

**FLORIDA FEDERAL / STATE SUMMIT
SUMMARY REPORT**

**THE STATE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE
March 15, 1999**

Introduction

The second **Florida Federal/State Summit** was held in Tallahassee on March 15, 1999. Governor Jeb Bush, Senate President Toni Jennings, and House Speaker John Thrasher sponsored the event. All members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, Legislature, Cabinet, and Executive Agency Heads were invited to attend.

Congressional members in attendance included: U.S. Senator Bob Graham, U.S. Senator Connie Mack, Congressman Clay Shaw, Jr., Congressman Michael Bilirakis, Congresswoman Corrine Brown, Congressman Charles Canady, Congressman Jim Davis, Congressman Peter Deutsch, Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Congressman Mark Foley, Congressman Porter Goss, Congressman Bill McCollum, Congresswoman Carrie Meek, Congressman John Mica, Congressman Dan Miller, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Congressman Joe Scarborough, Congresswoman Karen Thurman, and Congressman David Weldon.

The first Federal/State Summit, held in February 1998, successfully began the enhancement of **coordination and communication** among **Florida's elected officials**. The 1999 Summit built on this progress, providing opportunities to discuss current and emerging federal policies of importance to Florida. The direct exchange allowed participants to begin **developing** shared **strategies to benefit Florida**, and to **increase** the **return of federal tax dollars** to the state. **Summits** will be **held** on a regular, **biennial** basis. In the interim, communications between federal and state officials will continue through visits to Washington and telephone and video conferences.

1999 Summit Agenda. The Opening Session addressed building a **federal/state strategy** for Florida and highlights of issues before the **106th**

Congress. Members also provided **updates on 1998 Summit issues**, including the Tobacco Settlement, Welfare Reform, Children's Health, Transportation Funding, and Disaster Insurance. The agenda also included **workshop sessions** on issues currently pending before Congress, on which congressional action could significantly impact the state:

▶ **Imminent Economic Opportunities:** *Reauthorization of National Air Transportation Improvement Act, Commercial Space Projects and Military Base Closings;*

▶ **Imminent Educational Opportunities:** *Reauthorization of Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and Special Education Funding;*

▶ **Imminent Opportunities for Improving Health and Human Services Funding:** *Impacts of Tobacco Settlement and Federal Budget Constraints on Medicaid, TANF, Social Services Block Grant, and Developmental Disabilities Services; and*

▶ **Imminent Opportunities for Improving Florida's Environment:** *Everglades Restoration and the Central and South Florida Comprehensive Review Study.*

This report briefly summarizes issues discussed at the 1999 Summit. It was prepared by the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations (LCIR), which assisted in coordinating the Summit. **More detailed materials** prepared for each of the four workshop are available on this website or can be obtained from the LCIR upon request (850-488-9627).

Opening Session

The Summit opened with **welcoming remarks** from Senate President Toni Jennings, House Speaker John Thrasher, and Governor Jeb Bush. Speaker Thrasher highlighted opportunities presented by this **direct exchange of information and ideas**, and recognized members of the Florida Congressional delegation, as well as Lt. Governor Frank Brogan and the Cabinet. Speaker Thrasher also thanked Senator Ron Klein and Representative J.R. Spratt for organizing the Summit. President Jennings highlighted the shared desire for Florida to get its **fair share of available federal funds**. Governor Bush paid tribute to Senator Connie Mack, who had recently announced his intention to retire at the end of his term. Mr. Bush stated his intention to **forge connections with other states** to assist in pursuing Florida's interests in Washington.

Panel: Update on 1998 Federal/State Summit Issues. Moderator Congressman Clay Shaw, Florida delegation chair, gave an update on **welfare reform**, which he characterized as a **great success**. Congresswoman Corrine Brown reported that **TEA-21** legislation will result in a **57% increase in transportation funds** for Florida over 6 years. She requested that the state develop an effective comprehensive strategy for spending the additional funds. Congresswoman Brown reported she is now working on **aviation funding** to get more federal dollars to Florida. Congressman Michael Bilirakis gave an update on the **bipartisan effort to prevent the Clinton Administration from recouping** a portion of states' **tobacco settlements**. Congressman Bill McCollum asked for the state's help in **promoting legislation** that would provide for **private reinsurance** to cover **natural disasters** and make home owners' insurance more affordable for Floridians.

