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December 20, 1934

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Everglades National Park.

Mr. J. W. Hoffman, Vice-Pres.,  
Model Land Company,  
St. Augustine, Florida

My dear Mr. Hoffman:

At Rotary luncheon today I happened to sit at the same table with Mr. Ernest Coe, who, as you know, has been working for quite a while on the project known as Everglades National Park.

I was interested to know the present condition of the Old Cape Sable road and, therefore, asked Mr. Coe if during any of his recent inspection trips he had gone over this road and in what condition it was at the present time. He stated that most of his inspection trips had been made by air over these lands, and while he had not personally been down over this road for some time, he felt certain that it must be in at least a fairly passable condition from the fact that the Department of Agriculture has had a force of men for some time working in that locality in pulling up and destroying a specimen of wild cotton which had been discovered; this for the purpose of eradicating the bowl weevil or some other enemy bug to the cotton plant, and as these men have been and are at present being transported back and forth by truck, he, therefore, concluded that the road must be passable at least as far down as West Lake.

Following this conversation, it was quite natural, as a matter of courtesy on my part, to ask him how the National Park project was progressing. He replied that it was advancing quite satisfactory: that the last delegation or committee which was sent down from Washington some weeks ago to investigate and report particularly on the area, had finished their investigation, and before leaving Miami just a few days ago informed Mr. Coe that their report would recommend the inclusion of the entire area originally

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Mr. J. W. Hoffman

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contemplated as being desirable and satisfactory to the Federal Government, this, as you know, takes in a belt entirely across the south end of Dade County and all of Monroe County on the main land, together with other properties to the north. Mr. Coe advised me the committee informed him they did not desire to have this information released for any kind of publication until it came out in their formal report to the Department, and while two or three members of the Rotary Club were present at the same table and heard this conversation, Mr. Coe requested me to treat the information as confidential, and I am merely passing it on to you as such for what it may be worth.

Yours very truly,

PEPPER AND COFFRIN, INC.

By:

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