Soviet Pianists
Spend Their
Prize Money


FORT WORTH (AP)—The Soviet pianists who finished in the money in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition here last week put it to good, capitalistic use.

They spent it.

Sources close to the contest said Wednesday that Nikolai Petrov, whose second place finish earned him $5,000, bought clothing and expensive electronics equipment.

His purchases here included two suits, a topcoat and accessories, two costly portable radios of a top high-fi manufacturer, a tape recorder and a quantity of American jazz records.

Mikhail Voskresenski, who won $2,000 for placing third, bought clothing for himself and his family and a portable record player.

The purchases were made in Fort Worth before the Russian musical delegation to the contest left Monday morning for New York en route home to Moscow.

Both voiced intentions of further shopping during their New York layover.

"I think they were trying to spend all of the money," said the competition source.

"They indicated it would be 'a lot simpler' that way, that they thought it 'wiser' to spend it here."

It wasn't clear why, except that there would be difficulties in currency exchange, and many of the things they bought here are not available in Moscow.