Senator John Grant gave an update on disaster funding, welfare reform, and transportation funding from the state perspective, and Representative Jerry Maygarden gave an update on the tobacco settlement recoupment issue and children's health insurance from the state perspective. The panel took questions from members of the Legislature on **intrastate transportation** in Florida, **job training**, **homeowners' insurance costs**, the HCFA claim on **Florida's tobacco settlement**, and **training for airplane mechanics and air traffic controllers**.

Upcoming Issues in the 106th Congress. United States Senators Bob Graham and Connie Mack provided highlights of issues before the 106th Congress. Senator Graham paid tribute to Senator Mack, and spoke about **fiscal discipline** in an era of budget surpluses, **devolution**, tobacco recoupment, **Internet taxation**, and **school construction**. Senator Mack thanked everyone for their kind words, and paid tribute to Senator Graham. Senator Mack spoke about **citrus canker**, **migrant housing**, tobacco recoupment, **education** and the importance of **high quality teachers**. The Senators took questions on Social Security, early childhood education, Y2K, international trade, and aging at home. Agriculture Commissioner Bob Crawford thanked the delegation for its role in securing emergency federal funds to fight citrus canker.

Census 2000. Congressman Dan Miller spoke about the importance to Florida of an **accurate count in the 2000 census**, and pointed out that Florida is projected to **gain a seat in Congress**. Congresswoman Carrie Meek called on legislators to work with the census to improve the accuracy of the count, and to help their constituents get **federal jobs**

associated with the census.

Each of the four following workshops were conducted as round table discussions. Although various federal and state leaders were designated as discussion leaders, all elected officials were invited to sit at the table to participate in the discussions.

Workshop: Imminent Economic Opportunities - Reauthorization of the National Air Transportation Improvement Act, Commercial Space Projects and Military Base Closings

Facilitator: Representative Carlos Valdes. Discussion leaders included: Congressman Clay Shaw, Congressman Michael Bilirakis, Congressman Peter Deusch, Congressman Mark Foley, Congressman Porter Goss, Congresswoman Carrie Meek, Congressman John Mica, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Congressman David Weldon, Senator Jim Hargrett, Senator Ron Klein, Senator Patsy Kurth, Senator Tom Lee, Representative Rudy Bradley, Representative Jim Fuller, Representative Kelley Smith, John Anderson, Director, Enterprise Florida; Tony Villamil, Director, Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, and Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Tom Barry. The Staff Presenters were Doug Callaway, Florida Department of Transportation; Jim Bodine, Florida Aviation and Aerospace Alliance; and Jim Breitenfeld, Enterprise Florida.

Comments of Presenters

Doug Callaway stated that current **federal aviation law** is set to **expire** on March 31, 1999. The U.S. Senate is considering a two-year aviation re-authorization bill while the U.S. House is

debating a five year bill. There are several issues at stake for Florida in relation to the **reauthorization of federal aviation programs**.

► The federal **Airport and Airways Trust Fund**, which funds airport construction and improvement, contains **\$8.5 billion**. If the current distribution formula remains in place, it could reach \$100 billion by 2004. As was done last year with the Highway Trust Fund, the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is considering legislation that would take the fund “**off budget**” to ensure that revenues received will be spent in the year and for the purposes for which they were raised.

► Current proposals would allow airports to keep and spend **Passenger Facility Charge (PFC)** revenues rather than sending them Washington for redistribution, and would increase the PFC cap from its current \$3 per travel segment.

► The “**perimeter rule**,” which prohibits flights originating more than 1,250 miles from Washington-Reagan National Airport (Washington D.C.) to fly directly into that airport, may be revised. Mr. Callaway stated that shorter flights between that airport and **three of Florida's airports** could be “bumped” in favor of more lucrative longer flights if this rule were relaxed.

Jim Bodine detailed Florida's efforts to capture the **growing commercial space technology market**. Florida currently enjoys a **\$4 billion financial benefit** from the space industry. The number of space launches worldwide is expected to increase from 88 in 1998 to 170 per year within the next 10 years. But recent trends suggest that Florida's share of the commercial space market may be

dropping. Where the U.S. once had 90% of the world's space launches, it now has about one-third of those launches.

Mr. Bodine speculated that as costs to put material into space decline over the next decade, the number of commercial interests venturing into space will increase. If Florida is to remain a **primary space launch site**, the state must maintain and promote its massive **capital investment** and its long history of space launches. It must also overcome outdated technology and a large, well-established, and expensive bureaucracy that might make it **less competitive**.

