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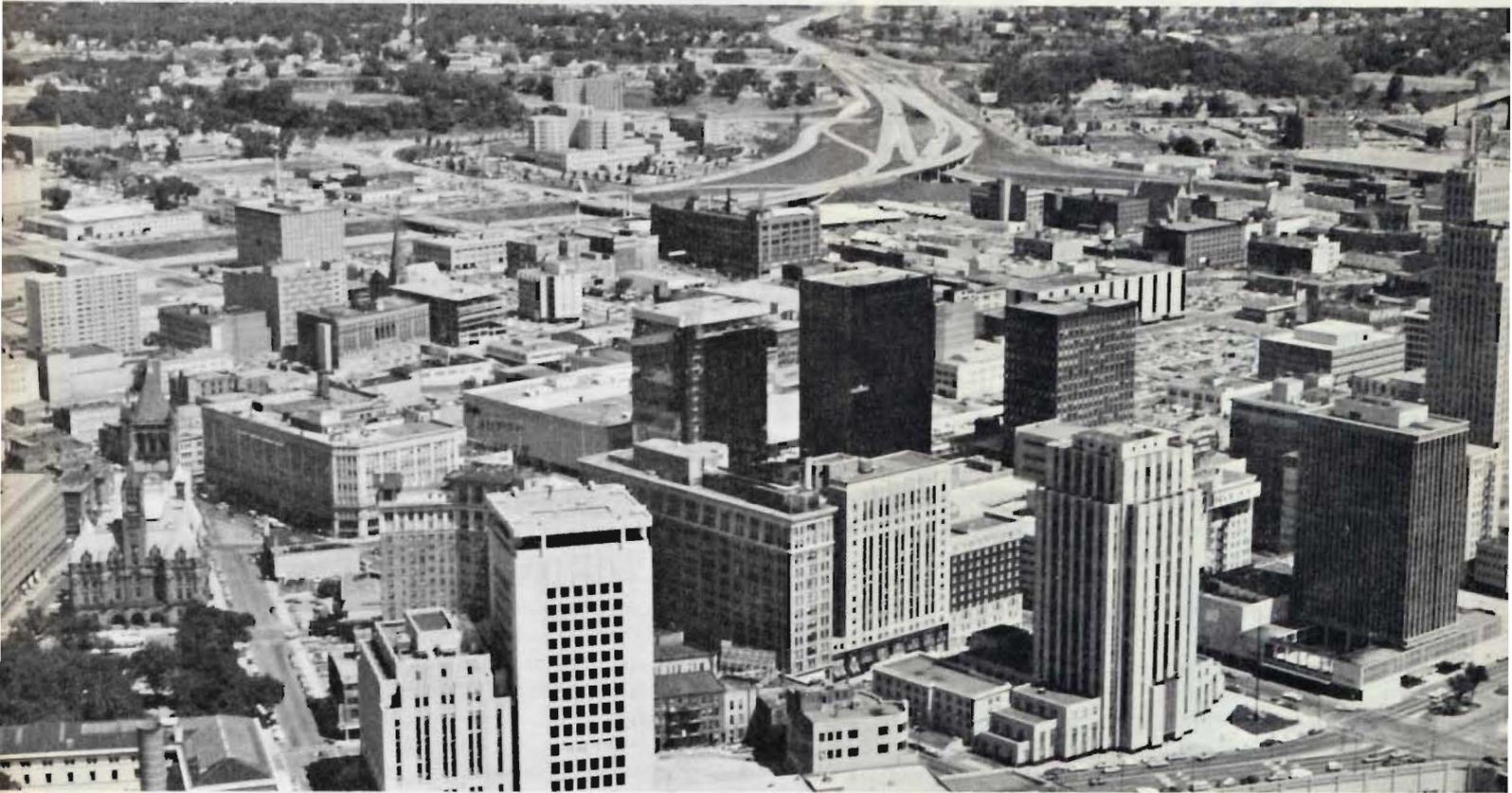
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St. Paul, Minnesota, Chosen As Site 1980 International Science and Engineering Fair



It's all happening May 4-10, 1980. Minnesota will host the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) at the St. Paul Civic Center.

This 31st "Super Bowl" of Science Fairs, a first in Minnesota, is the culmination of a selection process involving more than ten thousand science and engineering fairs held by schools, cities, regions and states. Students representing all fifty states, many U.S. territories and several foreign countries will be in competition. Since the date of its inception, the ISEF has been co-sponsored by local host committees and Science Service of Washington, D.C., a non-profit organization founded in 1921. The Minnesota host committee is organized through the auspices of the Minnesota Academy of Science.

The effort to bring the fair to Minnesota began in late 1976. A breakfast meeting of St. Paul businessmen was hosted by Dayton's to determine whether there was enough interest among corporate leaders to support an effort as large as the ISEF. As a result of that meeting, letters of support were received from many St. Paul businesses, and the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce Convention Bureau became actively involved in helping Academy representatives promote St. Paul as the 1980 fair site. Promotional folders were distributed during the ISEF in Cleveland last spring to Science Service Advisory Council members who also viewed an informative slide presentation highlighting the city of St. Paul and the metropolitan area. St. Paul was given tentative approval pending an inspection of the site by Science Service staff.

In June, a thorough inspection of space and civic center facilities, hotel locations, and restaurants in the downtown area resulted in confirmation of St. Paul as host city for 1980. Preparations began immediately. Fair organizers were presented with several copies of a 70-page administrative manual detailing host committee obligations and procedures for conduction of the fair.

With manuals in hand, a nucleus of Academy and St. Paul business representatives recruited Dr. Robert M. Adams, Vice President, Research and Development, 3M, as ISEF General Chairman.

A luncheon to inform and solicit support from local corporate leaders was held January 26 at 3M. Enthusiastic interest and support was demonstrated by the 34 representatives of Twin City technological firms in attendance. Follow-up contacts are under way for soliciting corporate pledges. One half the projected operational expense must be pledged by May, 1978; the remaining half must be committed by spring, 1979.

The first of several planning meetings involving the 14 member volunteer committee and Science Service staff members is planned for June. Committee chairmen are already actively planning programs, tours, speakers, seminars and seeking judges and funding. All for an event which seems a long way off!