

February 17, 1954.

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Mr. Frank D. Schroth, Sr.,
Brooklyn Daily Eagle,
21 Johnson Street,
Brooklyn 1, N. Y.

Dear Frank:

Thank you for letting me see the letter which I return herewith.

This morning I walked through Ft. Greene Place and around the block which is occupied by market warehouses in poor condition. I cannot imagine that any families live over these stalls as conditions would be intolerable. There are, however, some families occupying substandard houses on the back side of the block. I was encouraged to realize that there would not be too much of a "displaced" family problem. As the market is presently operated traffic is almost completely blocked on Ft. Greene Place. I left the car on Atlantic Avenue and walked through as there was no flow of traffic. Atlantic Avenue itself was blocked off by trucks and cars parked 3 and 4 deep. It seems that a study of this area could improve the flow of traffic. The Long Island Railroad depot is an unworthy structure. Proceeding past the depot up Hanson Place there did not appear to be anything of substantial importance.

I believe that we really have a possible location at this site. It might very well appeal to Bob. The site does not appear to violate the thought expressed in the last sentence of Bob's letter. Out of this could come a new ball park, a parking garage, a new railroad depot and the elimination of a bad traffic bottleneck. Assuming that the railroad would cooperate with us I still do not have a firm answer to the first sentence in Bob's letter. I have hopes that a study of the railroad's power to condemn land for railroad purposes might give us a peg on which to hang the hat. The problem is sufficiently interesting to cause us to inquire if we should consider additional legislation.

John Cashmore said that the Fort Greene market proprietors were looking to move elsewhere. This might open the door to the possibility of acquiring the Fort Greene Place block at private sale but I suppose that there would still be enough parcel owners who would hold out to make such a transaction incomplete and therefore, not practical. Ft. Greene Place would have to be closed.

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In any event I have asked Capt. Praeger to make a study of the site and see what he can come up with in the way of an engineering solution. In the meantime it would be helpful to have the matter receive Bob's attention. In each of the other sites I have trespassed on the uses but here is one that I hope proves to be virgin, and perhaps the problem can be studied without other distractions.

I do want to thank you for the time you have given me on this matter.

Sincerely,

Walter F. O'Malley,
President.

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