

Newark Planning Fresh Start On a Garage That Collapsed

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NEWARK, June 25 — The construction on Newark's underground garage and military park is expected to be resumed on Monday after a delay of more than three months.

Work on the \$5,600,000 three-level garage for 1,030 cars was halted March 9 when sections of newly poured concrete collapsed. Subsequent tests disclosed that the concrete was below specified strength.

In the interim those involved in the project—the Newark Parking Authority, Frank Grad & Sons of Newark, architects and designing engineers, and the Terminal Construction Corporation of Wood-Ridge, N. J., general contractors — engaged in controversy over responsibility for the collapse.

The deadlock was broken late last night when the Parking Authority and Terminal signed an agreement.

Details of the settlement were not made public because the terms must first be approved by the American Surety Company of New York, which holds the contract performance bond. This action is expected Monday.

However, it was reported

that Terminal would tear down and replace at its own expense the condemned concrete sections. This would be carried out without prejudice to submitting responsibility for payment to the courts or to arbitration.

If Terminal is ultimately upheld, it would be reimbursed by the Parking Authority for the cost of the extra work, estimated at \$500,000. The amount would be fixed on a cost basis, with no profits included.

The agreement was worked out by William A. Wachenfeld and George Kesselhaut for the authority and Walter D. Van Riper, counsel for Terminal. A joint statement said:

"Essentially, this plan embraces final testing, demolition, reinforcement and replacement. When completed, the garage will be as completely safe and sound as the originally designed structure and will fully comply with the Newark building code and standards established by the American Concrete Institute."

Ground for the downtown garage was broken Aug. 4, 1959. To finance the project, the authority floated city-backed short-term notes to July 1, 1961, at 3 per cent interest.

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