

Troy Group Seeks To Put Uncle Sam In the World's Fair



Samuel Wilson of Troy

A committee of citizens in Troy, N. Y., expressed indignation yesterday that "their" Uncle Sam had been denied a permanent place in the New York exhibit at the World's Fair.

The exhibit would include memorabilia, now reposing in the Library of Congress, of Samuel Wilson, a meat packer in Troy from 1789 to 1854. He was certified by Congress in 1961, after lengthy debate, as the bearded model for the national symbol.

Since then, the National Committee for Uncle Sam has undertaken to educate the nation to the fact that Uncle Sam was not a cartoonist's caricature but "a flesh and blood American who fought for the ideals that made this country great."

Lieut. Gov. Malcolm Wilson, chairman of the New York State Commission on the World's Fair, said yesterday that the committee's request for a permanent exhibit "did not conform to our policy of having exhibits from state and city departments."

But he noted that various areas of the state would have their days during the two-year run of the fair. For Rensselaer County Day, for example, the citizens of Troy could decide to include an exhibit about Uncle Sam Wilson.

The committee's executive director, Thomas I. Gerson, said he would appeal to Governor Rockefeller for support for a permanent exhibit. Failing that, Mr. Gerson said, he would look to the state of Massachusetts, where Uncle Sam Wilson was born.