

AN OPEN LETTER TO: Science-Fiction Times, Inc.
P. O. Box 115, Solvay Branch
Syracuse 9, New York

Dear Fugghead House:

I am against Mr. Taurasi's (let's differentiate, Sr., not Jr.) singular proposal for a New York convention in 1964. I am irrevocably opposed to any disruption of the present rotation plan as it applies to sf conventions.

d/w Fanzines
It would be unfair to ask some west-division city to step aside so 2 east-division cities could have the convention 2 years running. It would be inconsiderate, to say the least, to expect convention-going fans (a category apparently excluding S-F Times) to go to either Washington or Philadelphia in 1963; again to New York 1 year later. In view of the fact that Washington has been campaigning for 2 years, Philly for 1, it would be stupid to expect them to withdraw in favor of a west-division city for 1963 so the east-division could have 1964.

Just to clear the records, the 25th Anniversary SF Convention, most everyone knows, will fall in 1967, not 1964. You are quite correct in calling 1964, the 25th Anniversary year of the first convention, due to the war-time lapses, but kindly do not try to take away anything that belongs to the 1967 consite by usurping it in 1964.

Why would it be necessary to change the Labor Day tradition? The July 4th weekend is just as busy, just as deadly and a damn lot hotter. Most of us will long remember the last New York con, not by reason of any cooperative action on the part of the New York groups, but simply because of the HOT Biltmore.

Are you so naive as to suppose that the support of a few non-fan oriented magazine editors is all you need for a convention? Do you think that fans have the time to prepare the display that you suggest they make for their fanzines, much less to think they can dig up enough scratch to pay for that much display space even if it is from a convention committee, much less if, as you suggest, space be rented within the grounds of the world's fair itself for housing this display. And I venture to suggest that precious few professional magazines, even assuming the possibility of there being such an item by 1964, could finance such a display.

Obviously you haven't attended many conventions. An adequate convention leaves NO time for anything but the convention, short of a few taxi rides to recommended eateries. How many cities have you been to where you never left the convention hotel? What makes you think 1964 would be any different? How many fans do you honestly think, can afford to extend their convention stay additional days in order to take in something extra? I have every intention of going to the fair, if there is one held, in 1964, I also have every present intention of attending the 1964 convention. I further have every intention of doing all I can to see that the 2 events are spaced apart, in separate locales, to ease the concentrated financial pinch of a prolonged stay in one undoubtedly hot, undoubtedly expensive hotel.

If you honestly feel that you can enter the race now, with no apparent record of participation in fan politics (or convention attending) and disrupt the procedure and foundation of 21 previous conventions then more power to you. If you did nothing more than bring about unity within the New York area your effort would not have been wasted.

As I have said, I am against the entire project, and I hope that everyone else is, and will write you, and let you know why.

The truth will come if the proposal ever goes before a convention for a vote. I will actively campaign against it, and offer my support to any qualified west-division city who wants, and should rightfully have the 1964 con.

If the majority rules that I am wrong you will find me willing and able to assist you in any way possible, once fandom at large has voted you the con.

Most sincerely,

Earl Kemp