

LIMERICK CHRONICLE

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*Limerick wordsmith
casts a long
literary shadow*

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DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH THE COUNTRY'S OLDEST TITLE

Cinema strike: 'one man one job'

AS LIMERICK'S cinema strike continued this Friday, a city union official criticised people who have two jobs when unemployment, especially among school-leavers, is so high.

Mr Anthony Nolan of the ITGWU, referring to the unofficial strike which has closed the Carlton, Central and Royal cinemas since last Wednesday week, said, "The cinemas dispute has arisen due to the fact that an operator in the Central Studio is already employed and holding down a job in the public employment sector."

There are no immediate plans to settle the dispute.

While the principal crux is the employment of a part-time projectionist at the Central Studio, it appears that other issues have now come into it.

Workers in the three cinemas involved have claimed they were not paid the 16th and 17th rounds of the National Wage Agreement.

Mr Nolan stated that it was likely that the Labour Court would be called in to investigate the strike.

The three cinemas involved are owned by the Green Group, Dublin.

The Movieland Twins are not affected by the dispute and are continuing to operate.

One cinema worker told the Limerick Leader that unless there was a settlement this weekend, the strike could continue for a long time.

There was a meeting between cinema staffs in Limerick on this Wednesday, and the feeling to emerge was that they were going to hold out to the end.

The strike has resulted in a boom

period for the Movieland Twins in Roxboro Road.

Some of the big movies of 1976 are booked there for November and December, including Shampoo starring Warren Beatty and Dog Day Afternoon starring Al Pacino.

Filmgoers have been telephoned the Limerick Leader offices for the past ten days seeking information on the latest development in the strike.

Particularly affected are parents who normally send their children to the cinema on a Saturday afternoon while they go shopping.

City centre publicans and confectioners have been hit because of the dispute.

One publican explained that there was usually a spin-off from people going to the cinemas.

"Either before or after a film, they dropped in for a drink," said one publican.

Taxi drivers also benefited after the late shows on Fridays and Saturdays.

Should the strike last for a long period, there is a possibility that the owners, the Green Group, might take strong action.

In a recent interview with the Limerick Leader, Mr Paul Anderson, director, said the considered two screens sufficient for the city.

Although it has not been confirmed, there is a rumour circulating that the Green Group made a bid to gain control of the Movieland Twins.

The last cinema dispute in Limerick was way back in the early 1950s, which lasted for eight weeks.

This article first appeared in The Leader on November 6, 1976.



Royal Cinema pictured in 1976 advertising the Charles Bronson action flick Death Wish and the low budget martial arts movie Snake: Crane Secret