

# Landmarks & Ethics

By **ROBERTA K. GRATZ**

The Board of Ethics ruled today that the Landmarks Preservation Commission could not solicit or accept contributions "from private interests, including banks, with a possible stake in commission decisions.

The order barred donations from sources if it could be "reasonably expected that they may have matters coming before the commission or if the contributor is or may be interested in a determination of the commission."

The commission had asked for guidelines in connection with the acceptance or soli-

citation of contributions for the Landmarks Preservation Fund of the Cultural Council Foundation of which members of the commission are trustees.

The fund, totaling approximately \$20,000 and accumulated over five years, makes loans for the purchase or restoration of designated landmarks and to provide architectural and other professional services. The fund may engage in research, publication, education and other informational activities concerning its work.

Frank Gilbert, executive director of the commission,

explained that gifts had included speaking fees of staff members, donations for purchase of research material and books for the commission library and restricted grants for the upkeep of specific landmarks.

The board ruled that the commission could solicit and accept funds from governmental agencies — such as the State Council of the Arts, from quasi-public organizations — such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and established foundations but it specifically ruled against accepting funds from private interests, individual or corporate.