

Miami Florida July 17th 1924

Senator Duncan U. Fletcher

Washington D.C.

Dear Senator Fletcher:

Yours of 14th inst to hand and fully noted, also the enclosure of copy of letter from E.C. Finney First Assistant Secretary, Department of the Interior.

Dr. David White does not agree with Mr. Finney on Dr. Ranson's qualifications.

Dr. Ranson certainly has never had an offer from any of the Departments for compensation for anything he has furnished them, nor for any reports or findings which he could furnish them.

Dr. Ranson has made did more than "speculate and theorize" on the subject as the enclosed kodak views of a plant now in operation at Miami (which cost a considerable sum), and at which he has demonstrated the utilization of peat to produce gas and power, and in which he has extracted ammonia, tar, oils, and other by-products, his demonstrations and PRACTICAL WORK has led the Florida East Coast Railway by its General Manager to desire to get additional authoritative information as to the Utilization of the peat in the Florida Everglades to furnish them low grade fuel (not from figures compiled in Europe, Michigan but right here at the source of supply).

The "clippings" enclosed show the granting of a franchise to Florida Light and Power Co. who have recently bought the ~~about~~ Miami Beach Light Plant, The Miami Gas Co. and the Hialeah Light Plant and who will run many miles of power wires right to the very gates of the "Everglades peat supply" but who must depend on oil or other high priced fuel unless they can get authentic Governmental reports----the Editorial from the Miami Herald also shows what they consider "A Step Forward" in the matter of this step.

I realize Senator your keen interest in this matter, and simply feel that Departmental affairs at Washington have gone beyond control (you provide the money but have no voice in its expenditure), poor Lewis Norton enters a Homestead but because it has value he cannot have it (so says the Department), Tea Pot Dome----but why go on-- I am quite sure Senator you will do all you can for Florida, and that's all we can expect.

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I feel that Florida with this vast supply of cheap fuel at the very point of consumption, importing as we do oil and other high grade fuels into Florida at cost many times in excess of the cost per ~~unit~~ per British Thermal Unit which we can produce from peat, and addition we would have the valuable by-products which are also needed so badly in Florida.

I feel also that in Dr. Robert Ranson we have a man who is head and shoulders above any other authority in the entire United States of America in the PRACTICAL FACTS AND FIGURES on and of the subject, and that it is a distinct LOSS to have him grow old and die before Florida and the Nation can secure the benefit of his knowledge and ability; I believe the Department (over your protest) is making a terrible blunder; I further believe if Dr. Robert Ranson were subjected to an examination as to his qualifications for appointment that he would convince even the most skeptical that he is in every sense of the word ~~entirely~~ equipped for the work, and I know there is a demand for such Reports at this time.

In being so very frank I want you Senator Fletcher to know that I feel these arguments and facts will strengthen your position in asking for his appointment.

With highest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours

J. F. Jaudon.