

A very special out-patient



Chairman Makin

TROUBLE is brewing over a hospital chairman who 'rented' four of the nurses to look after his mother at home.

The chairman of the hospital is prominent Liverpool solicitor Rex Makin.

For four weeks Mr Makin's mother was given round-the-clock attention by a team of the hospital's nurses, at her home in Queens Drive, Childwall.

And yet she was not noticeably ill. THE SIMPLE FACT WAS THAT HER HOUSEKEEPER HAD GONE ON HOLIDAY.

The nurses came from the charitable Stapely Hospital in Mossley Hill.

The hospital is run in conjunction with an old people's home next door,

and caters for 42 elderly patients. 22 of the beds are paid for by the National Health Service at a cost of over £58,000 a year.

Several people who saw Mrs Makin at the time say she was not bedridden and, for a woman of 86, appeared in reasonable health — better, anyway, than the patients at Stapely Hospital.

They say she even ventured to wear a swimming costume to go sunbathing on her balcony.

The nurses were there to replace a housekeeper. And housekeeping is exactly what they did — at least for much of the time. They cleaned and cooked. One was asked (in the small hours of the morning) to defrost the fridge. Another polished

Mrs Makin's silver.

There were some duties, but not many, which could be described as nursing.

Mr Sol Bennett, as president of the adjoining old people's home, is in overall charge. He told the Free Press how Mr Makin came to this highly unusual arrangement. "He spoke to the administrator. He said: Mother's not very well. We don't want to move her. Her woman's going on holiday. What do you think?"

"And the Sister said: Well, we can't find space for her here. Why not let's look after her at the house."

Mr Bennett added: "The fact who she was didn't matter. Staff were sent out to her. They were

paid for. There was nothing under-hand about it."

Mr Bennett denied the nurses had done housework. "They had a very soft time... a very easy time in the main. They were very pleased to do it. They made some extra money. All in all this cost Mr Makin a lot of money." [A figure of £600 has been mentioned.]

Mr David Price, a Liverpool University student who is a frequent visitor to the hospital, complained to the hospital committee. He said the nurses belonged to a group of seven who normally work the morning shift, and he was worried that Mr Makin's arrangement had left the hospital short-staffed.

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INNOCENT VICTIMS OF A MURDER HUNT

EARLY this year Liverpool police asked David Smith to go with them to a police station to check a statement he had made a few days before.

They told him not to leave a note for his wife (who was out), as he would be back home in about 30 minutes.

He did not return for nine weeks.

He was taken to Hope Street Police Station, met by a crowd of over 60 policemen, and charged with the murder of a 73-year-old Toxteth man.

From March 4 to May 4, he was held in custody at Risley Remand Centre. Each week he appeared at the magistrates court, and each week Inspector Olson asked for him to be held in custody as they had a conclusive case against him.

After nine weeks in Risley, Smith — a supposed murderer — was allowed home on bail of just £100 and two sureties of £100. The defence solicitor did not even have to ask for bail. It was applied for by the police prosecutor.

Then on June 4 the police finally admitted — they had no case against Smith.

Naturally this was an agonising period for him. "I was frightened out of my wits. Having gone through it I honestly don't think any other experience could frighten me."

The story of the police investigation into the murder of Mr Robert Jones, of Huskisson Street, is not, however, just the story of one man being a victim of police bungling. It's far more serious than that.

It gives a glimpse into the arbitrary powers the police frequently adopt when tackling crime in working class areas. No-one would expect the police to tread softly when dealing with a murder. But in areas like Liverpool 8 the police feel free, as this case shows, to use methods and tactics they would never use in suburban areas.

Immediately after the murder of Mr Jones, any black teenager or black young man was liable to be stopped by the police or taken from his home to answer questions and make statements at police stations.

An estimated 200 statements



David Smith with the portrait of his sister which was painted by the murdered man.

were taken by the police. Black youngsters were kept in overnight at the police station. Some were taken down to the station on two or three occasions, and others were warned that they would be charged with murder.

To begin with what happened to David Smith was similar to the experiences of many black young men.

Late at night on February 27, Mr Jones, a man well known in the

area (he was easily recognisable by his stooping walk and his height of nearly 6ft 6in) was viciously attacked and robbed. He died of multiple stab wounds.

About the same time Mr Christopher McGee, aged 43, was robbed and a Mr T Whitworth was robbed and stabbed.

These three attacks took place in the same vicinity and the police assumed they were committed by

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HYPOCRISY AWARD

ALAN BARNES, headmaster of the Ruffwood Comprehensive School in Kirkby, was the only Merseyside man to get the CBE in the notorious Birthday Honours list.

His CBE is presumably some sort of reward for his many years of devotion to comprehensive education.

Mr Barnes has been Head at Ruffwood since the school opened in 1959. In 1970, he was co-author of a book entitled 'Becoming Comprehensive'.

However, Mr Barnes' devotion to the comprehensive system was not really tested until a couple of years ago when his son reached secondary school age. Living in Eccleston, St Helens, Mr Barnes' son would normally have gone to Rainford High, the local comprehensive.

But he didn't. Instead, his parents chose to pay to send him to Liverpool College — a private school. Mr



Alan Barnes, CBE.

Barnes apparently considered his son too sensitive for the rigours of comprehensive education.

And, as "one of the leading authorities on comprehensive education" [Kirkby Reporter], he should know.

Unfortunately for Mr Barnes, Knowsley councillors were not so impressed by his qualifications. His recent application for the job of Borough Education Officer did not get as far as the short list.

Threat to new jobs

ONCE AGAIN an edict from Sefton's Chief Executive, J.P. McElroy (better known as 'Papa Mac') has caused alarm in Bootle.

Word went out that Papa Mac had forbidden the social services department to help any community group who also got help from Job Creation projects.

This particularly worried a group on the Rimrose Road estate. They hoped a Job Creation project would help make their adventure playground.

But they were afraid the new rule meant the council would refuse to pay running costs such as insurance.

Following opposition from other officials and requests to put the edict in writing, Papa Mac shifted his ground slightly and issued a Revised Version.

Now, it seems, the social services must not pass on to Job Creation projects the names of elderly people

who want their homes painted and decorated. The excuse for this is that to do so would be a "breach of confidentiality".

Papa Mac's efforts seem most likely to affect the Sefton Employment Action Group (see centre pages), whose plans for job creation projects include the adventure playground and painting and decorating for old people.

There is little doubt Sefton council sees community action as a threat, and the latest moves can be seen as part of a continuing effort to stop the rot before it is too late.

Bootle is regarded as a special danger area. Local government re-organisation handed over control of the town to councillors from Southport and Crosby. If community groups are allowed to flourish they could try and win back some control... and cause the council endless trouble.

Bootle MP in line for a phone-in

BOOTLE people who want to see their MP, Simon Mahon, have to make an appointment.

Mr Mahon insists they do it by telephone — probably because his number has been ex-directory for years.

But recently he has gone to extraordinary lengths to prevent his constituents bothering him. The elusive Mahon has swapped one

ex-directory number for another. (His new number is 525 2050.)

Those people who can't get his number — the majority — could try calling at his home, 77 Southport Road, Bootle.

An elderly man who tried that one Saturday morning recently, was greeted by Mr Mahon's charming wife. She told him that he would have to make an appointment... by telephone, of course.