

# Music Hall: Krupsak blames regime for woes

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Lt. Gov. Mary Ann Krupsak, leading the fight to save Radio City Music Hall, said today she was "convinced there has been a policy by Rockefeller Center to let Radio City Music Hall go downhill."

She said a study showed that the management over the past 10 years had stacked the deck against the theater, placing a "disproportionate tax burden, management costs and other expenses" on the 6500-seat theater to show it no longer was economically viable as a movie house.

Her accusations came just before the opening of a day-long hearing by the Landmarks Preservation Commission on a proposal to give the 45-year-old theater landmark status. That would allow supporters a year to formulate an economically feasible plan to rescue the theater.

Advantages—might come within two weeks, he said, if there was no interference from the Rockefeller Center management.

Rockefeller Center has announced the theater will be closed April 12.

## OPPOSES LANDMARK

Alton Marshall, head of both Rockefeller Center Inc. and the Radio City Music Hall Corp., strongly—sometimes angrily—argued against landmark designation and threatened to go to court to block it if necessary.

He said designation "could well be the last nail in the Music Hall's coffin" because it would halt alterations of the theater's interior.

Instead, Marshall proposed an informal agreement, lasting until November, that no steps would be taken on the interior without first consulting the Landmarks Commission.

"Certainly this is adequate time to determine whether a viable solution for entertainment usage can be designed," Marshall told the commission.

He said landmark status would "leave me no choice but to apply for a permit to demolish" in order to be free to act as soon as the one-year landmark protection expires.

Noting that the firm had lost \$10 million in recent years trying to present fam-

ily-type entertainment profitably, Marshall said the center would welcome alternative proposals only if they were in keeping with "traditional forms of entertainment."

## PAPP'S CRITICISM

Producer Joseph Papp, while agreeing with Marshall that New York's changing population and entertainment preferences had caused much of the economic hardship for Radio City, contended that the management "has not adequately dealt with that change . . . In a city of this size there is no reason you can't fix this theater if it is handled properly."