

Krupsak aims some high kicks at the Music Hall

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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.

LEHMAN ACTS

A significant step to save the theater was taken by State Parks Commissioner Orin Lehman, who announced he has nominated the Music Hall for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Approval of that designation—which could bring tax 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.

STUDIES MADE

Miss Krupsak, leading off an impressive gathering of witnesses backing the rescue of the theater, said at the City Hall hearing today she based her charges on studies made by a staff of economic advisers to the "Save Radio City" movement.

They noted that the theater is on a valuable corner of real estate at a time when there is again an impending citywide shortage of office space.

HOPEFUL VIEW

She said she was convinced there were ways to make it a viable entertainment property again if the center's management could be forced to halt its present policies.

The Music Hall's management, Rockefeller Center Inc., opposes Landmark status and says it intends to fight that designation. Alton Marshall, Music Hall president, has said that the Music Hall is prepared to go to court to keep from being designated a landmark. Such status would bar the theater's owners from razing or altering the structure for a year; in that time civic and cultural groups would have an opportunity to propose a solution to the Music Hall's financial crisis.