

alternate route be taken, which alternate routes were known as the "northern group" or the "middle routes," however, the area finally selected as the area that took many fine Negro residences notwithstanding the alternate route which, in the opinion of many, were less expensive and would have preserved some of the finer Negro residences in the city of Montgomery.

D. GRAY,
Montgomery, Ala.

FEBRUARY 28, 1967.

Mr. BILLIE S. FLEMING,
President, NAACP, Manning, S.C.

DEAR BILLIE: I have tried to reach you several times on the telephone concerning the attached letter which was sent by Charles F. Luce, acting Secretary of Interior.

I have discussed with the Department of Interior the suggestion that the families can remain on the land until December 31, 1967. I understand that in some cases the Department of Interior gives permits for persons to continue to occupy land which has been taken by the Government. Some of these permits are for a five year period subject to renewal at the end of that period. I would suggest that you may want to check this possibility if the residents are interested in staying for a period longer than one year. I will be glad to continue to work on this end, but I believe that the interests of the parties will be protected best if they are represented by a lawyer in South Carolina.

Sincerely yours,

CLARENCE MITCHELL,
Director, Washington Bureau.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., February 17, 1967.

Mr. ROY WILKINS,
Executive Director, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,
New York, N.Y.

DEAR MR. WILKINS: This is in reply to your telegram of February 10 concerning a displacement of Negro families from land acquired for the Santee National Wildlife Refuge in Clarendon County, South Carolina, which is administered by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife of this Department.

This land is being acquired to complete an existing national wildlife refuge established for the conservation of the migratory waterfowl resource. Our information is that nine families reside on the property. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has been negotiating for the purchase of this land for many years. The land was acquired by condemnation with a Declaration of Taking and notice of this action was served on the owners and occupants on February 7, 1967.

Although the title to these lands is now vested in the United States, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife is permitting the owners to farm the land during the 1967 crop year and the present occupants to remain on the land until they can make arrangements to relocate, but not beyond December 31, 1967.

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife will post the land and manage the wildlife, but this activity should not interfere with farming operations.

Sincerely yours,

CHARLES F. LUCE,
Secretary of the Interior.

[News release from the Office of the Secretary, for release to P.M.'s Mar. 9, 1967]

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT ENDORSES LEGISLATION TO PROTECT ESTUARIES

Enactment of legislation authorizing the Department of the Interior to "preserve, protect, develop, restore, and make accessible estuarine areas of the Nation which are valuable for sport and commercial fishing, wildlife conservation, recreation, and scenic beauty" has been recommended to Congress by the Department of the Interior.

In responding to a Congressional request for the Department's attitude regarding authorizing legislation, Dr. Stanley A. Cain, Assistant Secretary for