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*Honorary President.*

TELEPHONE, LOMBARD 25-21.

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Philadelphia, March 12, 1917.

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EDWARD M. WISTAR.

Mrs. J. M. Willson, Jr.,  
Kissimmee, Florida.

My dear Mrs. Willson:

Your favor of the 8th just received, with enclosed clipping from the "Jax" Times-Union. This I have read and herewith return.

Because things may appear to be dark and gloomy it is no reason why we should be disheartened. We must keep on and fight to the last ditch. The thought of quitting should never be entertained..

One effective way of reaching Sears would be to have a goodly number of his constituents communicate with him in an emphatic way, to let him know that he will be held responsible for any interference with the State's effort to redeem a just obligation to the Seminoles. Get the bill through the legislature, and if Sears then wants to ask the Government to pay Florida for the land set aside for the Seminoles, we certainly will not object. If such a suggestion can be put in your bill (that the Federal Government be asked to compensate the State for the land), it might not be a bad idea. If it causes the legislators to favor the bill, certainly no harm is done, and the remote possibility of getting something from the Federal government might make them feel more free to vote for the measure.

I will either go to Washington to see Commissioner Sells, or write to him. I am not sure that he can do much to have any ef-



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fect on the House Indian Committee with regard to the Seminoles.

If any "monkey business" is attempted at Tallahassee, then we want to inform all the Florida papers of the situation. Once get the people thoroughly aroused on a given subject, few politicians will want to run counter to such public sentiment.

Now, my dear friend, I know how hard you have worked all these years and what a tax it has been on your resources--physical and financial,--and it is not surprising that you feel about "all in." Things may not be as dark as they seem at first glance. Just cheer up and remember that the fight has not yet taken place. We have not yet been defeated because we must first get into the fight and test the enemy's actual strength.

I am going ahead with my original plans, so if anything occurs about which you want to write me, I will get mail here up to the 21st instant. The next point will be Burbridge Hotel, "Jax," where I hope to be March 25th; so you can keep me posted.

Some one ought to post Governor Catts about Sears, so that he will have "straight dope" on the matter.

I shall hope to see you on the 27th or 28th.

Sincerely and hopefully yours,

*M. S. Sniffen*