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United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE.

July 19, 1924.

Mr. Robert Ransom,
Hotel Wellington,
Miami, Florida.

My dear Mr. Ransom :

Your letters of 17th, to Senator Fletcher received.

The Senator left last night on a vacation of two or three weeks. He expect to be in Florida during September and October and will, no doubt, visit Miami and vicinity while in the State.

You ought to know that the Senator cannot direct or compel the Department to carry on its investigation and research work in any particular locality; nor can he compel the employment of any particular person to engage in that work.

It occurs to me - based upon the information contained in your letters to the Senator and your expert knowledge of the situation and possibility of developing the Peat Industry in Florida - you should not experience difficulty in interesting capital to the extent of actually demonstrating that Commercial Peat Fuel can be produced at a profit, and I trust that your efforts will prove successful in that direction. A small demonstration plant should not be costly, and would well be worth the expenditure provided satisfactory results followed.

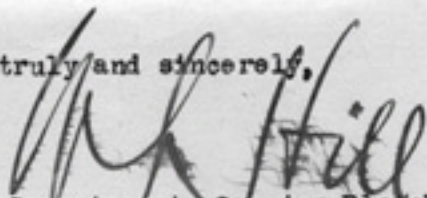
No. 2 Mr. Ransom :

Senator Fletcher never penalized a person in all his life. He is not that kind of a man. He is the most forgiving and grateful of all men I ever knew. You are not being penalized in your efforts, directly or indirectly, by the Senator. He would not do that if he could. It would mean sacrificing the development of the State. As stated, he cannot direct or compel the Department to engage the services of any one.

No doubt the Senator read of your introduction of the gentleman who opposed him for Senator in 1920-21, and he may have mentioned it in a casual way to some friend, but that is water over the dam and forgotten. Certainly the Senator does not hold that or anything else against you; nor does he harbor any ill feeling against a soul on earth - politically or otherwise.

You may be assured that Senator Fletcher is very much interested in " the possibility of developing the Peat resources of the country and those of Florida in particular," and that he will continue his efforts to the end that a report may be made at an early date.

Very truly and sincerely,


Secretary to Senator Fletcher.