief Appraiser and Consultant, is a land appraiser in Miami and has offices at No. 602 Pacific Building. He is a member of the American Association of Real Estate Appraisers, and has had years of experience in appraising lands in this area. During the war he was employed by both the Army and Navy to appraise extensive properties which they were to acquire.

Albert B. Manly, Land Appraiser, was formerly with the Land Valuation Division of Interstate Commerce Division for thirty years, and for many years prior to his retirement in 1944, he had charge of the appraisal of the lands of the Common Carriers in the United States in connection with the Federal Valuation of Railways.

Lorrain G. Smith, Appraiser, has had years of experience in the real estate field and in the appraisal of lands in southern Florida.

Edgar M. Pilkinton and Paul L. Applin, Geologists, were made available to the Land Acquisition Office by the United State Geological Survey, for the appraisal of oil and mineral values within the area. Mr. Pilkinton is Deputy Supervisor Oil and Gas Operations, Tulsa, Oklahoma, office, and Mr. Applin is located at Tallahassee. These gentlemen have completed their work in Dade and Collier Counties and are now going through the Monroe County records at Key West.

Orville L. Rogers and John W. Congdon, Abstract Attorneys, are employed on a temporary basis to obtain sales data from the county records of Dade, Monroe and Collier Counties. Their employment is limited to a period of 60 days. They were employed by the American Title and Insurance Company to assist in the preparation of the certificates of title covering the privately owned properties in the acquisition area.

Henry R. Gilroy, Cadastral Engineer, is employed as the engineer for the project. He served at Colonial National Historical Park, Yorkstown, Virginia, and at Shenandoah National Park before his transfer to the Land Acquisition Office, Everglades National Park.

Frank Marcinkevicz, Engineering Draftsman, came to us by reinstatement, and was formerly employed by the United States Engineers, Norfolk, Virginia, and served from December 1943 to January 1946 in the United States Navy.

Montrey D. Taylor, Secretary, was transferred from Miami Air Depot, War Department, where she served as Chief of the Accounting Section, Finance.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel B. Beard,
Superintendent.

L E G A L H I S T O R Y

By WILL M. PRESTON, Attorney

(NOTE: The able and untiring services of Mr. Preston were rendered through the courtesy of the Florida Power & Light Company without cost to the Commission. These services were of incalculable value to the Commission.)

Chapter 264 of Florida Statutes, 1941, as amended, contains all of the specific and direct acts relative to the Everglades National Park Commission and its statutory powers. Other legislative acts affect the Commission in a general way.

Under Chapter 264, as amended, the Everglades National Park Commission is created; the appointment of a Managing Director and an Executive Secretary and their salaries and the salaries of other employees are provided for; the members of the Commission (not less than twelve and not more than thirty) are to receive no salary or other compensation for services but are to be paid for certain of their actual expenses; it is left to the discretion of the Commission to fix the place of its central office; the Commission is vested with all powers necessary and incident to the accomplishment of the purposes for which the Commission was created; the Commission may do such things necessary to further the interest and bring about the complete acceptance and development of the Everglades National Park; the Commission is authorized to cooperate with the Everglades National Park Association; the Commission is authorized to accept contributions, gifts and subscriptions and out of same and the amount appropriated by the Legislature to pay land acquisition costs and other expenses and all salaries and expenses of the Commission and its officers and employees; the Commission is authorized to use its funds to acquire title to lands designated in certain counties by the Interior Department of the United States of America; the Commission is vested with broad powers of eminent domain; the Commission has authority to acquire title to or control the lands; the Commission is authorized to transfer to the United States of America lands and rights acquired by the Commission in the exercise of its statutory powers; the Commission is authorized to employ attorneys; the United States of America may acquire lands by conveyance and the Commission may convey to the United States of America all lands acquired by the Commission and for the purposes of the Federal legislative acts; exclusive jurisdiction is ceded to the United States of America over and within all the territory in the State of Florida thus deeded or acquired, provided, however, such jurisdiction shall not so vest until the Governor of Florida is notified that the United States of America assumes police jurisdiction over such lands; the State of Florida reserves to itself the right to serve process, the right to tax gasoline sales and the right to tax persons and corporations, their franchise and properties on lands so deeded and conveyed; persons residing on such lands shall be entitled to vote on the same conditions as other voters in the county; The Trustees of the

