

Shorefront Meat

The forces of inertia bowl right along in city government, and the controversy over the Brooklyn meat market site remains unresolved. What makes the inaction in administrative circles more distressing than usual is that, for once, the solutions are at hand.

The Brooklyn shorefront site selected for the market under a variety of pressures is a giant step in the wrong direction for the city's future. It wastes one of New York's scarcest resources—prime waterfront land—when city policy is to reverse such land's traditional misuses for industry and return it to uses for people. It throws away the potential of uniting black and white communities in the area between the Manhattan and Brooklyn Bridges through a badly needed school and recreation facility requested by both neighborhoods. It also loses the chance for relieving the housing shortage on a site with a vista of lower Manhattan.

Eager sponsors for that housing are knocking at the city's door. The State Urban Development Corporation has signaled its willingness to build there; Bethlehem Steel stands ready to negotiate. The obstacle to such a constructive solution is the Economic Development Administration's refusal to consider relocating the market in the Brooklyn Navy Yard now that this land is finally available and being redeveloped for industry.

A little more interagency vision and action on the city's total planning would not be out of place. The view from the bridges is splendid. But the view from E.D.A. remains murky.