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## Senate Avoids Conflict In Cape Park Hearings

# Will Air Issue After House

## Sessions Expected March 20 or Later

PROVINCETOWN, Feb. 22—The U.S. Senate will not hold public hearings on the new Cape Cod National Seashore Park bill filed by Senators Saltonstall and Smith of Massachusetts in conjunction with the House hearings to be held March 6 and 7.

Provincetown Selectman John C. Snow said today he was informed by Senator Smith yesterday that hearings on the new Senate bill would not be held before March 20 and probably "not earlier than April."

Concern was expressed by several Cape officials over the possibility that the Senate hearings also would be held during the week of March 6 in Washington. There was almost unanimous opposition on the Cape to the House hearings being held at a time when most local officials would be busy with local town meetings, elections, and other municipal matters which normally take place at town meeting time.

### Objections Explained

They were even more emphatic in their objection to the Senate hearings being held at this time because the hearings would be on an entirely new bill and most local officials would be prevented from attending the Washington sessions because of the pressure of municipal affairs.

Chatham Selectman Robert McNeece summed up the feeling when he said that although it was unfortunate that the House had scheduled hearings on the bill filed by Congressman Hastings Keith in March, at least local officials and interested individuals had had an opportunity to be heard on this particular bill at hearings held in Washington last June and in Eastham in December.

"The new Senate bill is another matter, however," Mr. McNeece said. "Scheduling of hearings on this new bill at a time when local officials could not get away to testify would be most unfortunate in that it would eliminate the possibility of local officials from presenting their views and those of residents of the Cape at the hearing."

"This would be particularly unfortunate in view of the fact that officials in the six towns directly involved in the Cape Cod National Seashore Park proposal have expressed their dissatisfaction with the boundary revisions as outlined in the new bill filed by Senators Saltonstall and Smith."

not Washington (??)



## Aid Sought

Mr. McNeece, who was notified of the dates for the new and final House hearings by Congressman Keith on Friday, sought Mr. Keith's aid in securing a postponement of the hearings. The Cape representative reported later the same day that he had contacted Congressman J. T. Rutherford (D.-Texas), chairman of the new subcommittee on national parks which would conduct the sessions, but had been informed that due to a heavy calendar a postponement would be impossible.

In the meantime Mr. McNeece had contacted Mr. Snow in Provincetown and asked him to get in touch with Senator Smith to see what could be done about a postponement of the hearings.

In a telephone conversation with the Senator yesterday at his Washington office, Mr. Snow was informed that a similar request to the subcommittee chairman that House hearings be postponed was to no avail.

"Senator Smith contacted Congressman Rutherford in an attempt to get a postponement, but was informed that because of the extremely heavy schedule of hearings for his subcommittee such a postponement would not be possible," Mr. Snow said.

### Assurance Given

"Our new Senator did assure me, however, that the hearings on the new bill filed in the Senate would not be held before March 20 and probably would not take place earlier than April."

Mr. Snow said he was leaving for Washington today and that he planned to be there for several days during which he hoped to confer with both Senator Smith and Congressman Keith on the national park proposal and on other matters.

The Provincetown selectman said the early dates for the hearings were unusual, but were the result of efforts by Mr. Keith and by Senators Smith and Saltonstall to bring about early action on the national park proposal.

"There has been, ever since the Cape Cod National Seashore Park proposal was first made public, an atmosphere of uncer-

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