

# MOSES IS RESCUED FROM AN ART ERROR

## At Least, Curran Has Warned Him It Would Be Mistake to Light Hudson's Statue

Deputy Mayor Henry H. Curran, it was learned yesterday, has saved Robert Moses, Commissioner of Parks, from the artistic mistake of floodlighting the monument to Henry Hudson that stands atop a 100-foot Doric column near Mr. Moses's double-decker bridge for the Henry Hudson Parkway.

It seems Mr. Moses suggested to Mayor La Guardia that the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity should find a way to illuminate the monument to Hudson, who once plied the waters of the near-by stream, also named for him. Mr. Curran, who presides over downtown City Hall during the Mayor's sortie into the World's Fair site, went scouting.

After examining the statue and column, designed by the late Karl Bitter, noted American sculptor, the Deputy Mayor, in a letter written even before the recent dreary rainy

season, advised and admonished Mr. Moses as follows:

"I took a good look yesterday at the statue of Henry Hudson at Spuyten Duyvil. It is the ugliest statue in New York, and that is saying a whole lot.

"The shaft is ugly, the figure is ugly, the whole thing is ugly.

"A barber pole would be better.

"Now just forget your idea of lighting it up at night.

"If you could dig a hole at Spuyten Duyvil and let the statue drop into it some night, and then cover it over nicely, that would be the best way to handle it.

"Is there some kind of shadow you could turn on this statue that would make it look dark in the daytime so that nobody would ever have to look at it at any time?

"Another way out is to put up a fine statue of yourself and turn a million dollars worth of floodlighting on Robert Moses, who is my own particular and pet beacon—under certain conditions."

The 16-foot bronze statue was placed on the column last year. Mr. Moses had it sculptured by Karl H. Gruppe from the model by Mr. Bitter.

In a few postscripts to the same letter Mr. Curran proposes to Mr. Moses that he arrange a rendezvous some night between Hudson and the "young lady who stands so shrinkingly upon the collar button there at Fifth Avenue and Fifty-eighth Street" so they will elope to Secaucus, to the relief of a "long suffering city." The shrinking young lady was sculptured by Mr. Bitter.