

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Book Building Solutions Sought

An unspecified number of "private, interested Dallas citizens" is forming a group to review suggestions for, and possibly buy, the old Texas School Book Depository Building, The Dallas News learned Sunday.

City Councilman Fred Zeder said a 7:30 a.m. breakfast meeting has been scheduled for the group Monday. He declined to name the location. The group has no chairman.

Zeder said the group may raise funds to buy the building and "do something appropriate" or "get some suggestions of what might be appropriate."

The building, at Elm and Houston is the location from which Lee Harvey Oswald is accused of shooting and killing President John F. Kennedy Nov. 22, 1963.

Zeder, who feels there is "no saving grace" to the building, said the site might be used as a park, for a school, or as a memorial or museum for the city so "people can understand the true background of Dallas."

COUNCILMEN ZEDER and Russell Smith will present a resolution to the council Monday designed to change an earlier resolution, passed Tuesday, made by Councilman Garry Weber.

That resolution put a freeze on the city issuing any permits to change the site and asked that the building be placed under the National Historical Sites Commission.

Zeder and Smith opposed the resolution and will ask the council to rescind it or rescind all but the freeze on permits.

The new proposal, to be made by

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Zeder and seconded by Smith, also will invite private enterprise to make proposals concerning the building and site.

Weber issued a statement Sunday saying "I am unable to understand Zeder's and Smith's continued opposition" to his resolution.

"I hope they will realize that we are all in basic accord on our goals and will join with the majority of the council to do what is best for Dallas.

"MY RESOLUTION," Weber said, "does not involve any tax expenditures at this point. It does not mean the building will or must be preserved."

Weber said the National Historical Sites Commission, if given jurisdiction on the building, "may well decide to raze it and make some other fitting use of the site.

"All my resolution is designed to accomplish is to make certain the depository building will never fall into the hands of private promoters or of any who would use it for purposes detrimental to Dallas, or to the memory of President Kennedy."

Weber said he wants the building and the site made public property so that elected officials, responsible to the people, "can make the best judgment of its final disposition."

Both Zeder and Smith felt Weber's resolution sought to preserve the site as is. Smith said Sunday that millions of dollars would be spent refurbishing it and "then when we do get it, I'm not sure what we're going to do with it except make it a shrine to Oswald."

Smith also said, "Neither of us has any qualms about going along with the freeze on permits and demolition until the council decides what it wants to do."

He feels the building has no value as a historic site. "President Kennedy never stepped inside the building; it just has a window a sniper sat in."

WEBER SAID SUNDAY "a 10-year charade" of activities has surrounded the building and site, giving Dallas "a black eye nationally."

"For 10 years, it's been kicked around," he said. "If we don't take this action, there's the possibility it will go to another promoter."

Weber's resolution called for application for federal funds to maintain and preserve the site under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.