

# FAIR RESTRAINED IN BUILDING FIGHT

## Would Raze Pavilion It Says Can't Be Ready in Time

By **ROBERT E. TOMASSON**

Officials of the New York World's Fair were temporarily prevented by court order yesterday from razing the partly completed skeleton of the World of Food Pavilion, one of the most prominent exhibitions planned for the 1964-65 fair.

The restraining order was signed by State Supreme Court Justice Saul S. Streit after the fair was ordered to show cause Thursday why construction of the pavilion should not proceed as planned.

The pavilion is now a steel framework standing 75 feet from the main gate and occupying 30,000 square feet of a 50,000-square-foot plot. Plans call for 86,000 square feet of floor space on three floors.

The dispute is over whether the building can be completed in time for the fair's opening April 22. Fair officials maintain it cannot possibly be finished before June 15 and would thus present a first impression of incompleteness to the fair's visitors.

### Insist Date Will Be Met

However, spokesmen for the World of Food, Inc., insisted yesterday that their building would be virtually completed by the opening date and that if it were to be destroyed now \$1 million in rent and construction costs would be lost as well as hundreds of thousands of dollars spent in promotional campaigns by the pavilion's 60 exhibitors.

While officials of the "billion-dollar fair" have issued almost daily progress reports on the exposition in Flushing Meadows, Queens, there was no announcement of their efforts to level the superstructure.

The World of Food corporation said in court papers that the fair ordered a halt to construction Thursday afternoon without any written notification. The restraining order will permit resumption of work and a pavilion spokesman said that construction crews would be at the site at 8 A. M. today.

Martin Stone, director of the fair's industrial section, confirmed yesterday the work stop order. He added that the pavilion site would be landscaped.

Mr. Stone said that the area would form a park area in front of the Billy Graham pavilion, which now stands behind the food pavilion.

Mr. Stone said that the June 15 completion date had been projected by engineers employed by the fair and was based on ideal weather conditions and "excellent financing conditions," which, he said, the pavilion promoters do not have.

He said that ever since a contract was signed on Feb. 26, 1962, pavilion officials have had serious problems in obtaining sufficient financing.