

GARAGES UNDER GRANT PARK WIN COURT APPROVAL

Parking Plan to Go to High-Tribunal

Judge Benjamin P. Epstein of Circuit court ruled yesterday the park district has the right to construct underground parking garages in Grant park along Michigan av. and to finance them thru sale of revenue bonds.

The ruling came in a friendly test suit which is to be carried to the Illinois Supreme court. Park officials hope for a favorable ruling by the Supreme court in its March term, which would clear the way for construction to begin next fall.

Would Park 4,000 Cars

The park district is planning two garages to cost an estimated 13½ million dollars and park 4,000 cars. They would be built under Michigan av. and Grant park, with one extending from Randolph st. to Monroe st. and the other from Jackson blvd. to Harrison st.

The plaintiff was the Michigan Boulevard Building company, 30 N. Michigan av., represented by Atty. Robert S. Cushman. The suit was sponsored by the State Street council, Chicago Association of Commerce, Wabash Avenue association, and Michigan Boulevard association. Cushman said the appeal would be filed promptly.

The park district garages and five surface garages planned by the city in and near the Loop are part of a program intended to help solve the downtown parking problem.

Bond Sale Under Fire

The test suit asked an injunction restraining the park district from selling the revenue bonds, contending that as a nonprofit corporation the park district has no right to issue the bonds or pledge revenue from them.

The suit also asked a declaratory judgment that the park board has no right to permit use of park land for such a purpose. Altho the garages would be underground, .37 of an acre would be used for ramps and vents.

Epstein ruled on the basis of facts to which parties to the litigation had stipulated. The legislature last year enacted laws authorizing the park district to construct underground garages and finance them thru sale of revenue bonds.