

# SOVIET-U.S. 'RACE' AT FAIR EXPECTED

## Talk of Biggest Structure Recalls '39 Competition

By GAY TALESE

The Soviet Union and the United States may again be involved in a "space race" at the 1964-65 New York World's Fair—a race to determine which nation's official building will be bigger.

Having the tallest building at the fair is apparently important to the national egos of leading world powers. At the 1939 New York World's Fair, the Soviet Union built the tallest structure. But, as one United States Fair official predicted last week:

"You can be very well assured that in 1964 Russia will not have the highest building at the fair."

He declined to elaborate, nor would he hint the identity of the American architect or the type structure he planned at Flushing Meadow Park. The Russians also have kept such details secret.

Both countries, however, have already received permission from the fair to occupy more land and to build taller buildings than regulations usually allow. The Soviet Union has rented 78,000 square feet of space—28,000 more than the usual limit—and the United States has reserved 196,349 feet. Both countries also will be permitted to exceed the eighty-foot limit usually placed on the height of buildings.

### Senators Voice Fears

Senators Kenneth B. Keating and Jacob K. Javits of New York have issued statements in the last fortnight calling attention to what they consider Soviet ambitions to dominate the fair architecturally. Both also lamented the fact that funds for the United States buildings so far have been held up because of a squabble between the Senate and House on procedures for money bills.

In the 1939 Fair, it was recalled yesterday by fair officials, the Soviet Union's exhibit, towering 188 feet, soared above the Stars and Stripes atop the American exhibit. So, an official recalled, the United States quickly erected two gigantic American flagpoles near the lagoon. Each exceeded 188 feet.

Then the Russians planned to top their building with a statue of Stalin, but World's Fair officials overruled them.

The Russians were permitted to erect a seventy-five-foot stainless steel statue of a worker—a figure that many American officials later swore was Stalin in his younger days.

At any rate, the statue, with its base, pushed the Soviet building's height to 267 feet. This inspired indignant United States citizens to put an American flag atop the parachute jump—270 feet high.

This pacified some United States visitors—who also pointed out that the 700-foot-high trylon tower over all else—but it was not completely satisfactory to others. As a result, fair officials recalled, the American flagpoles near the lagoon also were soon increased in height. Thus ended the 1939-40 space race.

Now everybody at Flushing Meadow Park is curious as to what looms ahead between the Soviet Union and the United States in the 1964-65 race.

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