Internal Improvement Fund are authorized, in their discretion, to convey to the United States, timely for inclusion in Everglades National Park, all lands in Dade, Monroe and Collier counties held by them within the Park's boundaries, provided said lands shall revert to the trustees in the event they are not used or cease to be used for Park purposes; said Trustees are authorized to exchange certain lands owned by them and located outside the Everglades National Park area for lands located within the Park; provision was made in the original and amendatory acts for an annual appropriation for defraying the expenses of the Commission; provision was made for the approval and payment of accounts, claims and bills of any nature against the Commission; the accounts of the Commission are required to be audited annually and annually the Commission shall make an annual report to the Governor as to the administration of the Commission's accounts; and the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund are authorized, in their discretion, to convey, on behalf of the State of Florida, to the United States, without cost, timely for inclusion in the Park, all lands in Dade, Monroe and Collier counties, held by them under the Murphy Act.

Federal statutes pertaining to the Everglades National Park are set forth in Sections 410, 410a, 410b, 410c and 410d of Title 16 of the United States Code Annotated - Title "Conservation."

Such Federal statutes provide for the establishment of the Everglades National Park and the acquisition of any lands within the Park area by public or private donation and not through public moneys appropriated by Congress; that the Secretary of the Interior may accept title to lands within the Park area and upon exclusive jurisdiction over the entire Park area being ceded by the State of Florida to the United States of America; that the administration and protection and development of the Park shall be exercised under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior by the National Park Service.

By the above Federal and State statutes there was brought into being adequate and coordinated legislation to enable the Everglades National Park Commission and officials of the Federal State Governments to bring the Everglades National Park from a Federal and State legislative vision to an actuality.

Notwithstanding the legal mechanics set up in the Florida Statutes for creating the Everglades National Park, the 1947 Florida Legislature passed, and Governor Millard F. Caldwell signed, Chapter 23616, Laws of Florida, Acts of 1947. Section 1 of this Chapter provides as follows:

"There is hereby appropriated out of the General Revenue Fund of the State of Florida the sum of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) for providing the State of Florida with a fund in such amount to be transferred by the State of Florida (by warrant upon requisition therefor by the Governor of the State of Florida) to the United States of America

for use by the United States of America or the National Park Service thereof in paying for the acquisition of all privately owned and other lands and interests within the Everglades National Park area by the United States of America or the National Park Service thereof, and in paying for the costs and expenses required in connection with such acquisition."

In other words, the Legislature concluded that it was better policy to place funds in the control of the United States Government to acquire the remaining lands found necessary for the Everglades National Park rather than to have the Everglades National Park Commission use the funds in acquiring the land. Such a procedure had not been disapproved by courts of other States in similar cases.

A bill for injunction was filed by Honorable J. Tom Watson, as Attorney General of the State of Florida, against Honorable J. Edwin Larson, as Treasurer of the State of Florida, to test the legality of Chapter 23616, Acts of 1947. The Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund and the Everglades National Park Commission were allowed to intervene. Honorable W. May Walker, Judge of the Circuit Court for Leon County, upheld the Chapter in its entirety and dismissed the bill, the real gist of which was that Chapter 23616 violated "Sections 2, 3 and 4 of Article IX of the Constitution of Florida in that the appropriation attempted to be made constitutes a gift of money belonging to the people of the State of Florida to the United States and the appropriation of said money is not a state purpose and the expenses to be paid out of said funds are not state expenses." In a unanimous opinion, the Supreme Court of Florida exhaustively reviewed the matter and said "We find nothing in the Constitution which would preclude the Legislature from enacting Chapter 23616 and

no error in the decree appealed from and the same is affirmed." (J. Tom Watson, as Attorney General of the State of Florida v. J. Edwin Larson, as Treasurer of the State of Florida, 33 Southern 2d 155).

