

# ROXY FIRM ON BAN; ASSAILS HIS CRITICS

Says He Rejected Nude Statues  
as He Would Something  
Unwholesome on Stage.

## HE CHARGES AN INJUSTICE

Resents 'Inference' That 'All Is Not  
Fine in Our Entertainment'—  
Says Artists May Sue.

S. L. Rothafel (Roxy) announced in a statement yesterday that he would not alter his decision to remove three pieces of modern sculpture by American artists from the Radio City Music Hall. The statement was a reply to artists and members of art organizations who have attacked him.

Roxy asserted that undue emphasis had been placed on the fact that the statues are nudes; denied that he is opposed to nudes in sculpture or in any other art form, and declared that the statues as works of art created a "negative" impression on him. He said in part:

"I feel that undue emphasis has been placed on the fact that these statues are nudes. I have never posed as a moralist in this matter. I am not opposed to nudity in sculpture or any other form of art. My objection to these figures lies in the fact that the effect they create upon me, as works of art, is a negative one and in that respect, an unwholesome one.

"Some of our artistic friends have implied that everything is not fine, clean and wholesome in our entertainment. This inference is a gross libel and injustice to every one in our institution, and we resent it.

"I am especially sorry that I am forced to reject these pieces because I may be, in a measure, acting contrary to the wishes of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller Jr., and Nelson Rockefeller, for whom I have the deepest respect and admiration. They have been so wonderful to us in this great venture that it was far from pleasant to do anything that might run counter to their ideas. I do feel, however, that I owe a duty to myself and to my patrons in rejecting these forms of art, just as I would object to something suggestive or unwholesome on the stage.

"This is my story and I am sticking to it. These statues will not appear in the Radio City Music Hall or the RKO Roxy Theatre. While I do not want to appear belligerent, the artists may sue me or do whatever they please in the matter. I would rather resign than back down on a conviction which I hold so strongly."