

Gate Sags; Fair Quiets Exhibitor Bally System

In World's Fair developments over the past week, the attendance pace ground to a shuddering halt as school resumed, and the administration fell back on its favorite weapon—Pinkerton and maintenance workers—to rip out the African Pavilion's loud-speaker system.

Amusement rides continued to crop up and concession games likewise appeared in various pavilions as the fair's initial season neared its Oct. 18 finale. The Hong Kong Pavilion had several games working last week and three rides—among them an Octopus and Double Loop-o-Plane—arrived on the scene Tuesday (15).

The loudspeaker incident was accompanied by charges and counter-charges, but the fair had its way and even arrested the pavilion's personnel director for disorderly conduct. What happened: 24 Pinkertons stood guard as eight maintenance men raised a ladder and tore out four speakers that faced the Unisphere. Later they returned and cut the wires of two other horns. The orders were issued by Stuart Constable, vice-president of operations.

There was nothing in writing. Fairmen said the pavilion had been ordered to keep the noise level down to where it couldn't be heard more than 100 feet away, but that the ballyhoo talkers could be heard 1,000 feet away. The pavilion denied this and threatened court action, saying it had not violated its lease.

Attendance woes began in earnest when only 93,175 persons turned out Sunday (14) and 114,439 the next day. The Wednesday count was 170,099, a daily average of 192,695 for 148 days. About 20 per cent of the total represents pavilion workers, press and others admitted free.

Beaten performer Barbara Woodcock remained in serious condition after being manhandled, along with her husband Bill, by early-hour tormentors of their elephants at the Continental Circus (AB, Sept. 19). The act has been withdrawn from the program. In another change the Stephensons, with their equestrian and dog routines, leave to rejoin the Ringling-Barnum Circus, Sept. 23 in St. Louis.

An angry Moses lashed out at newspaper critics of his fair policies. Robert Moses, addressing the New York Publishers Association, said the critics are "not representative of the profession." Some excerpts from his blast: "Newspaper critics are 'local sharpshooters who accentuate the negative,' and can be described as 'raving hyenas, scavengers, jackals, parrots and vultures who should be kept behind moats in the Bronx Zoo.'"

Top draw continued to be the big

General Motors Futurama, which clocked its 13,180,001st visitor Sept. 11, surpassing its record set at the 1939-1940 World's Fair.