Attorney General Watson brought a further suit against Governor Caldwell and others composing the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund and the State Board of Education and prayed for the cancellation of certain deeds of conveyance, the ultimate effect of which was to bring about conveyance of 7,680 acres of land by the Trustees to the United States of America for inclusion in the Everglades National Park. The Everglades National Park Commission was allowed to intervene and become a party defendant to the bill of complaint. Honorable Hugh M. Taylor, Judge of the Circuit Court of Leon County, dismissed the bill of complaint. In a unanimous opinion by the Supreme Court of Florida the decree appealed from was affirmed and the Court said that there "is no showing of the exercise of unlawful authority on the part of anyone concerned." (J. Tom Watson, as Attorney General of the State of Florida v. Millard F. Caldwell, as Governor of the State of Florida, et al., 35 Southern 2d 125.)

In successfully defending the constitutionality of the various Florida Statutes and the actions of State officials and bodies in providing for the creation of the Everglades National Park, (a) the State and its officials were represented by LeRoy Collins of the Tallahassee law firm of Ausley, Collins and Truett and also Julius F. Parker of the Tallahassee law firm of Parker, Foster & Wigginton, and (b) the Everglades National Park Commission was represented by Will M. Preston of the Miami law firm of Loftin, Anderson, Scott, McCarthy & Preston.

.....

There can be no question from a legal viewpoint that the enactment of Chapter 23616, Laws of Florida, Acts of 1947, by a wise Legislature of the State of Florida, its approval by Governor Caldwell and the actions of the State officials under the mandate of such Chapter 23616 and under other legislative acts and agreements with officials of the United States of America, brought about the early creation of the Everglades National Park. Recorded for all time in the legal reports of the decision of the Supreme Court of Florida is the expression of Justice Adams of that Court in the case of Watson v. Larson

"It is perfectly obvious that for all time to come Florida in particular will reap immeasurable benefits from this" Everglades National Park.

TRAVEL OFFICIALS SEE PARK FROM AIR

On November 18, 1948, about 100 members of the National Association of Travel Officials, following a convention at Miami Beach, were taken on an airplane trip to see Everglades National Park.

Hosts were Chairman August Burghard of the Commission, E. H. Bishop of Delta Air Lines, and Daniel B. Beard, Superintendent of the Park. Guests were from 16 States, including California, Utah, Washington, New York, Massachusetts, Texas, Illinois and others.

Delta furnished a brand new DC-6 seating 56 passengers, which made two trips over the Park area, crossing from Miami to the mouth of Shark River, thence along the Gulf Coast around Cape Sable and across the Redlands District, with a final swing along the waterfront facing Miami Beach.

During the trip Superintendent Beard described the portions of the Park over which the flight passed and gave much information as to the present status and plans for development. Illustrated folders with more information were distributed.

The Commission has the names and addresses of all the officials making this trip, so that Park literature can be sent them when the Park is ready for visitors.

HISTORY OF FEDERAL ACT GIVING DEPARTMENT OF THE
INTERIOR AUTHORITY TO CONDEMN LANDS FOR PARK PURPOSES:

After the National Park Service had set up its Land Acquisition headquarters at Dinner Key, Miami, Donald Lee, counsel for that Division of the Department of the Interior, questioned the right of that Division to condemn lands for Park purposes. In this he was upheld by the Attorney General of the United States.

Relief was sought through action of Congress, identical bills having been introduced in the Senate by Senator Spessard L. Holland and in the House by Representative J. Hardin Peterson. These bills failed to pass in the Eightieth Congress.

Planning for a more aggressive campaign in the Eighty-first Congress, the Everglades National Park Commission's Executive Committee was host at a luncheon on Friday, December 3, 1948, in the Everglades Hotel in Miami. Florida Senators and Congressmen were invited as were the Governor and the Governor-elect. The Senators could not attend but both sent word they would cooperate fully. Three Congressmen were present--J. Hardin Peterson, Dwight L. Rogers and George Smathers. Also present for a short time were Governor-elect Fuller Warren and Hon. Frank Wright, slated to be assistant Governor the following year.

Discussion resulted in acceptance of a tentative Resolution to be presented in Congress.

This Joint Resolution, introduced in the Senate as S 285 by Senator Holland, joined by Senator Pepper, and in the House as HR 3878 by Representative Smathers in whose District the greater area of the Park lies, came up for public hearings before a House sub-committee of which Representative J. Hardin Peterson was chairman.

