

# OKEECHOBEE COMMITTEE VISITS ST. PETERSBURG TO OFFER RELIEF PLAN

(From Yesterday's Final Edition)

Financial aid that will give the residents of the hurricane-swept area in Okeechobee county an opportunity to start on the rehabilitation of the farming communities and fishing industry is now the prime necessity of that region, State Senator Leslie W. Jennings told Mayor John N. Brown and members of a local committee representing the Elks, American Legion, Kiwanis club and other organizations of St. Petersburg who met at the city hall this afternoon. Between \$50,000 and \$75,000 will be required, he estimated, chiefly to obtain a few boats, seines and similar fishing equipment, as well as tools and seed for the farmers of the district to make a new start.

"It's the sort of aid that is not within the scope of the Red Cross, and for which that organization has no funds," Mr. Jennings told the assembled men who have headed local efforts toward the relief of the stricken areas. "We hope that needs of Okeechobee will not be ignored because the district is not so well known as others that suffered in the disaster. The situation there

is serious. Plainly, it does little good to provide a man and his family with shelter and food for a brief period unless we can go a step farther and provide him with at least a start toward making their livelihood again. It is the work of rehabilitation that is now becoming most important. We cannot replace what the survivors have lost, but we are seeking your help and that of the rest of the west coast in giving them a chance to come back."

The three members of the Okeechobee committee who came here at the invitation of the local Elks committee on storm relief work included Mr. Jennings, state senator from that district; Thomas W. Conley, representative from Okeechobee county in the last state legislature, and J. Denham Bird, mayor of the city of Okeechobee. At the conclusion of the conference Mayor Brown assured them that prompt attention will be given by local committees to their appeal. It was announced that C. E. Simmons, at Okeechobee City, is treasurer of the relief committee for that county, to whom contributions to the work of rehabilitation should be sent.