

Kissimmee, Florida
December 4, 1928

Dear Mrs. Jennings:

With reference to getting the baby cranes, when I talked to Mr. Willson he wonders whether they would breed in the park because the enclosure would have to be immense. We had eight cranes during our stay here and one, old Dick, lived eighteen years and died in my arms. They have to have a prairie and Mr. Willson, while we agreed that they must be bred and protected, fears that they might be destroyed by the wildcats. So let me know the conditions under which you could place them because under education and kind treatment they become as little children. You know we will do everything we can for you to save this wonderful, intelligent bird.

Now, I want to talk to you seriously about an Everglade preserve which, as you know, I have been working on for more than fifteen years, because I have never believed in Everglade drainage. Please take me into your confidence as to what the plans will be because at this time I am asked by the largest newspaper syndicate of New York City to write an article on the Everglades and its present condition, and the article would go all over the United States as well as be international. With the influence I have, and the amount of clippings that I have been saving for about twenty years on this subject, I can help a great deal but I don't want to go at cross purposes. We will have to consider the Seminole Indians and their rights, while we must recognize the birds and animals and vegetation as being almost equally as valuable to our nation. They expect this article from me between this and the first of January and I must get it right for there will be considerable money in it for me.

It would be foolish for me to get up such an article which might throw a bomb into the plans at Washington, so you see it will be necessary for me to know

the inmost workings, so please let me know at your earliest convenience what plans are being worked so that I will know how to write my article.

As you know, I believe that Florida should give her million acres, that she now owns, as a return gift to the Federal Government for the use of the wild life and Indians, and above all things, we must repair the damages made around Okeechobee by the faulty engineering and going contrary to Government law for ever permitting Okeechobee to rise above its sixteen foot level. This I have in a personal letter from the Secretary of War.

Hoping to hear from you soon, and that we can work everything out for the best interests of all,

Sincerely yours,

Minnie Moore Willson.

MMW/ir