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Kissimmee, Florida, March 14, 1916.

My dear Mrs. Graves:

I am just in receipt of your letter, after having gotten over one of my distressing headaches, and was very glad indeed to hear from you.

I am glad you like Mrs. Monroe. She is outspoken, but she is "true blue."

With reference to the question you ask me, I will say that I want you to be chairman of the committee.

The greatest difficulty is to know how to proceed. The Everglades speculators, Mr. S. S. J. and his wife being among the number, are desirous that Congress buy lands from the United States Government for the Seminoles. It seems to me that it is not the duty of the United States government to buy lands for the Seminoles, but that Florida should make a legal grant of lands to these long-neglected people, since she has the land now, and all that is needed is the stroke of the pen, and Mr. Jennings's consent, to give them to the Seminoles.

To assist you, I will quote the recommendation which will be made by the National Indian Rights Association to Congress:

"First, that Congress be asked to appropriate sufficient funds to equipt \$1+ A demonstration farm on the Seminole reservation near Chancy Bay in charge of a competent Creek employee from Oklahoma. (2) That a day school be established at the same point, in charge of a competent Creek Indian as teacher.

" And that Florida be asked to redeem its recognized and admitted obligation to the Seminoles by setting aside lands for their use and benefit."

These recommendations were approved by Indian Commissioner Sells.

I am also enclosing you a copy of the resolution which has been used and endorsed all over the country by the D. A. R., and will be carried to Washington for their national D. A. R. meeting with the hope of getting them before Congress and President Willson.

I have had two letters from Tampa, where Mrs. Jennings disparaged my work very much publicly; and one of these letters says there is a new ruling made so as to cut me off entirely, by which no one but a chairman can present resolutions.

#2.

I have been advised to resign from the Indian Committee, but Mrs. Grace Julian Clark insists that I stay on. Confidentially I am not sure of Mrs. Stranahan. Mrs. Jennings quotes her by saying that she knows more than any woman in the state about the Seminoles. I know that she knows very little. I have talked to her very freely at the three last conventions, and while she represented to the Indian Rights Association man that she was a great friend of the Indians, and told him a good many things about Mrs. Jennings which a real friend would not do -- it will simply take time to find out just whether she is, as the Indians say, "Walking in a straight line," or not. Of course, any one who knows anything about her husband knows that he made his money off the Indians, and he is wealthy now. While he satisfied the Indians, in a measure, he could have paid them more for their goods and not lost money on the operation. At the De Land convention, Mrs. Stranahan in her report (as Mrs. Jennings is now quoting it all over the state) stated that Tony F. H. Tommie had been made a chieftain of the tribe. As this is absolutely false, and when I spoke to Mrs. Stranahan about it she answered me by saying that Tony might have been drunk, as he had remained away from school two days to attend this affair that his own family had. Other Indians did not seem to be present.

I am glad Mrs. Munroe visited your club, and made reference to me, as she always does -- something I cannot say for our Commissioner or dozens of other writers who are taking my writings and even going so far as to have them copyrighted, but doing it in such a way that it is impossible to "get after them."

I will enclose you my resolutions, which you may find to be a help. Do try to get the slogan in, as this seems to be the part that is going to do the work, and also is hurting the enemy, which is a very good sign.

I do not know whether you know that in 1899 there was a Seminole Land Bill passed, approved by the Governor of Florida, which granted an immense tract of land to the Indians. In it was a "joker." I have a copy of this bill. These lands are now owned by a corporation, in which our friends are very prominent; and they do not lie a very great distance from Royal Palm Hammock. This is one reason I think, that Royal Palm Hammock is being talked at every meeting all over the state and blue prints shown of this wonderful country by our President.

If you need any more information, write to me. With kind regards to Mrs. Borden,

Affectionately yours,

MMW-RP  
Enclosure.