

March 24th, 1919

Mr. M.K. Sniffen,
Philadelphia Pa.
My Dear Mr. Sniffen:-

In order to keep you fully posted on our Indian situation; I will quote you my letter to our Governor and his reply.

" I have heard that the Florida Federation of Women Clubs have as a part of their legislative program, a bill asking that the Seminole Reservation be transferred from the present Board of Control of State Institutions to the Federal Government. Now as these well-meaning women do not have a thing in the world to do with the securing of this land for the Indians, I think they should keep "hands off" until a request is made for their help. As it was your help and influence more than any other person that made it possible to secure this Reservation for the Seminoles, I now wish to ask for your wishes or opinion in this matter, before I either oppose or advocate this bill. I can help to kill their bill, if you think the title to this land should stay as it now is. Permit me to ask, would it be possible for the "land grabbers" - after your term of office to secure that land for their own use and benefit? The reservation I well knew is safe as long as you are our Governor, but can all of our good work be ruined by a future administration not friendly to the Indians? This is a very important point to consider, as it may come up after you and I are gone hence. It is with such reluctance that I write you about this matter and would not do so but for the great importance of the question involved. I knew how very busy you must now be, with many matters of state that require your personal attention at this time, still there is no one else to whom I can go but to you for advice in this matter. Thanking you in advance for any suggestions looking to the security of this good work that has been done for the uplift of these Indians, and with kind and personal regards, believe me, -"etc."

To this I received reply as follows,

Mem. 22nd.
" I have your letter of the 19th, in which you tell me you have heard that the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs are going to ask for the Seminole reservation to be transferred from the present Board of Control of State Institutions to the Federal Government. I do not think I could approve of this, as the State of Florida gave the land to the Indians and I think it should be controlled by the Board of State Institutions of Florida.

Thanking you for your letter and with best wishes, I am "

This afternoon I had a talk with our representative Wm. H.C. Bryan, and suggested that he kill any such bill that might come up. That their proposed bill I thought was simply to help carry through their Royal Palm Park request for \$5000.

While I would prefer, Mr. Sniffen, that the Federal Government have the title to this land, still if our Governor does not wish it so, there is no sense in trying to get such a bill passed at this time, so you think so?

STV

Mrs. W joins me in kind regards, and best wishes,
I am Sincerely Yours,