



'Improvements' in progress. The flat where the family were barricaded in is on the right.

# Workmen barricade family in flat

LIVERPOOL Corporation's modernisation programme in the squares off Soho Street was supposed to bring better living conditions in the forty-year-old blocks. But for some families it has been a hell on earth.

While workmen have been renovating the flats above and around them, tenants have had to live with dirt, illness, injury and near imprisonment.

Marie Dean has lived in the squares since they were built. She looked forward to moving with her husband and four children out of their cramped three-bedroom flat to more comfortable surroundings.

Then about a year ago renovations began. At the same time the Deans' married daughter, Patricia Foley, had to move into the flat with her three children because of a corporation hash-up which had left her homeless. Now ten people were jammed into the three-bedroom flat.

The result has been a nightmare — burst pipes flooded the flat four times. Rubble and materials piled up outside the front door. Falling pieces of brick and glass have been a constant danger. Rats have appeared in such numbers that Mrs Dean is terrified to open the front door.

This 'temporary' arrangement lasted over a year. Mrs Foley was offered a renovated place in the squares, but "The Health said I couldn't have that because of Ian's bronchitis... so I got a letter off Professor Semple recommending me for a three-bedroom house with a garden."

Both families were told they would receive notice of new accommodation at the same time. But as Mrs Foley explained, when the Deans got notice "Mr Bender, the manager up there told me I'd have to go and live with my mother-in-law because he could do nothing for me."

The Foleys decided to stay, knowing the corporation would regard them as adequately housed if they moved.

Since then corporation workmen have torn out the boiler and taps from

the kitchen, broken the bath and removed the taps and cut off the water for a time.

Then one day Pat Foley and her kids became prisoners in their own home.

Corrugated iron fencing was put up round the flat. The only way in or out was through a window.

Calls to the housing office produced no action, so a neighbour, also incensed and hampered by the barricades, began to knock them down.

The police arrived, listened to what the tenants had to say, agreed that the conditions were unbearable, and left them to tear the rest of the barricades down.

A few days later, after more complaints to the corporation, the Foleys were rehoused.

One of the families still waiting for an offer are Mr and Mrs O'Reilly, who moved into the square last November. They were forced to move from their house nearby when it was flooded out, making it uninhabitable.

"I was told that we would have to stay here for three weeks only," said Mrs O'Reilly. "Then we would be moved to a four-bedroom place."

On November 19 a letter came from Mr Dodd, the district housing manager, saying that their rehousing priority would in no way be affected by the fact that they had to move.

Their flat is damp. When it rains the water runs down the walls, Mrs O'Reilly has rheumatics for the first time in her life.

They've made complaints to the housing office and to their city councillor, Jim Walker.

"We get talk and no action," said Mrs O'Reilly. "I don't think anyone's interested. I'll never vote Labour again, that's for sure. Nor will my kids if I have any say."

"I've seen people who weren't supposed to be priority cases moved ahead of us. This place should be boarded up and us moved out at once. If I have to stay much longer I'll crack up."

## SMYTH

(Continued from page one)

London accountant and Keith Carus, a builder from Stalybridge) continued the corporation work. Though legally separate, both firms operate from the same building in Wavertree High Street.

In April Smyth told six of the men they were no longer working for Prime Heating, but for his new firm, Wavertree Heating. To mark the occasion he offered them all a cut in wages.

The new firm could not afford to employ them as plumbers under the JIB scheme (£31.80 basic). They could either call themselves "building workers" and get £29 a week or "gas board workers" (jus. under £27).

The men marched off to see the district secretary of their union. Under pressure from the union a few days later Smyth agreed not to reduce the wages.

At the end of April the men discovered that a man who had left the firm some weeks earlier had been unable to get his insurance card, despite repeated

visits.

Because of all the previous bother over cards and the new firm's apparent financial difficulties, the men became alarmed. They decided they should all ask to see their cards.

Smyth said it was not his responsibility. In the office they were told that Mr Stonestreet had the cards, and it would take a few days to get them. In any case, they were told, there wasn't much point in looking because the cards weren't fully stamped.