Proponents of the measure were represented by Chairman August Burghard and John D. Pennekamp, chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Everglades National Park Commission. They were given support by messages from Governor Warren and every member of his Cabinet. Opponents presented pleas for protection of owners of property as to their oil and mineral rights and these were given the sane consideration in HR 4029 which emerged from the Committee in lieu of HR 3878, as was agreed upon between the National Park Service and the Model Land Company from which had been acquired approximately one-half of the privately owned land in the Park area.

This bill passed the House on April 13, 1949, and entered the Senate the following day, substituted for S 285. Again hearings were held and again Messrs. Burghard and Pennekamp appeared for the

proponents. Meanwhile, Mr. Pennekamp had resigned from the Everglades National Park Commission to accept membership on the newly created Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials, of which he was made chairman.

Again the oil and mineral rights became an important factor and the Senate subcommittee of Interior and Insular affairs amended the Resolution to give owners retention of rights until 1958. If oil is discovered in commercial quantities before that time, the rights continue in the private owners as long as oil is produced.

With this amendment, the Senate passed the Resolution on September 27, 1949. The House concurred and on October 10, 1949, President Truman signed the document. The National Park Service now has the right to condemn all lands within the Everglades National Park area as outlined in what is known as the "1944 boundaries."

COMMISSION FUNDS CANCELED

Prior to the regular session of the Legislature of 1949, this Commission filed a tentative budget calling for \$20,000 per annum for the biennium.

In its recommendations to the Legislature, the State Budget Commission cut this to \$12,500 per annum after the Governor called John D. Pennekamp by telephone and asked if the Commission could "get along" on that amount.

The Senate passed its appropriation bill carrying \$25,000 per annum for this Commission. The House committee cut the item from the bill and very few members of the House were aware that the item had been deleted. The House Conference Committee made a point of keeping this item out of the bill agreed upon in the final hours of the session and the Senate conferees gave in during the early morning hours after an all night session.

When the bill finally was rushed through, a very few Senators and a very few Representatives knew that the Everglades National Park Commission was left without any money on which to operate.

Unaware that this item had been squeezed from the appropriations, the managing director of this Commission wrote Homer Graham, director of the budget, immediately upon adjournment of the Legislature, asking if he wanted a new budget filed. He did not reply until late in June when he

informed this Commission that he "could not find" where any fund had been set up for this Commission.

The managing director happened to be in Tallahassee when this letter came to the Miami office and its contents were wired him. He immediately interviewed all the members of the Cabinet except the Governor, seeing the assistant Governor instead, and none of them knew that this Commission had been left out. The managing director then asked for a hearing before the Budget Commission and this was granted for July 12, 1949.

On that date, Chairman August Burghard appeared before the Budget Commission and presented the request that the Everglades National Park Commission be allotted funds in the amount of the budget set in recommendations to the Legislature. Discussion by the members showed all in favor of continuing the work of this Commission, but Governor Warren stated that the Legislature had made no provision to put any money in the Emergency Fund and until that was done there would be no use of allotting this Commission funds from that source. Attorney General Richard W. Ervin stated to the Board that in his opinion the allotting of money from this fund for the Park Commission would be legal.

The Budget Commission left the question open for future consideration. At subsequent meetings further discussions were had but in each instance action was deferred.

Director Homer Graham of the Budget Commission held throughout that as the House had definitely turned down the Everglades budget, it could not be covered from the Emergency Fund. Meanwhile a special session of the Legislature had been called for September 7, 1949, and the Commission proceeded to secure signatures of House members to requests addressed to the Budget Commission, asking that body to furnish funds for the Everglades National Park Commission. Fifty members of the House--a clear majority--signed such requests. Following is a list of these members:

County	Name	County	Name
Alachua	R. L. Black, Jr.,	Baker	B. R. Burnsed
	W. E. Whitlock	Bay	Grady M. Courtney
Broward	John S. Burwell	"	Joseph L. Mathis
"	Thos. E. (Ted) David	Charlotte	Leo Wotitzky
Clay	S. D. Saunders	Dade	Bill Lantaff
Duval	Mabry Carlton	"	George S. Okell
"	Charles A. Luckie	Flagler	H. T. Cook
"	Fletcher Morgan	Franklin	B. G. Patton
Hardee	G. W. Williams	Hendry	Elbert L. Stewart
Hernando	S. Travis Phillips	Hillsboro	Neil C. McMullin
Holmes	J. D. Heath	"	John L. Branch
Indian River	Alex MacWilliam	Jackson	W. A. Smith
Jefferson	Richard H. Simpson	Lafayette	Duffin Lancaster
Lake	Tim M. Sellar	Lee	Scott Hough
"	H. H. Hethcox	"	Norwood R. Strayhorn

