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United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE.

July 14, 1924.

Personal.

Captain J. F. Jaudon,

Miami, Florida.

Dear Captain:

Yours of the 10th has been received.

I have talked to the authorities in the Interior Department, stressing the importance of study and research that would result in making available for practical uses the rich deposit of peat in the Everglades.

I explained to them Dr. Ranson's experience and work, which I thought qualified him to be of very good assistance.

They offered to pay Dr. Ranson for articles which he might prepare on the questions they would name. They were willing to pay--and I have no doubt liberally--for anything he might have to offer of value. He did not see fit to accept that.

They say that they are fully informed as to the general situation and conditions. The problem is, can this peat and its

products and by-products be reduced to possession and prepared for use at a cost less than such products or by-products are already obtainable in Florida and elsewhere.

Mr. Ranson can only speculate and theorize, as they claim, on that subject, and that is the gist of the whole matter. They have propounded questions to him in order to ascertain what information he had or could furnish of a material ~~fact~~^{matter}. Thus far they are unable to see that they would be justified in putting him on the Government payroll.

They have written me as per the enclosed copy, which I am sending to him.

I return herewith the letter from Mr. Rodenbaugh.

Sincerely yours,

Ecls-

Duncan W. Fletcher