Mr. Bodine noted that Florida has a team dedicated to **recruiting space-oriented companies** such as Lockheed-Martin. These companies are in the early stages of designing reusable launch vehicles. While it is unclear which design will eventually prevail, reliable and inexpensive systems will eventually be developed, presenting an **excellent opportunity** for Florida.

Mr. Bodine offered some **policy suggestions** for the state:

- ▶ consider what **investments** are needed to encourage space-oriented companies to **locate in Florida**;
- ▶ **modernize** space launch technology;
- ▶ seek **federal loan guarantees** for companies developing reusable launch vehicles (RLVs); and
- ▶ consider forming a **coalition of states** to compete for RLVs.

Jim Breitenfeld discussed the importance of U.S. military bases in Florida. There are **23 active military installations** in Florida, accounting for over **265,000 jobs** and a **\$20 billion** annual economic impact. Florida has suffered in recent years from declining defense budgets, military downsizing, and base closures. In the coming

years, the Secretary of Defense has called for up to **two more rounds of military base closures**, possibly in 2001 and 2003. Florida is **vulnerable** in this process because some of its military installations are on leased facilities.

Mr. Breitenfeld emphasized that **competition will become tougher** as remaining military bases are re-aligned, and that **coordination between local, state, and federal governments** is critical in **retaining Florida's military installations**. Mr. Breitenfeld suggested the creation of a **"defense caucus"** of Legislative members who have military bases within their districts, and an on-going **"defense task force"** comprising members of the Florida Congressional delegation, Legislature, local communities, and the Governor's Office.

Discussion of Economic Opportunities

Senator Klein agreed with Mr. Breitenfeld and further suggested that a **Space Coalition** of federal and state elected officials be established to enhance Florida's competitiveness for commercial space industries such as **VentureStar**. Congressman Weldon expressed **support** for such a task force, noting that the Florida Congressional delegation cannot singlehandedly steer the VentureStar program to Florida, but needs state and local support in order to compete.

Senator Hargrett stated that the Florida Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development has proposed legislation to create a \$30 million **"closing fund"** to ensure that Florida can compete for important industries while the Legislature is out of session. Senator Hargrett asked Secretary Barry whether the **proposed increase in the PFC** will cover Florida's anticipated **airport expansion needs**. Secretary Barry replied that, even with the increased PFC funding, Florida may

experience a **shortfall** of up to **\$7 billion** in this area.

Representative Fuller commented that, as base closings are considered, those working to avoid them might emphasize that Florida offers a moderate climate well-suited for **military pilot training** on a year-round basis.

Mr. Weldon clarified that while the number of launches in Florida has increased, the number of space launches worldwide has increased at a more rapid rate, thus **reducing Florida's percentage** of the worldwide total.

Congressman Mica noted that budget constraints limit the federal government's involvement in **smaller, regional airport facilities**. Congressman Mica believes that a PFC increase may help small airports make up the shortfall, as could increased flexibility in PFC distribution. Congressman Mica also noted that the state Legislature can create incentives for airlines to fly into smaller airports.

Workshop: Imminent Educational Opportunities - Elementary and Secondary Education Act Reauthorization, and Special Education Funding (IDEA)

Facilitator: U.S. Senator Bob Graham. Discussion leaders included: Congresswoman Corrine Brown, Congressman Charles Canady, Congressman Jim Davis, Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Congressman Bill McCollum, Congressman Dan Miller, Congresswoman Karen Thurman. Senator Anna Cowin, Senator Buddy Dyer, Senator Betty Holzendorf, Senator Donald Sullivan, Representative Cynthia Chestnut, Representative Willye Dennis, Representative Alex Diaz de la Portilla, Representative Evelyn Lynn, Representative Jerry Melvin, Representative Stephen Wise, Lieutenant Governor Frank

Brogan, and Florida Education Commissioner Tom Gallagher. The staff presenter was Dr. David Mosrie, Director of the Florida Division of Public Schools and Community Education.

Comments of Presenter

Dr. Mosrie began by pointing out that the 1965 **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)**, the largest federal education program, is up for reauthorization this year. The ESEA's Title I provides federal funds to school districts to aid in the education of **economically disadvantaged students**. In FY 1998 Florida received over **\$472 million** in ESEA funds (\$362 million for Title I programs). It is expected that the 1999 ESEA Reauthorization will focus on: (1) targeting class-size reduction, the Reading Excellence Act, education technology and after-school programs, with particular attention to disadvantaged children in the early years of schooling; (2) ensuring teacher quality by requiring challenging competency tests for new teachers and reducing the number of teachers that are teaching "out of field"; and (3) increasing accountability through greater flexibility for school districts making adequate progress and withholding funds from districts that are not.

