

Open forum meeting of Chamber
Of Commerce at Central High School,
Miami, Fla. on night of April 26, 1936.
for discussing the Tamiami Trail.

In the absence of Lon Worth Crowe, President of the Chamber of
Commerce Mr. Burwell took the chair and presided
at the meeting. He said he did not know much about it - in fact
hardly knew what the meeting was called for, and asked for an open
discussion.

Pennington
(1). Mr Caehiner, Chairman of the Board of Road Commissioners of
Monroe county was present, and was called upon to speak first, and
in his short talk said that at the meeting of the State Road Depart-
ment at Tallahassee on the 19th of April that Chairman Hathaway pro-
posed to prepare a statement or contract with reference to the
building of the Tamiami Trail, and send to each of the Chairmen of
the County Road Commissioners in Dade, Monroe and Collier County, and
if the agreement was satisfactory to them to sign same, and said
there was nothing else they could do but wait for that agreement to
be sent to them.

Caehiner *(Souter week)* *Very weak*
(2) (Senator Caehiner speaks from audience) Spoke of the
Legislature providing for road #27 - between Fort Myers and Miami.
without specifying which route - He also said that it was urged
that the road should come down through Monroe county because we
thought it could be completed quicker; he said that the State Road
Department had promised to complete the two roads simultaneously -
he said the State Road Department had agreed to complete the two
roads - and it would take about three years to complete the road.
Said Monroe county was to construct its portion of the road and

Collier county likewise. He spoke of Barron G. Collier's interest in the Collier county road.

(3) Mr. Redd, Chairman of the Dade County Road Commissioners spoke at this point, giving an outline of the work done in Dade County - mentioned that the Tamiami Trail began away back in 1914 or 1915 - said there was a bond issue of 1916 of \$250,000 for the Dade county Tamiami Trail work.

(4) Henry J. Smith, speaks coming to the platform from the audience - for Barron G. Collier. Said Mr. Collier could not be there because he had gone to the west coast to confer with Mr. Warfield and Mr. Collier asked him to speak for him at this meeting. He said there were 80 miles in Collier county, and 42 miles in Dade County of the Tamiami Trail, of that 80 miles of Collier's road he said 70 miles was ready today. Said Mr. Barron G. Collier's forces were working day and night on Collier county's part of the road. Said they would meet the Dade County line ^{in June 1929 - then he said} on Jan. 1, 1927. He said Mr. Collier has just returned from an interview with the officials at Tallahassee on this road. Said \$40,000 on this road had been spent by Mr. Collier out of his own pocket - said there was no cause for argument on the Trail and that everybody was satisfied - mentioned a slogan - The Tamiami Trail finished by ^{Jan. 1927} ~~Jan~~ 1927 - and Mr. Smith said: "I believe in the words of the man that told me that".

(5) Mr. Bigelow, President or Director of the Miami Realty Board spoke at this point - he spoke of the promise that Governor Martin made at a meeting in Miami on Monday night April 19th 1926 - "that the Tamiami Trail was going to be finished on the straight line and the quickest and least expensive. He said that Mr. McRae had said

at that Monday night meeting on the 19th Southern Floirda needed three things:

