

New Kirkby houses sink

A BLOCK of council houses only four years old on the Tower Hill estate at Kirkby has been boarded up and left almost empty for three months.

In November last year, when the first three families were rehoused, architect Mr Eric Stephenson said: "We are in no way concerned about the stability of these buildings."

The houses, built by Unit Construction, began to show signs of subsidence last October. Cracks appeared in ceilings and walls, floors subsided, leaving gaps around windows and skirting boards.

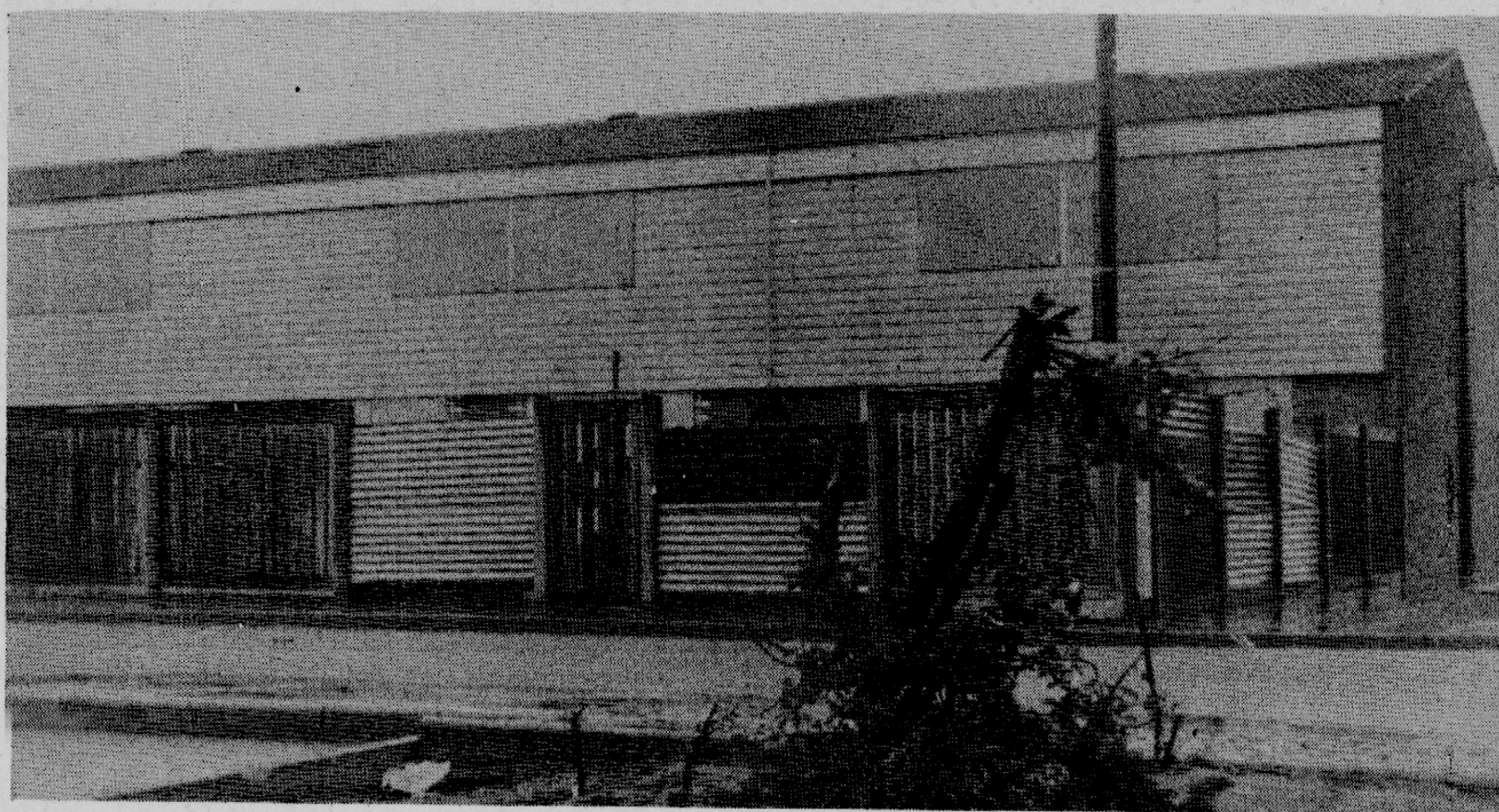
Three families were rehoused after threatening to squat in the council offices — refusing to remain in the houses while repairs were being done.

When asked at that time about the cause of these defects, Mr Winstanley, the Public Health Inspector said: "There is small subsidence which has not rendered the premises unsafe."

In March this year, however, the whole block was emptied while workmen set about repairs, pumping concrete under the floors.

Although five of the houses are now occupied again, tenants are still not sure of the actual cause of the faults.

One tenant has received legal aid and is suing the corporation for new carpets and decorations.



The boarded-up houses

False note starts panic

A number of Netherley tenants have been needlessly frightened by one member of Liverpool's housing department.

