

March 13, 1924.

Mr. M. J. Riordan,

Flagstaff, Arizona.

My dear Mr. Riordan:

I am in receipt of your letter of March 7 and beg to say that all that I have been trying to do is to carry out the agreement as made at the El Tovar Hotel a year ago, the terms of which are set forth on pages 4137-38 of the enclosed copy of the Congressional Record. It seemed to me then and, I am still of the opinion, that if the taxpayers of Coconino County can be saved all of the expense of the construction of the road from the Old Trails Highway to Grand Canyon they will obtain a much greater financial advantage than could be secured by continuing the ownership and operation of the Bright Angel Trail. Not only is the bargain advantageous from that point of view, but the construction of such a road is sure to promote a large increase in the number of automobile tourists who will visit the Grand Canyon National Park and who must of necessity purchase their supplies at Flagstaff and Williams. In view of the objections which were made to the amendment I originally offered, the House has adopted a substitute which will be found on page 4135 of the Record. There is nothing in the terms of this legislation which com-



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pels Coconino County to dispose of the Bright Angel Trail, but the Secretary of the Interior is given authority to purchase the same if an agreement can be reached. The Secretary is also authorized to complete the approach road so that it can be constructed according to the same standards as the Old Trails Highway. I am confident that there will be no difficulty in securing the necessary appropriations when the proper time arrives.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours very sincerely,