The explanation given for this was that the contribution rates had changed and stamps were no longer available at the old value.

At this, five of the men went straight to the DHSS and signed official complaints.

Shortly afterwards Smyth was interviewed by the DHSS and produced several partially stamped cards.

Mr Stonestreet, his successor at Prime Heating is understood to have paid a 'considerable sum' for arrears.

The DHSS say a close watch will be kept in future and if the irregularities persist legal action will be considered.

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## WHAT YOUR COUNCILLORS CLAIMED

Claims by city councillors in the first four months of the new council. All amounts AFTER tax.

<b>ABERCROMBY/ST JAMES</b>		<b>COUNTY</b>		<b>OLD SWAN</b>	
Violet McCOY (Lab)	60.30	HUGHES (Lab)	268.00	GALBRAITH (Lib)	420.98
DOYLE (Lab)	53.90	MOONEY (Lab)	45.96	Pete. MAHON (Lib)	—
SHIELDS (Lab)	80.40	McLEAN (Lab)	62.94	Doreen JONES (Lib)	483.85
<b>AIGBURTH</b>		<b>CROXTETH</b>		<b>PICTON</b>	
TYRER (Lib)	114.20	BRODIE (Lib)	199.82	HERRITY (Lib)	47.20
DYSON (Lib)	373.58	BLYDE (Lib)	190.65	MADELEY (Lib)	125.65
PORTEOUS (Lib)	412.70	Jean HOLMES (Lib)	100.80	Paul MAHON (Lib)	296.*3
<b>ALLERTON</b>		<b>DINGLE</b>		<b>PIRRIE</b>	
ROSS (Con)	84.10	Sydney JONES (Lab)	53.60	OWENS (Lab)	185.20
CRANE (Con)	150.10	STODDART (Lab)	87.40	BLACK (Lab)	214.39
FEARENSIDE (Con)	101.95	Mabel EVANS (Lab)	174.04	DALTON (Lab)	96.85
<b>ANFIELD</b>		<b>DOVECOT</b>		<b>ST MARY'S</b>	
DONNELLY (Lib)	—	WESTBURY (Lab)	—	Robert EVANS (Lab)	67.30
WILDE (Lib)	194.00	W.P. JOHNSON (Lab)	74.25	WALSH (Lab)	—
WILMINGTON (Lib)	*	Edward BURKE (Lab)	85.40	MADDOX (Lab)	37.15
<b>ARUNDEL</b>		<b>FAIRFIELD</b>		<b>ST MICHAEL'S</b>	
RAINFORD (Lib)	147.70	MORTON (Lib)	168.39	MOSS (Con) newly elected	7.48
HUTCHINSON (Lib)	166.28	GALLAGHER (Lib)	352.25	O'KANE (Lib)	142.50
WOOD (Lib)	519.52	CRAWFORD (Lib)	—	Trevor JONES (Lib)	131.14
<b>BRECKFIELD/ST DOMINGO</b>		<b>FAZAKERLEY</b>		<b>SANDHILLS/VAUXHALL</b>	
McNEVIN (Lib)	130.90	JAMES (Lab)	65.03	MORGAN (Lab)	161.05
HARTLEY (Lib)	122.60	GAIER (Lab)	262.80	DUNFORD (Lab)	40.20
CHIVALL (Lib)	448.46	Andrew WILLIAMS (Lab)	132.90	ORR (Lab)	—
<b>BROADGREEN</b>		<b>GILMOSS</b>		<b>SPEKE</b>	
Rosemary COOPER (Lib)	191.40	CRUICKSHANK (Lab)	130.02	SHORT (Lab)	91.41
PALMER (Lib)	213.81	HIGGINS (Lab)	146.65	STEWART (Lab)	131.71
Roger JOHNSTON (Lib)	441.65	LOYDEN (Lab)	—	MAUDSLEY (Lab)	199.50
<b>CENTRAL/EVERTON</b>		<b>GRANBY/PRINCES PARK</b>		<b>TUEBROOK</b>	
FINNEGAN (Lab)	214.19	DOSWELL (Lab)	26.40	STOCKER (Lib)	164.23
WALKER (Lab)	370.62	HAMILTON (Lab)	131.00	CLITHEROW (Lib)	298.58
James PARRY (Lab)	85.35	TAYLOR (Lab)	62.70	MITCHELL (Lab) newly elected	—
<b>CHILDWALL</b>		<b>KENSINGTON</b>		<b>WARBRECK</b>	
MELLOR (ex-Lib)	20.10	DORAN (Lib)	69.05	Daniel JONES (Con)	67.30
SMYTH (Lib)	316.04	DORAN (Lib)	203.40	BRASH (Con)	20.10
LIMONT (Lib)	87.40	SNOWDEN (Lib)	203.40	FLUDE (Con)	182.32
<b>CHURCH</b>		<b>LOW HILL/SMITHDOWN</b>		<b>WOOLTON EAST</b>	
WANLESS (Lib)	174.66	STEPHENSON (Lib)	150.09	WRIGHT (Lab)	145.77
ANDREWS (Lib)	122.95	DAVIES (Lib)	62.76	Margaret DELANEY (Lab)	246.29
Cyril CARR (Lib)	329.46	ALTON (Lib)	375.87	Les EVANS (Lab)	108.80
<b>CLUBMOOR</b>		<b>MELROSE/WESTMINSTER</b>		<b>WOOLTON WEST</b>	
STOREY (Lib)	420.45	LAFFERTY (Lab)	250.95	HALLOWES (Con)	275.91
SIMMONS (Lib)	206.50	GARDNER (Lab)	291.05	McVEIGH (Con)	20.40
BOWEN (Lib)	537.05	ACKERS (Lab)	31.51	Ruth DEAN (Con)	192.40