Dr. Mosrie listed the following issues relating to the 1999 Reauthorization of the ESEA:

- ▶ The Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration (**CSRD**) **model** should replace the current **Title I disbursement** formula. Under CSRD grants are awarded to support a school's implementation of proven research-based reform programs.
- ▶ **Greater flexibility** is needed to pursue the reauthorization's goals. For example, a currently proposed provision would allow

withdrawal of ESEA funds from schools that are not progressing and could punish students for poor performance by adults.

► While Florida has the 4th largest population of students with limited English proficiency (LEP), Florida ranks 7th in receipt of **Title VII funds for bilingual education**. This inequity is due to the type of programs which Florida offers its LEP students.

► The process for classifying children as **migrants** for purposes of federal funding needs to be streamlined.

► **All children benefitting from Title I programs should be counted** in the formula for generation of funds so that the **benefits are not diluted**.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Dr. Mosrie commented that the federal government pays 11% of IDEA costs (compared to a 40% commitment). To cover the shortfall Florida must **reallocate existing and new state funds** from other programs to ensure that **students with disabilities** receive a **free and appropriate public education**, as required by the law. Other state concerns include increased paperwork, inequities in student discipline policies, and overly prescriptive regulations.

Discussion of Educational Opportunities

Senator Sullivan recommended **expanding ESEA programs** to include **vocational programs**. Participants suggested that the federal government should provide funding to **expand teachers' professional development** and salaries. Representative Tom Warner suggested establishing a profile of a "good teacher."

Representative Elaine Bloom recommended that Florida continue working towards having a **nurse at each school** to meet federal IDEA requirements, especially in light of the U.S.

Supreme Court decision in *Cedar Rapids Community School District v. Garret F* (March 3, 1999).

Congressman Davis recommended that Florida establish a pilot program to **identify and eliminate cumbersome federal regulations**, excluding those established for health, safety and civil rights protections.

Lieutenant Governor Brogan stated that the **role of the federal government in education** should be **limited** to expenses incurred by the state as a result of federal requirements. Mr. Brogan pointed out that implementing IDEA and the Emergency Immigration Education Act (EIEA) cost Florida over **\$1 billion** annually, and suggested that the federal government should not commit to other programs (e.g., class-size reduction and school construction) until it satisfies previous commitments.

Although different opinions were expressed on the federal government's commitment to **class-size reduction**, Senator Graham reported that bipartisan support exists for an expanded federal role in **school construction** and the creation of a **menu of options** for school districts to select the assistance that would be most helpful given the district's particular circumstances.

It was agreed that Florida should continue to work towards full funding of the federal share of IDEA, a more equitable share of funding in all ESEA programs, and greater flexibility to realize program goals.

Workshop: Imminent Opportunities for Improving Health and Human Services Funding - Impacts of Tobacco Settlement and Federal

Budget Constraints on Medicaid, TANF, Social Services Block Grant, and Developmental Disabilities Services

Facilitator: Senator William G. “Doc” Myers. Discussion leaders included: Congressman Michael Bilirakis, Congressman Charles Canady, Congressman Jim Davis, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Congressman Joe Scarborough, Senator Charlie Clary, Senator Daryl Jones, Senator Tom Rossin, Senator Ron Silver, Representative Elaine Bloom, Representative Janegale Boyd, Representative Lars Hafner, Representative Sandy Murman, Representative Durell Peaden, Representative Debby Sanderson, Florida Department of Children and Families Secretary Kathleen Kearney, Department of Health Secretary Robert G. Brooks, M.D., Department of Elder Affairs Secretary Gema G. Hernandez, and Agency for Health Care Administration Executive Director Reuben J. King-Shaw. The staff presenter was Mike Hansen, Governor’s Health and Human Services Policy Coordinator.

Comments of Presenter

Mike Hansen summarized the major issues of concern to Florida in the area of federal health and human services funding, including:

- ▶ **protecting** the monies won in **Florida’s settlement** with the **tobacco** companies from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ claims to up to 55% of the award;
- ▶ retaining the **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** and **Medicaid outreach** dollars needed to reach the Governor’s goal of increasing health insurance coverage to all medically indigent children through the Kid Care program. \$18 million of the \$22 million allocated to Florida is currently slated for reversion to the federal government this Fall unless a **time extension** for

utilizing the funding is granted, preferably with **expanded flexibility** for its use.

