

(COPY)

Miami, Florida.
July 18th, 1931.

Mr. Benn Herr,
Secretary Everglades Drainage District,
West Palm Beach, Fla.

Dear Mr. Herr:

Supplementing my answer to your letter in regard to tax on Area K. I have examined the budget as suggested by you and note the tax will be .13¢ per acre the monies to be used in removing the shoals from Snapper Creek Canal and the Tamiami connecting canals.

This work when completed in conjunction with the work we have just completed of removing the sunken dredge from the Snapper Creek Canal and the sunken lighter from the Tamiami connecting canal, and the work we now have under way of cleaning the aquatic growth from the south fork and comfort canal, will most certainly be a great help to drainage and will eliminate the major complaints from land owners in that area.

I wish to thank your honorable board and yourself for your cooperation with our board in keeping the tax rate as low as possible consistent with emergency work and I feel sure after examining your budget for the area, that our land owners will not object to the tax on that area, when they consider the great saving compared to the former state drainage tax.

With this low tax rate for a specific purpose in our area, i.e., the maintenance of those canals excavated in conjunction with the Southern Drainage District, I am of the opinion our land owners will give you their whole hearted support and I BELIEVE THE MAJORITY would prefer this work to go on in preference to eliminating the tax entirely in view of the fact that your honorable board has reduced the tax to the minimum and relieved the land owners from a heavy tax burden.

From the expression voiced in our land owners meeting, our land owners do not wish to hamper your board or ours, but they do insist that the tax burden on unproductive lands be relieved wherever it is possible to do so and following their instructions I drew and the legislature has just passed a bill amending the 5% tax collection fee that was passed in 1927 by the tax payers league over our protest, this now leaves our fees the same as the Evans bill which relieved your board from the 5% fee, I am sure the tax payers league would have never insisted on the 5% feature had it been in dollars and cents but 5% did not sound like much.

All tax assessing boards can do something to relieve the tax stress by cutting these useless expenditures and yet not slow up the work, and I am very gratified to note the Baker Haulover district has just cut one mill and one of our school districts 2 mills etc.

In behalf of our land owners I wish to thank you and your honorable board for going over this tax fully with us.

J. P. Conrad.

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