

The NEBA name came up two years to the month after a proposal to build a NEBA roast beef sandwich shop at Schoolhouse Road and Western Avenue was heard by the Zoning Board for the first time. That application was turned down following considerable opposition from McKownville civic groups and even the State University.

This time the application was for a permit to build an 'inside' restaurant and an office building on a plot of land a few hundred feet to the west bordering on the Thruway and Western Avenue. The applicant was the 1520 Western Avenue Corporation represented by attorney John Mac Arthur. 5/2/68

The name "NEBA" was brought into the hearing by board member George Camino who read it off the plans for a restaurant which accompanied the presentation, commenting at the same time that the futuristic glass-walled building was "not the type of NEBA we see now." Mr. McArthur called it a "teaching restaurant" which would be connected to the operation of an accompanying 2 1/4 story office building for which no plans were offered.

The board seemed reluctant to act on the matter of the office building without plans. Mr. McArthur's suggestion that only the restaurant be considered for a permit was also turned down pending submission of plot plans, showing proposed parking facilities, and traffic data. Throughout the discussion uncertainty about whether or not the State of New York intends to acquire the site in question for extending the Northway was used by the applicant as a justification for not coming up with detailed drawings and proposals.

Board members told Mr. MacArthur the traffic situation at Western Avenue and the Northway terminus would be a major factor in the disposition of the case. One of the reasons for turning down the first NEBA application was the additional traffic hazard which might ensue. The hearing was continued until May 24.