



THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1988

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HOSPITAL NOW FACES SECOND INVESTIGATION

by PATRICIA FENNELLY

AS the Mid-Western Health Board investigation into a claim that a dying man had been left waiting for 6½ hours in the Regional Hospital casualty unit on Good Friday continues, the Board's deputy CEO has now been asked to investigate the case of second man who was allegedly turned away from the hospital on the same day and who died after being eventually admitted three days later.

The doctor who referred the 78 year old man to the hospital in the first instance, Dr. Michael Lucey, of Croom, has told the *Limerick Leader* that in his opinion the patient was in need of hospitalisation when he saw him.

But Dr. Lucey refused to comment on the hospital medical staff's assessment of the patient, which according to his relatives took over 4½ hours in the casualty unit.

His daughter told the *Limerick Leader* — "We were told to take him home. I thought he would die on the way home."

She said that she had been told by their own doctor that he was suffering from a kidney complaint and a chest condition.

He was eventually admitted to the hospital on the following Monday and died on Wednesday, she added.

Meanwhile, Mr. Paul Robinson, Deputy CEO of the Health Board, said that the investigation into the original claim revealed in Monday's *Limerick Leader* by Councillor Willie O'Brien, is continuing. He said that they have the name of the patient who was alleged to

have been kept waiting for 6½ hours and who has since died.

Deputy O'Brien said that the second case was brought to his notice following publicity about his claim at the Health Board.

And another Health Board member, Dr. Darragh Little, says that while he would not pre-empt the results of the investigation, he was fearful in the coming winter of "people, particularly the old, being left to die."

Names galore plastered on bridge

THE name of every single one of the 17 members of Limerick City Council are to be etched on a plaque on the new Shannon Bridge. In the past only the Mayor of the day was afforded this honour.

At a recent meeting of the Protocol Committee of Limerick City Council, which was held behind closed doors, the city fathers selected Shannon Bridge as the new name for the third bridge across the Shannon in Limerick. They also agreed to a proposal by Cllr. John Quinn (P.D.) that the names of all 17 members on the city council be engraved on the stone to be placed on the bridge commemorating the

official opening of the bridge.

Weather

Dry to-day with a good deal of sunshine and light, occasionally moderate, easterly to south-easterly winds and temperatures rising to 13-15 degrees C. Dry again to-night, but becoming mostly cloudy and misty with light to moderate south-easterly winds and temperatures falling to between 7 and 4 degrees C, with a risk of slight frost inland for a time. Cloudy weather with outbreaks of rain will extend slowly from the west tomorrow, accompanied by freshening winds.



Checking out the new Volvo 480 at its recent launch at Elm Motors, Ennis Road, is Suzanne Kennedy, Elm Motors.

Mid-West firms look to East

MOVES ARE being made in the Mid-West to try to get more companies to do business with Eastern Bloc countries.

The Mid-West branch of the Marketing Institute of Ireland are holding a special seminar in Shannon on Tuesday next to address this market.

DEATHS

RYAN—April 13, 1988, at his residence, "Glenmarie," 65 Ballykeefe Estate, Limerick, Christopher (Christy), late of Esso, Shannon. Very deeply regretted by his loving wife, Amy; daughter, Mary; son-in-law, Declan; brother, Jackie; sister, Marie; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends. May he rest in peace. Removal from his home tomorrow Thursday evening at 7 o'clock to St. Paul's Church. Requiem Mass on Friday at 11.30 o'clock. Funeral afterwards to Mungret Cemetery. (w13c)

£10,000 junkets approved behind closed doors

LIMERICK City Council have voted behind closed doors to send nine councillors on four foreign junkets to Finland, Netherlands, Sweden and England at an estimated cost of £10,000.

The decision to go, on what the councillors call "foreign study trips", was made at a recent meeting "in committee" of the protocol sub-committee, at which 12 of the 17 members were present.

It emerged at that meeting that £3,700 has been spent this year on junkets. The minutes of the private meeting were circulated with the agenda of this month's full monthly meeting, which is open to the public.

P.D. councillors John Quinn and Tim O'Driscoll proposed at the protocol committee that none of the four conferences should be attended.

However, this was opposed by Ald. Patrick Kennedy (F.G.) and Cllr. Jack Bourke (F.F.), who proposed that each conference be taken on its merits.

The Fine Gael/Fianna Fail motion was passed. The vote was as follows: for—Ald. Tim Ledin, Mayor (F.G.), Cllr. Paddy Madden (F.F.), Cllr. Kevin Kiely (F.G.), Cllr. Jack Bourke (F.F.), Cllr. Ger Fahy (F.G.), Ald. P. Kennedy (F.G.), Cllr. John O'Connor (F.F.); against—Cllr. J. Quinn (P.D.), and Cllr. T. O'Driscoll (P.D.).

Then, on the proposal of Cllr. P. Madden, seconded by Cllr. Jack Bourke, it was agreed that the Mayor and one councillor should attend a housing conference in the Hague, two councillors should go to a conference for the disabled in Helsinki, and Mayor and one councillor should go to Stockholm and Malmo to a conference

on urban communities, and the Mayor and two councillors should go to a town planning conference in Brighton, England.

The councillors who go on the junkets will come from the Fine Gael and Fianna Fail parties only as they have a voting pact and are, according to Cllr. Frank Prendergast (Labour) "hogging all the trips".

It is estimated that the money to be spent on the trips in the coming months will exhaust the remaining £11,300 in the foreign travel kitty. Further trips will require a supplementary estimate.

The councillors who voted against Cllr. Madden's proposal were the two P.D. members, Cllrs. O'Driscoll and Quinn, D.S.P. members Ald. Jim Kennay and Jan O'Sullivan, and People's Democracy member Cllr. Joe Harrington.

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