

1258 21st St. N/W
Washington 6, D.C.
July 1, 1960

Dear Mr. Moffett:

I am sorry to have been so slow in writing, but our new house has been very demanding and I've not been well. Thanks so much for the clipping from the Standard Times. I enclose Globe account, mentioning Frazier's counter-attack, which I would like to have back. (Dois voler - got another copy)

Well, it was a most interesting occasion, made doubly interesting by our guest, Dr. Chermayeff, who is a colorful and brilliant person. I don't know what was accomplished by the hearing, but at least the whole experience was very illuminating, at least for me.

As you know, the House hearing opened with the sobering announcement by Aspinall that there would be no final action at this session. I think this decision was in large measure owing to Keith's doubts about his bill. Aspinall and the committee were deferring to the local congressman. The Cape Codder reported that Aspinall had told them he had postponed action because he was convinced the bill would be defeated if voted on at this session. Maybe so, but if Keith had stood up for his own bill, the story might have been different. Keith has not helped himself by being so wishy-washy. His own staff disagrees with him, the Massachusetts Senators are disgusted, I hear, and there is talk of running someone else for his seat.

The House committee allowed the opposition witnesses more time than the pro. Ex-congressman Nicholson was permitted to read a dull and very lengthy diatribe after he had been told he could have only 10 minutes, the selectmen and Keith spoke for a mutilated park, ~~with~~ and Norman Cook spoke again. Several congressmen spoke briefly in favor, ~~xxxxxx~~ Commissioner Foster spoke in favor, but was cut short in a rather rude fashion by the chair. At the end, Biddle, Chermayeff, Henry Guild, Robert Levy and I had almost no time at all, to the obvious annoyance of Chermayeff, Guild and Levy. In an effort to compensate, we five were placed first on the agenda at the Senate hearing.

Biddle spoke well and I found no fault with what he said. I think he has changed his position quite drastically. Chermayeff, who knows him well, says he is quite disillusioned with Frazier, who lied to him on several occasions. Guild is an impressive figure, and he spoke eloquently on the need for the park. He corrected the impression that Frazier had tried to leave in his morning testimony that the government would take people's houses. Chermayeff hit hard and effectively at the real estate interests

leading the opposition. Levy emphasized the point that the park is not a local affair and that many summer visitors from all over are in favor. I read the enclosed, except that I softened it considerably, omitting all the generalizations, and I tied the building in the park area to defiance of the retro-active provisions in the bill.

When it came time for Frazier to testify, he hit back at Chermayeff, Levy and me. He tried to discredit us by implying that we were comparative newcomers and that we would not be seriously affected by the park. He implied that most of my signatures were those of people who would not be affected. In his own defense he said that land on Griffin and Bound Brook islands is protected ~~from~~ by covenants from subdivision into small lots. (As Chermayeff pointed out, this is not the issue; Even if lots are 10 acres, roads will go through and destroy the area from the point of view of conservation.) He took a great deal of time to say what he had said already and I had the feeling that he was being given rope wherewith to hang himself. He attacked the Park Service ~~at~~ for refusing, ~~to~~ he said, to meet with town officials. This statement was effectively and dramatically squashed by Mr. Martin, a former assistant to Saltonstall.

At the House committee hearing, Worthington, though seeming unenthusiastic, was apparently quite willing to present the ~~t~~ proposal ~~for~~ of the Truro selectmen for new boundaries. At the Senate hearing, however, he spoke with his head down and his eyes on the floor, in a low, weak voice, as if he did not believe in his testimony and was very reluctant to give it. I do not know the explanation as I did not talk to him at all.

John Snow referred to the advocates of the park with boundaries as proposed in the S.K.K. bill as "do-gooders." I never did believe that he could really be for the park as proposed, though he seemingly said so some months ago, and of course he is not. He wants it on his own terms and those terms include the ceding by the State to Provincetown of nearly 1500 acres of the Province Lands--all those lands, I believe, except the dunes themselves. A bill is now before the Legislature and Snow is convinced that it will pass. (He and Town Manager Lawrence spoke to me after the hearings. To their seeming surprise, I told them I thought it would be an awful mistake.) However, Foster told me he was not very happy about the proposal and that it would probably be sent back to committee for further consideration. Holborn in Kennedy's office said it has no more chance than a snow ball in hell. I hope he is right. Provincetown seems to have engaged a prize boob named Bates to plan the development of this land.

Snow gave the impression that the Park Service approves P'towns grab. But we saw Ben Thompson Wednesday and that is not so--they are staying strictly out of it. Thompson is not at all happy about the boundaries proposed by the selectmen of the towns affected. He says that the original plan left out the thickly settled areas, the SKK bill took care of homeowners in the park, the park was already the next to smallest in the country, the selectmen's boundaries would

cut up the area and would exclude from the park 40 of the 65 houses that were built prior to 1850 on which the P.S. had data from the American Historic Buildings preliminary survey. He thinks many of the owners would bitterly regret being left out of the park. The purpose of the park, he said, is to preserve a unique area and still leave room for village growth. He agreed with Biddle that park use should not be allowed to spoil the area.

He said he thought that Provincetown would need some extra land for accommodations, but seemed to agree with Chermayeff that with proper planning, the town could accommodate a great many more visitors than at present. He pointed to the development along Beach Point as a wasteful type of development.

Chermayeff believes that the whole approach of the selectmen is in error,--spreading small houses all over the place. He says there is plenty of room in Wellfleet, for instance, for development within the present town center and along the harbor. If properly planned, he says, such development would give Wellfleet and Truro center a character they now lack and which Provincetown, which was forced to concentrate, possesses. I see his point. Certainly one has only to look at the housing developments pock marking the landscape around our cities ~~to know that~~ (especially evident from the air) to know that they are consuming at a frightening rate our woods and fields and vacant lands and that they are formless and senseless.

To return to Provincetown. Johnny and I think this man Bates is a real idiot. His plans for the town encompass a greatly expanded road system down the Cape, a country club ~~in the lands to be acquired~~ and tourist havens to replace our woods. He even talks about a bridge from Quoncy to Provincetown and spending billions instead of millions to "improve" the Cape. Frankie's idea of rural residences for native sons is not Snow's or Bates or, I gather, Lawrence's idea. What do you know about this?

I enclose a letter just received from Robert Levy. Do let me hear from you.

Best regards from us both to the two of you,

Levinia DeLo