

Miami, Fla.
Feb. 20, 1930.

To the Honorable Ruth Bryan Owen,
Representative from FLORIDA.
100 Maryland Avenue,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Madam:

Since it first came to my notice, the idea of a National Park in the Cape Sable region has seemed like an answer to a prayer that Florida might not be utterly despoiled of her choicest heritage. But, there is one thing precious beyond any tangibles; the honor of the State.

I am disturbed by the suggestion that it is on the program to bar the Seminoles from the proposed Park. If you are not familiar with "THE SEMINOLES OF FLORIDA" by Minnie Moore-Wilson, of Kissimmee, I hope that you will become so.

Here is a people, our relations with which is an everlasting disgrace and blot upon our history. Brave, chaste, innately truthful, honest beyond the standards of the white man, uncorrupted, except as whiskey and the contact with contemptibles who poach by proxy, have corrupted them; they would be a brilliant feature of the National Park, if we could do the just and wise thing of protecting them as a people and training them as guides.

Greatly as I desire the preservation of this Florida park, under the strong hand of Federal protection, I revolt at the idea of our becoming again a receiver of stolen goods, no matter how attractive. Unless this splendid gift to the Nation can be accompanied with justice to a brave and patriotic people, I for one, do not want it. I trust that you will see some way of insisting that, coupled with the National Park project, there shall be a protecting hand held out to these people who love their home with a love that has been proven to be stronger than death.

If you can find time to tell me to whom other letters should be addressed, I will appreciate your assistance in supplying me with their names.

I know, by heart, all the objections that can be raised by sincere persons who have never had this concern brought home to them. None the less, it would be not only the fair and honest thing to do, but it would be the crowning glory of our relations with the Indians, and God knows we need some glory, if we could give them a happy, useful and protected existence in the land to which they have so gallantly clung.

I hope this may appeal to you.

Respectfully,