

# MEMORIAL DESIGN FACES HOUSE UNIT

## Abstract Monument Would Honor F. D. Roosevelt

By ADA LOUISE HUXTABLE

The controversial and much publicized design for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial for Washington was believed by many to be a lost cause after its rejection by the capital's Commission of Fine Arts this spring.

However, it will resume its battle for existence at a hearing before a Congressional committee Friday on a move to allow it to be built by public subscription rather than appropriated funds.

The proposal for a strikingly modern, abstract arrangement of eight huge concrete slabs bearing Roosevelt quotations was selected by an architectural jury in December, 1960, after a nation-wide competition.

The winner was the firm of Pedersen and Tilney, New York architects.

Attacked immediately as too extreme by a large part of the public and press, the monument won the first round of its fight for survival with its acceptance by the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission, a year later. The second round was lost with Fine Arts Commission's disapproval.

In accordance with the procedure required of all public monuments using public funds in the nation's capital, at least two more major hurdles remain, including approval by the National Parks Commission and appropriation of \$4,500,000 by Congress. The prospect for appropriation is particularly poor in the light of mixed public opinion and concept, is to be added in ac-

Congress's traditional distrust of avant-garde art.

It was to eliminate this problem that a resolution was recently introduced in the House of Representatives, enabling the memorial to be erected by private, rather than public, funds. The hearing Friday concerns this joint resolution. It calls for approval by Congress of the memorial design, authorization to raise construction funds by public subscription, and an appropriation of \$200,000 to carry out the provisions of the bill.

It also specifies that one important modification is to be made in the prize-winning scheme. A statue or bas-relief of Roosevelt, which was not part of the original abstract

cordance with the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts, a concession to the Commission's criticism of the design.

The resolution has been submitted to the House by Representatives Katharine St. George, Representative of Tuxedo Park, and Eugene J. Keogh, Democrat of Brooklyn, who are also vice chairman and secretary of the memorial commission. The hearing will be held before Representative Paul C. Jones, Democrat of Missouri, who is chairman of the Subcommittee on Enrolled Bills and Library of the Committee on House Administration.