- ▶ maintaining Florida’s \$270 million **TANF reserve fund** to ensure a successful **welfare-to-work** transition in the case of possible future economic downturns. Administration proposals would reduce TANF reserves and limit states’ flexibility to use 10% of such funds to enhance the Title XXI Block Grant.
- ▶ obtaining a Medicaid waiver to serve Florida’s developmentally disabled citizens in home and community-based settings.

Discussion of Health and Human Services Funding Opportunities

Representative Carlos Lacasa raised the litigation between Florida and the U.S. Health Care Finance Agency (HCFA) regarding Intermediate Care Facility/Developmental Disability (ICF/DD) grant waivers. Richard Herring of the House Appropriations staff clarified that HCFA and state **interpretations of flexibility** granted by the waiver differ. Congressman Bilirakis stated that as a matter of good federal public policy, allowing for flexibility often increases the benefit of federal program allocations. Senator Myers added that there is a need to compensate for the lack of Medicaid Disproportionate Share Funding (DSH) available to Florida.

In response to several questions, Congressman Bilirakis (Chairman of the U.S. House Commerce Committee’s Subcommittee on Health and Environment) indicated that changing the **federal Medicaid matching formula (FMAP)** to increase Florida’s receipts would be **difficult**, since the change would result in both winning and losing states. Resolutions passed by the Florida Legislature

expressing desired reforms may be helpful. **Increasing the state contribution** would also increase Florida's drawdown of federal funds.

Congressman Bilirakis expressed strong support for the states keeping their **tobacco settlement monies**. State resolutions to Congress and to delegations of other states may be helpful in passing legislation to prohibit the Administration from pursuing state tobacco settlement monies. Senator Silver pointed out that it may be useful to **form coalitions** with other large, high-growth states such as Texas and California; Mr. Bilirakis agreed, especially when such states have **key members of Congress** who may be influenced by other elected officials from their state.

State officials raised the issue of **federal funding for mental health services**. Congressman Bilirakis stated that the problem at the federal level was in shaping legislation that would define assistance in a manner that would not be abused by providers and would serve a predictable incidence of need.

Secretary Brooks stated that the broad-based **Healthy Kids Coordinating Council** had formulated proposals, which would be distributed to state and federal officials, to **improve health insurance coverage for Florida's children**. Congressman Bilirakis suggested that the **Florida Washington Office** could assume a **proactive role** in informing the Congressional delegation of consensus issues of concern to state officials, as well as related proposals formulated at the state level for federal consideration.

Secretary Kearney and Senator Virginia Brown-Waite asked for more **flexibility** in the expenditure of **foster-care funds**, especially relating to match rates when spent by the state (75%) versus a private contractor (50%).

Workshop: Imminent Opportunities for Improving Florida's Environment - Everglades Restoration and the Central and South Florida Comprehensive Review Study (Restudy)

Facilitator: Congressman Porter Goss. Discussion leaders included: U.S. Senator Bob Graham, Congressman Claw Shaw, Congresswoman Corrine Brown, Congressman Peter Deutsch, Congresswoman Carrie Meek, Congressman Dan Miller, Congressman Bill McCollum, Senator Charlie Bronson, Senator Howard Forman, Senator John Laurent, Representative Lee Constantine, Representative Paula Dockery, Representative Josephus Eggelation, Representative Rick Minton, and Florida DEP Secretary David Struhs. Speaker John Thrasher and Governor Bush attended the session, as did Col. Miller of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The staff presenters were Allison DeFoor, Governor's Everglades Policy Coordinator and Michael Slayton, Deputy Director, South Florida Water Management District.

Congressman Goss introduced those present and acknowledged Governor Bush's Everglades-related efforts to date, but called for enhanced communications between the state and federal governments. Congressman Goss pointed out that the proposed **\$8 billion, 20-year Everglades Restudy** program is in a comment period; a final version will be taken up by the Congress this Summer. This is a timely opportunity to resolve issues such as **assurances to water users, equitable funding distribution, and oversight**.

Comments of Presenters

Allison DeFoor stated that Governor Bush strongly desires a **productive, complete and equal partnership** with the federal government, and urged the federal government not to treat the state and local sponsors as junior partners. Mr. DeFoor urged that restoration efforts be cost effective and based on sound science, and include an assurance package that satisfies the concerns of all stakeholders.