For the official has hastily scribbled across a printed circular EVICTION.

This callous action made at least one tenant really believe she was about to be thrown out of her council house in Pengallo Hey.

The message said: "Mr Curran A representative from the housing department has called to see you regarding outstanding arrears of rent."

Then, written in red, was the word Eviction.

Mrs Maureen Aubee returned home one day to find the thoughtless note.

"I really panicked," she said. "I was trembling. I didn't know where I could go with my children."

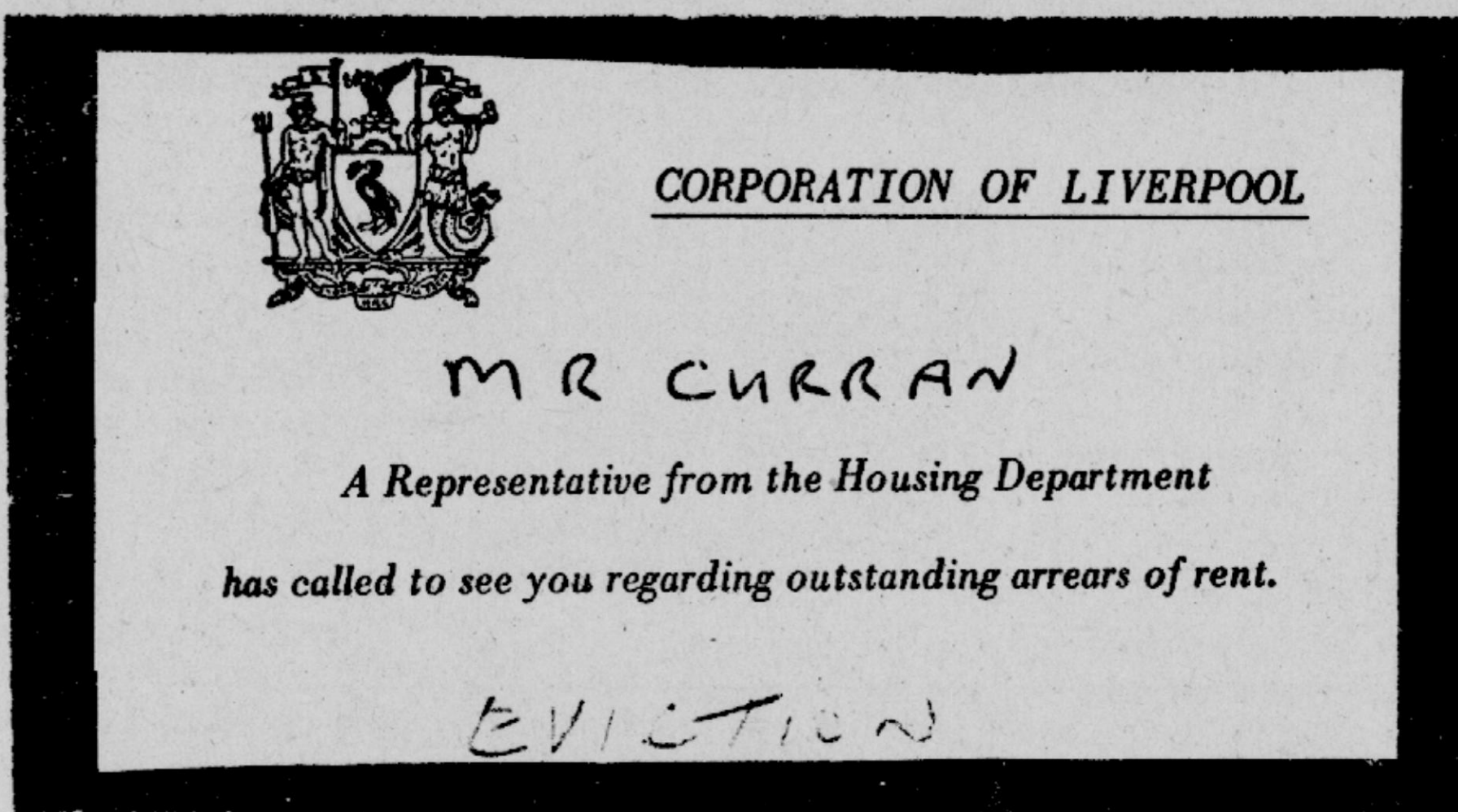
"I received exactly the same note on the following day and I believed they were serious."

Luckily, Mrs Aubee rushed to see Roy Murphy, a caseworker with SNAP, who informed her that no-one could be evicted without a court order.

At least two other tenants in Pengallo Hey received the same treatment from the housing official.

Just for the record

While Dick Crawshaw, the marathon walking MP for Toxteth was breaking records at Aintree, two more of his walks were annoying his fellow Labour Party members. He's twice walked into the Conservative lobby over the Common Market.



Hunt for kids after TV show

Police in the Soho Street area of the city have given the lie to their big 'community relations' campaign.

