

April 22, 1926.

Mr. James M. Carson,  
Congress Building,  
Miami, Florida.

Dear Mr. Carson:-

No doubt you have seen the controversy on the Tamiami Trail project and the infamous action of Chairman Hathaway who is evidently backed up by Governor Martin and Barron Collier.

I am attaching a sketch from the Miami News & Metropolis which may have escaped your attention, also a copy of the American Eagle published at Estero, Florida, which gives an interesting phase of the situation.

No doubt you have been following the press notices on the subject.

The truth of the matter is this, Mr. Carson, there is but seven miles between the point of operation of the Monroe county road equipment and the Collier county road equipment. Collier county was delivered \$16,325.48 on July 8, 1923 for the sole and specific purpose of constructing the connecting road from the original Lee - now Collier County - Tamiami Trail to the Monroe County line.

Mr. Carson, you no doubt also know that the tract of land purchased by me from A. W. Hopkins and now known as the Chevelier Tract, is partly in Monroe county and partly in Dade County, - in other words, all of our land is not in Monroe county, which seems to be the general inference.

I understand there is going to be a "forum" or open meeting on this subject on Monday night at 7:30 at the Central High School auditorium. I am at home under the care of Dr. W. B. Gramlin, and am suffering with pleurisy. He advises me not to attempt to get out for some days to come. I would so much appreciate your conferring with Paul Taylor who has considerable data on this matter, and I wish you would appear at this meeting Monday night and tell the people of Dade County the facts in the case, and call a spade a spade in the matter of Chairman Hathaway and also of Governor Martin and Barron Collier.

For the past ten years I have given the best part of my life to the Tamiami Trail and kept this project alive when perhaps

I should have let it die. I have stared death in the face dozens of times in this project, and it looks now like I have almost laid down my life for the Tamiami Trail, for when we get the ends within seven miles of each other, Barron Collier comes along and throws away our work and says "we won't let you build this seven miles, but you can build twenty-seven miles if you will build the biggest part of it through my land. "

Barron Collier has never spent a dollar on the Tamiami Trail of his personal money, he has no doubt paid his taxes in Collier county as I have done. He never intended spending any money on the Tamiami Trail and he does not intend now to spend any money on the Trail, but he certainly has the hands of Dr. Hathaway and our friend I. E. Schilling and is pulling the chestnuts out of the fire with their hands, and it looks to me like Governor Martin's hands are in a little danger because when Governor Martin said "the Tamiami Trail will be built on the shortest, quickest and cheapest line", then he also said "if we have a State Road Department that won't do this very thing then we need a new State Road Department."

Now, Mr. Carson, when the State Road Department assumes to build that twenty-five miles or more of new road and it is only seven miles between the two ends of the Tamiami Trail, and throw away the expenditure of \$300,000 or more of the Chevelier Corporation and \$200,000 of Monroe County and a great many thousand dollars of Dade County, and they estimate they can build their ~~xxxx~~ Tamiami Trail in two ~~and~~ half years or three and a half years, when the seven miles between the two existing ends constructed of the Tamiami Trail can be connected in almost that many months simply shows that somebody is either fooling the Governor or he is trying to fool somebody else.

I am writing you fully in hopes that you can be at the meeting Monday night and speak plainly on the subject.

m Yours very truly,

JFJ/DA.