

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

## Peru Forest Recreation Area Closed

### Kenney's Office Explains Why Action Was Taken

Definite closing of the recreational facilities of Peru State Forest was confirmed today by Commissioner Raymond J. Kenney of the State Department of Conservation through Bartol Parker, supervisor of public relations for the department. His letter came to The Eagle in answer to complaints from various citizens and officials over the removal of facilities, including picnic tables, benches and fireplace grates.

Three main reasons for closing the area, according to Mr. Parker, are: There are no toilets, no drinking water; the small swimming pond has silted up so as to be a potential danger to children.

Moreover, said the letter, the commissioner has decided upon a policy of furnishing proper supervision in all areas where the public is invited by the provision of recreational facilities. Because of limits on personnel, due to slim funds, it is impossible to provide supervision at all the state areas. Hence the necessity for closing certain of the less used ones.

"It was with genuine regret that the Commissioner found it necessary to apply this policy to the beautiful area at the Peru Forest, but for the reasons given, together with the fact that its popularity was limited to the few who knew it well, there seemed no way of avoiding the action taken," wrote Mr. Parker.