BBC and Granada TV recently broadcast anonymous interviews with Soho St. kids as young as nine who claimed to be hardened joyriders in 'stolen' cars.

The problem is considered a serious one locally because of the dangers to pedestrians and to the young drivers themselves.

Publicity was also given to a scheme for a go-kart stadium put forward by community worker Eddie Cartwright.

But the police response didn't exactly show them to be willing

supporters of any solution.

After seeing the TV programme the police summoned Eddie to St Anne's police station where they asked him for the names of all the kids who had appeared

Eddie refused. But the police went so far as to pick up a local youngster they suspected and accused him

outright, eventually letting him go when he flatly denied the accusations.

This relentless police effort to nail every possible offender has shown up their concern for 'good community relations' to be only secondary.

'Fair deal' for the shareholders

A little-publicised White Paper produced in April by the Conservative government sets out another 'Fair Deal'.

This time it's for shareholders. The white paper dealt with company taxation and proposed to cut the amount of tax paid by shareholders on their dividends.

The government are abandoning the old taxation system, which taxed dividends twice, in favour of a new method that taxes them only once.

The Fair Deal for shareholders will have a similar effect to the 'Fair Deal' for tenants. Like rents, dividends will go up and up.

Mr Edward Du Cann, Tory MP for Taunton and former chairman of the Conservative Party has already shown how to make a fast buck out of shareholdings.

Du Cann is chairman of Central and District Properties. Early this year he sold a massive chunk of his newly-acquired shares in the company when the bankers Kayser Ullman bid 320p each for shares valued at only 250p on the stock market.

Du Cann banked a hefty £20,000 as a result of this quick deal. He also happens to be chairman of Kayser Ullman.

SKELTON
108, ARGYLE ST., B'HEAD

RECORDS
POSTERS
MAGS and
THINGS

WE BUY OR EXCHANGE
YOUR USED RECORDS
BEST PRICES PAID

No labour martyrs

Council rents will soar in October... whatever the public utterances of members of Liverpool's Labour Party. And surprisingly the increases may be imposed by a corporation official.

For Alderman Bill Sefton has said publicly that the Labour Party will not implement the government's unfair Housing Bill when it becomes law. If this happens, under Clause 69 of the Bill a commissioner will take over everything to do with housing in the city — not just rents.

But amidst all the verbal skirmishing between political parties many people have forgotten that the commissioner could be one of the corporation's own officials — and not a bureaucrat from London.

Under local government law,

NEW CHANGES IN RENT BILL

corporation officials cannot claim immunity from the law for the illegal acts of councillors.

Whoever is responsible for bludgeoning through higher rents in Liverpool, one thing is certain...

the government will not create martyrs by allowing councillors to be sent to prison. So Sefton and his colleagues can sleep tight.

The best way the Housing Bill can be fought is by organising rent strikes. A civil disobedience campaign would be far more effect-



Scientists in the US Department of Agriculture have discovered a substance which makes the female house fly lose all desire for sex. They had hoped this would lead to a reduction in America's fly population, but there is one snag: the substance has to be injected into each fly individually.



A 33-year-old Dewsbury man has been found not guilty of stealing a railway station. Mr Reginald Sedgwick, a demolition contractor, explained that he removed the disused Cleckheaton station "in good faith."



Mr Leo Barbarick was so annoyed when the authorities in Pasadena, California, withdrew the licence for his saloon that he re-opened it as a church. The High Life Church is now attracting large 'congregations' for nude dancing and free beer. And the authorities can do nothing to stop it.



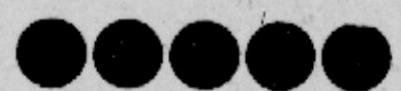
A memorial that houses the ashes of all South African police dogs killed in the execution of their duties has been unveiled by the Commissioner of Police in Durban.

When a 20-years-old youth admitted taking a total of 3 cars without permission, his solicitor told Chester City magistrates that all but two of the vehicles were Ford Cortinas 1600Es.

Mr. John Heath, who was defending Hugh Unsworth, of Town Row, Liverpool, said: "I am sure the manufacturers would be interested to know why he finds this particular car irresistible."

Liverpool Echo,

The fabric of a private aeroplane was eaten when 968 pigs went berserk on a Wiltshire farm.



Just received by a local firm... an airmail letter from the Madras Aluminium Company which reads: "Dear sirs, we received your letter and thank you for the same. Kindly note that we work continuously 24 hours per day. Thanking you..." Well, I suppose it saves having to clock on and off.



Enraged because his son had not received corporal punishment, 37-year-old Mr Brian Draper went along to Cotmanhay Junior School, Derbyshire, bent the headmistress over a desk and caned her. When the headmistress still refused to beat his son, Mr Draper declared that he would blow the school up — and 300 pupils were quickly evacuated. A local magistrates has now inflicted his own punishment on Mr Draper — 6 months in prison. A charge of dropping litter, namely one broken cane, has been dismissed.