County	Name	County	Name
Leon	Wilson Carraway	Liberty	Glenn Summers
Manatee	J. Ben Fuqua	Monroe	Bernie C. Papy
Nassau	Leonard A. McKendree	Orange	Burton Thornal
Osceola	Irlo Bronson	"	Charles O. Andrews, Jr.
Pinellas	Charles J. Schuh, Jr.	St. Lucie	D. H. Saunders
St. Johns	F. Charles Usina	Sarasota	Jerry Collins
" "	*CHAS. E. SHEPPERD	Seminole	M. B. Smith
Sumter	John V. Monahan	Volusia	Thomas T. Cobb
Wakulla	George Nesmith	Walton	Thomas D. Beasley
Washington	Amos O. Hudson	Glades	J. H. Peeples, Jr.,

* Mr. Shepperd was chairman of the House Conference Committee which insisted upon cutting out this appropriation at the end of the Regular Session. Another member of that Committee, Lisle W. Smith, is no longer opposed although he was not asked to sign a statement.

There are 39 Counties represented on this list.

These requests were given to Governor Warren.

At the first meeting of the Budget Commission following the special session, the question was again brought up and a motion was made to handle the matter through the new Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials, provided that body recommended such action.

On October 4, 1949, at the first annual meeting of the new Board, a resolution was passed asking the Budget Commission to furnish such a fund. This resolution was presented at the meeting on October 11, 1949, and after long discussion the members of the Budget Commission decided that they did not have a legal right to allot money from the Emergency Fund for this purpose. The Attorney General was absent.

When this information was conveyed to the Everglades National Park Commission, preparations were made to close the office at 604 Biscayne Building, Miami. Live records were taken to the office of the Land Acquisition division of the National Park Service in the Aviation Building, Coconut Grove, and office furniture and equipment was transferred to the National Park Service office at Homestead. The office was closed as of October 31, 1949.

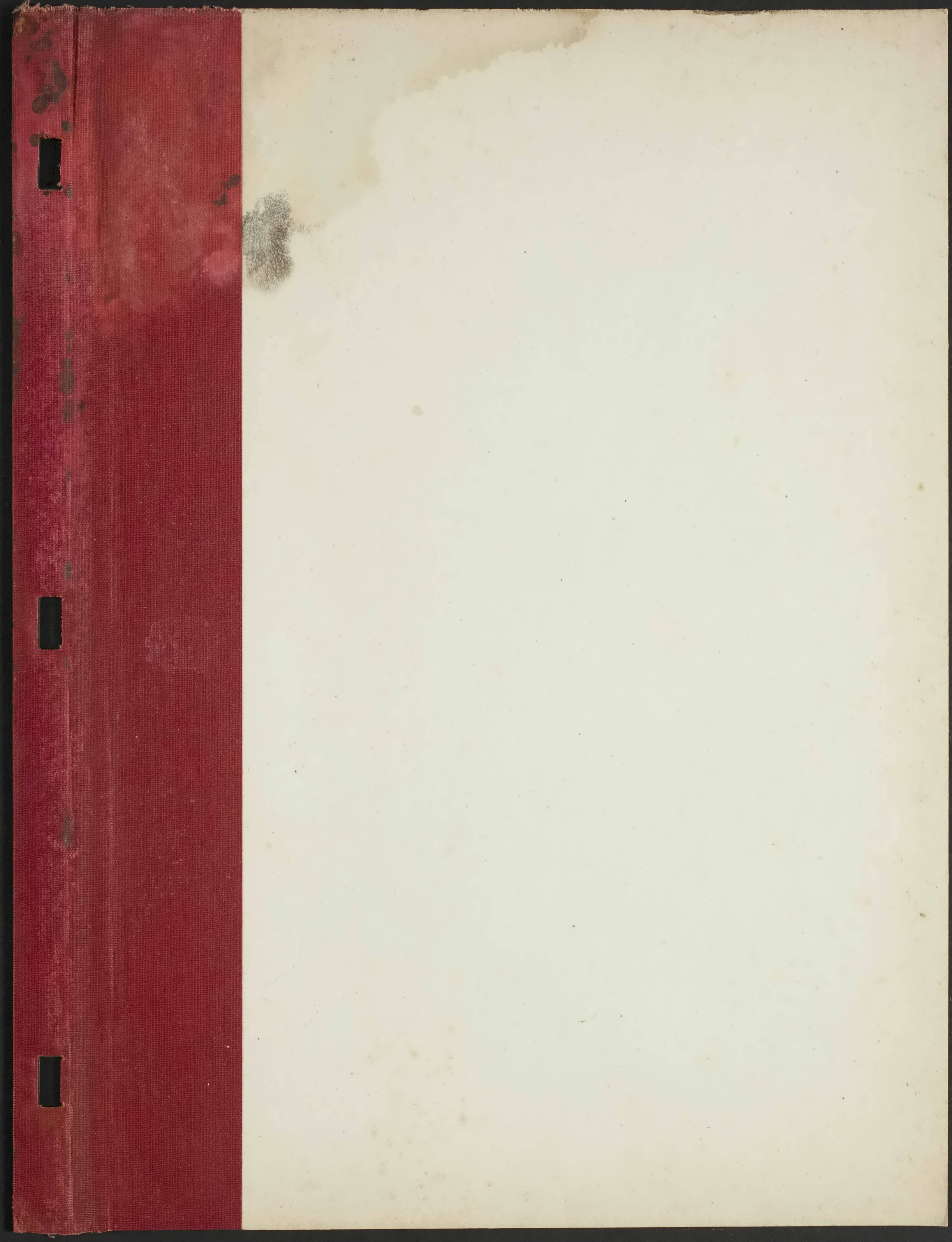
Obligations incurred during the four months through which the question of funds was pending before the Budget Commission, were listed and reported to the Commission with a request that they be taken care of from some source.