\* As Lord Mayor, Councillor Wilmington gets separate expenses.

## Claims at all costs...

SINCE April 1 councillors have been able to claim up to £10 a day expenses. Our inquiries have revealed huge differences in amounts claimed and in opinions about their application.

Councillor John Bowen, Liberal chairman of the education committee leads the field at the moment with £537 from city council during the first four months and £73.70 from the county council (both after tax).

Mr Bowen told us he retired voluntarily from his job as a telecommunications engineer to devote more time to his council work.

He thinks the expenses system has been badly handled: "The salary should have been fixed as an MP's salary... not as much perhaps, but as chairman of the education committee I work much harder than the average back-bench MP."

At the other end of the scale, Labour councillor Paul Orr was a surprise omission from the expenses list.

He has claimed nothing. Some residents of his ward reckon that's fair payment for the amount of work he does.

But Mr Orr says, "I never have and never will claim expenses. Councillors should not be paid for meetings unless there is a genuine loss of earnings. I get paid by my firm, so I've no need to claim, see what I mean squire?"

Liberal leader of the council Cyril Carr, who is paid by about sixteen firms as a director, seems to disagree with Mr Orr. Carr — the richest man on the council — has claimed £363 during the four months (after tax). With his income, one wonders why he bothers.

Councillors can also claim travelling expenses, and the bigger their car, the more they get.

When Doreen Jones, Liberal chairman of the highways committee was asked if she thought councillors ought to use public transport, she replied:

"I've tried this but the bus service is so bad I couldn't fit all my meetings in. If we had a decent bus service, yes, I would."

Mrs Jones claims 92p per journey to and from her home in Queens Drive and her husband, Trevor, claims 94p. With other councillors claiming similar amounts it should be worth improving the bus service.

The full list of payments to city councillors is printed above.

Councillors are paid according to the number of meetings they attend, which — as anyone who has seen the council in action knows — does not necessarily indicate how much or how little work a councillor does.

Most of the controversy is over councillors who attend the start of meetings then leave after a few minutes. Also, those who are school governors get paid for attending governors' meetings, while governors who are not councillors get nothing.

## Only half interested

ALTHOUGH it is now more than eight months since Liverpool council agreed to set up a register of members' business interests, almost half the councillors have still not announced what their interests are.