Michael Slayton reported that the Everglades Construction project is within time frames and within budget, and that a “triple win” agreement has been reached on the Talisman property. Mr. Slayton offered his opinion that in this federal-state cooperative venture, it is appropriate to use the **state eminent domain process** with the caveats that clarity is given on the SFWMD having the authority, that the lands needed for the Restudy are for a public purpose, and that the lands are necessary to implement that public purpose. Mr. Slayton then reiterated the call for improved and constant communication.

Discussion of Everglades Restudy

Senator Bronson and several other state legislators stated that there was a **misunderstanding** regarding legislation passed last year requiring the use of the state eminent domain process for Restudy projects, and that the state’s **commitment to Everglades restoration** should not be doubted. Senator Graham characterized the state-federal relationship as a **marriage**, requiring mutual respect over the long term. He announced that appropriator Congressman Ralph Regula (R- OH) has asked for a **General Accounting Office study** of the Everglades, which is due out in about 30 days. Congressman Deutsch stated that the federal government has spent \$1.2 billion on Everglades restoration,

making it the **single largest environmental restoration project** in the world. This is due to extraordinary consensus among the Florida delegation in working with the full Congress. Congressman Deutsch does not believe a requirement to use the state condemnation process (which he said is the most generous in the country) on 100 percent federal projects, passes “the straight face test.”

Representative Ken Sorensen pointed out that the **Florida Keys** is the recipient of water flowing from the Everglades into Florida Bay. Senator Graham responded that the Army Corps has been asked to **expand the Restudy** to include the Keys. Representative Trovillion stated that he has seen many **plans fail** over the years; while he stated his **support for the Restudy**, he **cautioned against spending too much** money on a project that may not work. Senator Forman described what he characterized as a **new spirit of cooperation** between the state and federal government on the Everglades.

Senator Laurent pointed out, in response to Congressman Deutsch’s comments, that rather than a 100 percent federal project, the Restudy is a **50-50 state-federal project**, with much of the state responsibility being the purchase of land. Senator Bronson echoed this, and Congressman Goss agreed that the point needed to be clarified.

Senator Steven Geller observed that most of the Restudy area is in his Senatorial district, and stated that the Restudy concept is probably a **sound compromise** because so many people dislike it. Senator Geller advised against waiting for a perfect solution, and stressed the urgency of taking action now.

Congressman Shaw warned against passing legislation that would cause a problem in continuing the flow of funding to the project. Senator Bronson responded that, in last year's legislation, the state was trying to address the fact that the **South Florida Water Management District** did not have the **authority to do condemnation**. He noted that Governor Chiles, in his veto of last year's legislation, said that except where contested, **the state process of condemnation should be used**. The legislation was not meant to obligate the federal government to buy land under their procedure if the state could do it; the intent was that the federal monies would be spent on other portions of the program. Congressman Shaw responded that the message that got to Washington was simply that the Florida Legislature had decided to require the state condemnation process to be used on federally funded projects, and this was the **"wrong message."** Mr. Shaw noted that the **accomplishments have been remarkable** in light of spending caps and competition for federal funds, and asked that any legislation passed to address problems with the South Florida Water Management District not have the word "condemnation" in it, as this would raise a **red flag** among federal appropriators.

Representative Constantine pointed out **how far this process has come**, from 1997 when the Water Management District was behind schedule and up to a projected \$100 million over budget, but now is **within the timeline and budget**. Communications on all levels have also improved.

Senator Laurent reiterated that the Water Management District is requesting legislation that grants it authority to do condemnation work, clarifies whether a specific piece of property is needed for the project, and whether it is for a public purpose.

In the Everglades Workshop Wrap-Up given at the Closing Session, Congressman Goss revisited this formulation, stating it may be workable and should be discussed very shortly. Congressman Goss stated that there is a commitment by all parties to get this job done, and the issues can be worked out.

Closing Session

The four **workshop facilitators** summarized their respective sessions. Senator Klein, who moderated the closing session, thanked the facilitators and staff. He stated that those assembled had begun to **institutionalize state-federal communications**; a process that will be expanded over the coming months and years with task forces, visits to Washington, and staff interaction. Senate President Jennings thanked Senator Klein and Representative Spratt, alternating chairs of the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, for their assistance in coordinating the Summit.

House Speaker Thrasher emphasized the importance of the opportunity presented by face-to-face interaction. President Jennings stated that, in addition to asking for help from Washington, legislators are willing to assist and support the Congressional delegation in any way that would be helpful. Congressman Shaw thanked the Summit hosts for the hospitality shown the delegation. President Jennings and Speaker Thrasher commented that a legislative delegation would plan a **Washington trip** this Fall, to coincide with **the federal budget process**.