

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

STATEMENT OF E. P. WRIGHT, PURCHASING AGENT FERA AT
ISLAMORADA, IN CONNECTION WITH INVESTIGATION OF
EVACUATION OF VETERAN'S CAMP, MATECUMBE, FLORIDA.

E. P. WRIGHT APPEARED IN THE OFFICE OF STATE ATTORNEY G. A.
WORLEY ON SEPTEMBER 6, 1935, AND AFTER BEING DULY SWORN, MADE THE FOLLOWING
STATEMENT IN THE PRESENCE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY AND RUTH ELWELL, STENOGRAPHER:

BY MR. WORLEY:

Q. What are your initials?

A. E. P.

Q. What position do you hold with the railroad?

A. I don't - I'm not with the railroad - I am with the Purchasing Department.

Q. At Islamorada?

A. Yes sir. Purchasing Agent.

Q. Do you know anything about why a train was not sent down to bring these men up here?

A. The only thing I know was what I heard about the train waiting for authority from St. Augustine to leave, the reason it was held up.

Q. Was the request made from down there?

A. What I know personally, I didn't hear the request made, but heard the request was made around 1:30 or 2:00 o'clock.

Q. Who made the request, do you know?

A. No sir, I don't - I wasn't down there. I was up here in Miami Monday myself.

Q. Have you heard why the train was not sent?

A. No, I just heard it was waiting on authority to leave from St. Augustine - the FEC headquarters. They have to get the orders from St. Augustine.

Q. When did you first go down after the hurricane?

A. Tuesday morning.

Q. Did you talk to anybody in charge down there that made the

statement?

A. I talked to Mr. Ghent, Director of Veterans work.

Q. Did he say whether or not he requested the train.

A. I didn't talk to him but a few minutes. He was down there

when I got there - talked to him a few minutes. Another fellow and myself tried to swim over to get to the first camp - when we first got there he turned around and came back home, went to Homestead. All I am telling, nothing I know exactly myself, but just what I have heard. He came back to Miami and said there wasn't anything could be done until the next morning. The water was still too rough, wind was high and all and we got row boats and went across and started transporting the wounded over.

Q. What time did you get down there?

A. I can't tell you to save my life. As soon as I got to the hotel I went to the depot to see if they had heard anything about the train - there were a bunch of veterans down there - nobody in charge - all broke - a lot of them wanted to borrow money and I bought breakfasts and got cigarettes and told them to stay there until I could send for them or got word to Mr. Ghent. When I went to leave, I gave the information and asked him to take care of them.

Q. Then you don't know anything about why the train was not sent?

A. No sir.

Q. Do you know anything about reports of the weather?

A. Well, the weather reports, from what I can understand - the last report we got just before the line went out was nothing to worry about, the hurricane was 250 miles northeast of Havana, moving westward and about 15 minutes after that communication went out and at that time the wind was already high. I still can't see why they didn't get the trucks loaded and get them out in trucks - rolling stock we had down there.

Q. At the camp?

A. Yes. While they were waiting on trains he could have loaded up the trucks.

Q. Who would have been responsible?

A. Well, the Assistant Director.

Q. Who is he?

A. Ray Sheldon.

Q. Where is he?

A. Up here now.

Q. Whereabouts?

A. Right now I don't know which hotel -- he was over at the Leamington fixing to have a meeting over there.

(MR. WOHLKY) That is all, you had better go home and get some rest.

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Post #1

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