

Provincetown, Mass.
Sept. 11, 1961

Ronald F. Lee
National Park Service
143 S. Third St.
Philadelphia 6, Penn.

Dear Mr. Lee:

The Emergency Committee for the Preservation of the Province Lands wishes to bring to your attention the fact that forces of political chicanery are still at work in the three towns of the Lower Cape, i.e., Wellfleet, Truro, and Provincetown, trying to make inroads on a very sound Park system.

The situation is especially serious in Wellfleet where the "heart" of the Park land must be purchased from individual owners over a long period of time. The machinery for protection during this interim period must somehow be set up without delay so that the process of preserving is begun at once. Much harm is already being done in this area by land speculators who feel they can "beat the Park", so to speak, by taking a chance on continuing development. And in Truro as well, we have a flat statement from the selectmen that they see no reason why building permits may not still be granted within the Park area.

In the matter of the Province Lands in Provincetown, we are left hanging between the State and the Federal government. Although we are hopeful that local officials will not impress the State with a misrepresentation of the town's need for expansion at this late date, we really have no positive assurance that the State will turn this land over in tact to the Park.

This is a deplorable situation for these inroads, if not positively checked, will eat into the ultimate Park area and fill it full of tiny holes like a moth-eaten blanket. It may take years to restore the original land area to its proper condition if local speculation is not somehow halted. We in Provincetown, although we have concentrated on preserving the Province Lands, are deeply concerned with the totality of the Cape Cod National Seashore Park. We urge you, therefore, with whatever means at your command to investigate, and if possible curtail, these first and most serious betrayals of the public interest.

Very Sincerely,

Josephine Del Dee, Exec. Vice Pres,
Ress Meffet, President
Emergency Committee for the
Preservation of the Province Lands