1. Completion of our port.
2. Completion of the Tamiami Trail.
3. Building of roads through the Everglades.

Applause here when a man on the stage (Mr.) got up and pointed to the map that was stretched across the stage - and this gap of 8 or nine miles should be completed NOW) (6) R A. Coachman, Jr. spoke next - he touched on the work done for the Trail and on the Trail by Capt. J. F. Jaudon, he said: "In 1914 Capt. Jaudon waded in water up to his neck along what is known as the "Glades"^a or the "Gateway to the Tamiami Trail". He spoke of Capt. Jaudon and young Mr. Frederick surveying the trail and wading in the water to do it. Mr. Coachman gave a great deal of history on the early work of the Tamiami Trail. He spoke of a Special Act of the Legislature of Florida and of the turning over of funds by Lee County to Collier county for the Tamiami Trail work when Collier County was created out of Lee County in 1923. He said that in the early days in constructing the work that funds gave out and that Lee County could not meet Dade county's end of the work and they induced Monroe county to join them in the work and they then routed the Tamiami Trail through Monroe county, which is the southern route that is now only seven miles between the two ends of the two lines: that the Chevelier Corporation was doing work in Monroe county on the Tamiami Trail. Mr. Coachman pointed out the difficulty in building the northern route or the old "Jenkins S urvey, now Collier route", which he s^atated would cost probably \$600,000 more - as none of the 27 miles had been touched, of the northern route - and but seven miles on the southern route was to

be built to connect the two ends and which would cost probably only about \$50,000.

(7) Mr. Gessler (from the audience went to the platform at this point). Said he had been living in Miami eighteen years - had heard a lot of talk about when the Tamiami Trail would be finished, but nothing definite, but that a month or so ago he heard the "shuffling of feet" - He said the "state's money and the county's money is our money" He said about seven years ago Dade and Lee counties entered into an agreement regarding the work of the Tamiami Trail, and that the State of Florida gave its approval to the agreement. Here he became a bit dramatic - he said "We must be honest - if there is any crookedness in the officials of the state ~~at~~^{that} Florida could never rise. He plead for the upholding of the integrity of the ~~state~~ people of the state and officials - he spoke of a sudden weakening on the part of some newspapers recently and of their changing their attitude toward the Tamiami Trail suddenly - he used the word "pernicious". Mr. Gessler offered a motion: the chairman presiding called Mr. Riddell, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce to the platform to take notes on the motion: Motion was, "that this meeting of the Chamber of Commerce go on record as insisting upon the honor and integrity of Dade County and Miami being maintained at all hazards, and that the State Road Commissioners be importuned to make an effort to complete first and at the earliest possible moment ONE road between Miami and the West Coast." The motion was seconded readily.

(8) At this point Ivor Atkinson offered an amendment to the

motion that they not only finish ONE road - but that they finish that special strip of 7, 8 or 9 miles from the Monroe county and the Collier county ends of the work now bwing done. Mr. Gessler accepted the amendment. Applause!!

(9) At this point of the meeting and before the motion was voted on Mr. T. D. Price arose from the platform and asked permission to read a letter addressed to the President of the Chamber of Commerce from Capt. J. F. Jaudon, which was granted - Mr. Price read the letter, which was followed by his reading a statement made by J. F. Jaudon Promises and Talk vs. Performances and Figutes, which statement had been sent on account of the illness for some days past of Capt. J F. Jaudon and being unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Price, in his preliminary remarks, said that Capt. J F. Jaudon was father of the Tamiami Trail" - great applause here - Throughout the reading of Capt. Jaudon's Statement by Mr. Price there was hearty applause - and the situation became somewhat dramatic when he presented a check for \$1,000.00 from Capt. Jaudon to the Secty. of the Chamber of Commerce, to aid in the completion of the seven mile gap on the southern route between the two ends of the Tamiami Trail in Monroe and Collier counties AT ONCE.

(10) When Mr. Price finished reading the statement of Capt. Jaudon Mr. Gesler was requested to re-state his motion, Mr. Gesler said he would like to make his statement stronger after hearing that.

(11) Mr. Wilson from the audience here spoke of the people on the West coast urging that immediate action be taken to complete the south line of the Tamiami Trail - that seven mile gap - at the earliest possible moment. Applause here.

convention at the end of the Tamiami Trail - where the two points are to meet - and he moved the appointing of a committee to meet with them - and also said that they could walk that seven miles and see it - the seven miles of unfinished road between the two ends of the road - he said five people had walked over this distance about three weeks ago - He was appointed by the Chairman presiding, as chairman of that committee.

Motion to adjourn.