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## United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE.

28 July 1924

Mr. J. P. Jaudon,  
321 N. W. Fourth Avenue,  
Miami, Florida.

My dear Mr. Jaudon :

Your letter of 24th, will be called to the attention of Senator Fletcher upon his return to Washington.

I have, in the name of the Senator, requested certain information from the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, and will be very glad to forward you copy of his reply.

It is assume that if an investigation has been made or if one is to be made of the " Peat Resources " of the Everglade Section of Florida it will be through the " Geological Survey " of the Department of the Interior and / or by the State Geologist of Florida - Dr. Herman Gunter is the Geologist at this time and you might consider communicating or conferring with him on the subject.

It occurs to me that if nothing more can be done that Senator Fletcher may be able to have tests made by officials of the Interior Department for the purpose of ascertaining the contents of " Everglade Peat " referred to in the last paragraph of your letter, provided he was furnished samples necessary for that purpose; and yet, it would seem that Dr. Ranson is, perhaps, in better position to determine that than any other person or agency; and so, why not those interested in developing the industry - should such experiments or examinations or investigations justify, arrange for the Doctor to proceed immediately and irrespective of the attitude of the Department. As a matter of fact Dr. Ranson has already carried on extensive investigations - to the point where he states or estimates One Dollar as the cost ~~per~~ per ton - of reducing the composite matter to a commercial product. Furthermore, Dr. Ranson is, perhaps, more familiar with the area of Peat Deposits in Florida than any other person - he has made it and demonstrations a life study - or for a number of years.

I am very much afraid that Dr. Ranson's age would be a factor against his employment by the Government in any capacity. This is my personal view of the situation as is all of the foregoing - so do not credit it to the Senator. Very truly yours,

W. Hill Ranson