**TORIES**

As might be expected, the Tories are putting up fierce resistance. So far only four of their ten members have knuckled under and confessed.

Tetley Bitterwoman Ruth Dean admits to running a pub. And William Fearenside gives no secrets away by saying that he's 'retired'.

But a bit of the old daring has come back into former bomber pilot James Stanislaus Ross... a company director and proud of it. He runs the printing firm James E. James, owns 6,900 shares and keeps his wife in her place with a mere 2,100.

Another Tory company director is Sydney Moss, who runs Newsham Motors, and is involved in a firm called Constitutional Properties.

**LABOUR**

On the Labour side there's been a rush to declare 'respectable' shares like Liverpool Co-op (investments range from £2 to £30). John Hamilton, the party leader has ten.

And Dr Cyril Taylor seems pleased with his 29 shares in the People's Press Printing Society Ltd, who publish the Morning Star. "No dividend ever paid," he boasts.

Frank Gaier, the bespectacled optician has been far-sighted enough to store up a few hundred shares and unit trusts for his old age.

On the face of it, the 26 Labour councillors who have declared interests are not heavily involved in business. But councillors need not list all their interests

### Councillors' businesses

if they don't want to.

It must also be remembered that some of the party's big-timers like Sir Harry Livermore, the wealthy property man, were thrown out at the last election. And there are still 17 Labour members who have not made their declarations.

**LIBERALS**

As leader of the party in power, Cyril Carr has heavier council commitments than other members. He is also the councillor with the heaviest business commitments. No wonder he's had to take a rest.

We won't bore readers again with the full list of his sixteen property companies. (Full details were in Free Press 14).

Variety is the spice of business for Liberal councillor Richard Clitherow. He runs several chemists' shops, a launderette and he's also an agent for the Phoenix Assurance Company. But as a chemist, he really should dispense with those shares in that well-known firm of lead poisoners, Rio Tinto Zinc.

Then there's 709 0202 (alias 'Cars' Crawford). He runs Eagle Taxis and Impression Printing.

And Liberal barrister Tony Limont must be keeping a worried eye on the stock market these days — he's got shares in Consolidated Goldfields, United Dominion Trust, Burmah Oil, Elliott Ltd, Avery, British Oxygen, Taylor Woodrow, Reed International, Cadbury/Schweppes, Marks and Spencer, Allied Breweries and Slough Properties. He doesn't say how many shares he has.

Twenty-three out of the 45 Liberals have declared interests. Their low score is surprising considering the register of

interests was mainly their idea in the first place.

The public interests list is entirely voluntary: Councillors may declare as much or as little as they wish. It was introduced in the wake of the Poulson scandal to give the impression of clean, open government. But it is little more than a gimmick.

In addition, councillors must by law declare an interest when a matter affecting their business is discussed in council. But they do not have to say exactly what their interest is.

There are many loopholes. The traditional way used by MPs to avoid declaring interests has been to hand over shares to members of their family.

But there's far more to financial interests than directorships and shares. For everyone who lives or works in Liverpool stands to gain or lose as a result of council policies.

The important thing is that councillors must not be allowed to gain, while the people they are supposed to represent lose. And it will take more than a register of interests to ensure that.

Below is a list of councillors who have not recorded their interests in the official list. We shall be taking a closer look at these councillors in future issues. Anyone who is a registered voter in Liverpool can look at the official list by going to the Municipal Buildings in Dale Street.

Andrews, Blyde, Bowen, Brash, Brodie, Burke, Rosemary Cooper, Crane, Dalton, Donnelly, Doran, Doyle, Dunford, Dyson, Leslie Evans, Flude, Galbraith, Gallagher, Gardner, Hallows, Herrity, Jean Holmes, Daniel Jones, Doreen Jones, Trevor Jones, Paul Mahon, Peter Mahon, Maudsley, Mellor, Mitchell, Morgan, Morton, Violet McCoy, McNevin, McVeigh, Orr, Owens, James Parry, Short, Tyrer, Walker, Wotton, Westbury, Wilde, Wilmington.