Mr. Harry Hunter, General Services Administration, extension 4391, is handling this problem.

An appropriation of $4,000,000 was made to the Voice of America last fall, of which $3,000,000 was allocated to purchase a building. General Services felt it was not sensible to lease a building because of the costly installations which would have to be made. A minimum of 270,000 net sq. ft. required, although 350,000 preferable. It all narrowed down to 70 buildings which might be considered. The building would have to be in mid-town (highest priced real estate) in order to be in close proximity to Radio City as talent is donated to the Voice from the broadcasting companies in that area.

Finally the selection was limited to 3 buildings - the most desirable being the Furniture Exchange Building as it would cost $1,500,000 less to put in shape for the Voice. It is not the place of business of any concern. It is used for exhibits and a show is held once in January and again once in July. It is owned by 250 stock holders - furniture manufacturers.

The next most desirable building is on 8th Avenue - The Printing Crafts Building. But this will cost one and one-half millions more. There are 40 lessees in this building including printers, book binders, a restaurant, and if this building is taken over all these people will be put out of business.

General Services asked the Furniture Exchange to make an offer to avoid condemnation. This language makes it possible for the owners to avoid payment of certain profits taxes.

The President of the New York Furniture Exchange has called a meeting of his Board of Directors for next Monday. General Services is still looking for some other place and has asked Mr. Melniker, the President of the New York Furniture Exchange for suggestions. No definite decision made yet. Hunter says "let it jell a little."