



# REGIONAL PLAN ASSOCIATION, INC.

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## NEWS RELEASE

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Mrs. Marshall Field, President of the Citizens' Committee for Children of New York yesterday (Thursday) told representatives of 35 civic organizations that "Breezy Point should not be sold for a mess of pottage or a massive project." The organizations, meeting at Freedom House, heard various other speakers call upon Mayor Wagner and Governor Rockefeller to get together quickly to plan joint action which would preserve the 1159 acre tract at Rockaway Point for a public park and beach. A large portion of the property has been bought by private developers for high-rise apartment houses.

Mrs. Field said that this morning Governor Rockefeller had sent her a telegram stating that he is "enthusiastic" about the possibility of developing the area for park use, and that "the State will cooperate in every way possible." Governor Rockefeller pointed out, however, that the City must act first and he awaits such action.

Mrs. Field, who presided at the meeting, said that Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall has declared that Breezy Point would be given "the number one priority" by the Federal Government to help the City acquire the property, and that a substantial amount of federal financing would be made available for that purpose. In addition, she said, Udall has promised to help the City obtain Fort Tilden, which is part of the proposed park area, for a reasonable sum.

"Breezy Point is the Central Park opportunity of our generation," Mrs. Field said. "We must approach it as trustees for generations to come. If we give it away or allow it to be taken from us, it can never be reclaimed. The opportunity before us is one of the greatest of our time, because Breezy Point represents the last large tract of oceanfront property available for public beach and park within the City limits. It must be made available to 16 million residents of the metropolitan area who can enjoy its benefits for themselves, for their children, and for the generations yet to come."

Other speakers at the meeting included: Whitney North Seymour, former president of the American Bar Association; Otto L. Nelson, Jr., vice president of New York Life Insurance Company and C. McKim Norton, executive vice president of the Regional Plan Association.

Mr. Norton stated that he was heartened by the quick response of the Mayor, Governor and Secretary of the Interior in endorsing the idea of the park, and said that "Now that there is a joint will to act, the way is clear to move ahead." Mr. Norton urged that immediate joint action by City, State and National governments be taken to "forestall any building developments at Breezy Point."

At the meeting each of the participating civic and church leaders were asked to help demonstrate the great public interest in the park by contacting public officials and taking whatever further action they felt appropriate.

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