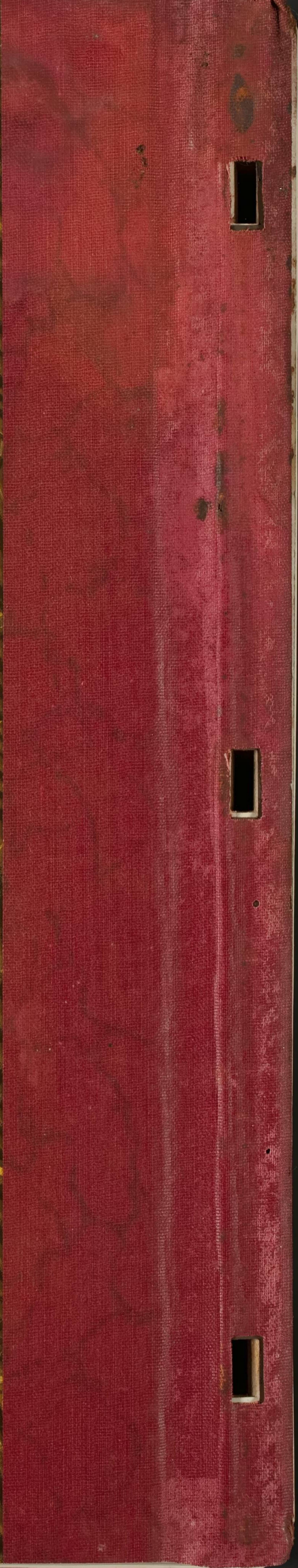
Following is a list of the property in the Miami office at the time of removal:

Two flat top office desks
One flat top desk with typewriter well
One Smith-Corona typewriter in good condition
One ancient Royal typewriter
One mimeograph
Two small typewriter stands
Two letter size steel filing cabinets
Four steel card files
Eight office chairs. One typewriter chair
One upholstered settee; chair to match
One adding machine
One postal scale
Two electric fans
One desk lamp
One rug. Several pieces carpet.
Six framed Park pictures
Miscellaneous stationery, pamphlets, maps, etc.

Carbon copies of Abstracts of Title to privately owned lands in
Everglades National Park area. Originals turned over to National Park
Service.

Two volumes clippings.







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