

MC
6551/2

June 9th, 1930.

SUBJECT: Southern Drainage District.

Mr. J. W. Hoffman, Vice-Pres.,
Motel Land Company,
St. Augustine, Fla.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 5th enclosing proxies received.

The annual meeting of the landowners of the Southern Drainage District was held this afternoon and was attended by probably 25 landowners who selected the writer to preside as Chairman. There also present, Supervisors Conrad and Siegel and Secretary Blackwell, Supervisor Highleyman being absent.

The Treasurer's report showed \$110.00 balance in the bank.

Supervisor Conrad stated that on account of inability to collect further taxes there was no work being done in the District at the present time.

Mr. Siegel was unanimously elected to succeed himself as Supervisor.

The Chairman, in order to open up the discussion of future policies, complimented the Supervisors on not levying a tax for the year 1930 and not having placed any bond issues on the District at all, resulting in the District at the present time not being in debt, and recommended that in view of the general conditions and the almost unanimous effort being made by everyone to reduce and prevent further taxation, that no tax be levied for the year 1931. This brought a vigorous protest from a few landowners who are living well back in the District and have suffered from high water, and an effort was made to put over a resolution asking the Board of Supervisors

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-TWO-

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6554/2

to make a sufficient bond issue to give relief, referring particularly to the widening and deepening of Snapper Creek Canal. This movement was opposed by our friends and the motion failed, especially after Supervisors Conrad and Siegel informed those present that it would be folly to attempt the sale of any kind of bonds during these times, but Mr. Conrad did state, however, it was his opinion it would be mandatory for the Supervisors to levy a tax for 1931, the only way to prevent this being through a special act of the Legislature, as was arranged last year. Mr. Conrad also informed the meeting that he was negotiating with Mr. Marcus Milan who is Chairman of the Flood Control Committee, in an effort to work out a cooperative plan to give relief to the settlers who are in distress, which resulted in a motion which carried, adjourning the present meeting until July 8th to receive a report from Mr. Conrad as to what he might have been able to accomplish with Mr. Milan.

I feel certain it is the policy of both Mr. Siegel and Mr. Conrad to keep the District out of debt and at the same time levy as small a tax as possible for 1931 -- probably not more than 25¢ per acre, and we might possibly get them down to 10¢ per acre, depending on what kind of a proposition he is able to work out with Mr. Milan.

This office will try to keep in touch with Mr. Conrad and get advance information to you if possible as to what plan or recommendation he may decide to place before the next meeting.

Yours very truly,

PEPPER AND POTTER, INC.

FJP/J

By: