

development of the region," said Mayor Russell.

Summing up the position at the N.I.H.E., Mayor Russell said it was a case of "No change for some years ahead concerning the awarding of degrees."

The Mayor said that neither the staff nor the students need be concerned about their future because of the recent developments. "The eventual evolution of the N.I.H.E. as an independent university is a good many years away. "We should be realistic about this as a University does not come into being overnight," he said.

In his statement over the weekend last year's Mayor, Cllr. Thady Coughlan called on Mr. Burke to immediately issue a statement clarifying the future position of the N.I.H.E. He claimed that key staff members were threatening to quit their posts because of the uncertainty of the Institute and that students and parents were "totally confused" as to what was happening.

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The Mayoralty of the late Councillor Paul A. O'Brien will be commemorated by a new link on the Mayoral Chain.

## ROYAL CINEMA MAY BE SAVED

BY LEADER REPORTER

THERE ARE NO MOVES to avert the proposed closure of the Lyric Cinema on August 21st, but there is a possibility that the Royal, which is scheduled for closure on August 14, may be saved.

Talks will take place this weekend between representatives of the Green Group, owners of the Royal, and officials of the ITGWU with a view to keeping the Royal open.

But there is absolutely no hope of saving the Lyric in Glentworth Street and this house will close its doors to the public for the last time on Saturday, August 21st. The final programme is: Monthly Python and the Holy Grail and The Best Pair of Legs in the Business.

About 14 jobs will be affected with the closure of the Lyric.

It is understood that the owners of the Royal would be prepared to keep the cinema operating if certain conditions were agreed upon with the ITGWU.

### Part-time

A suggestion has been made that the cinema could be profitable if run by part-time staff, with one showing per day.

Mr. Paul Anderson, director, Green Group, told me recently that the Royal was much too big for present day needs and was uneconomical to run. He also said that he felt two screens—the Carlton and the Central—were sufficient for Limerick city.

Should negotiations to save the Royal prove successful then it is likely to become a balcony only house.

It would indeed be a pity if Limerick was to be left with only two city centre houses. The Movieland Twins in Roxboro Road, which incidentally are enjoying good box-office returns, are regarded as suburban cinemas.

### Change

Mr. Anderson pointed out that the cinema business was undergoing a period of change today.

and added that his company had to keep pace with the times.

But he did emphasise that the business was not dying.

In recent years the Green Group have brought their two other Limerick cinemas, The Central and Carlton, into line with the best in the home countries.

The seating capacity in the Central was reduced from 500 to little over 200, and the number of seats in the Carlton were also reduced.

Should the Royal and Lyric close at the end of this month then Limerick will be left with

960 cinema seats, compared to 3,900 two years ago.

But while cinemas are closing in Limerick they are opening in Dublin, which might bear out Mr. Anderson's argument that the business is not dying.

A new luxury house opened in Middle Abbey Street last week and the old Carlton in O'Connell Street is at present being tripled.

The Ritz in Cork, which closed about two years ago, was also re-opened recently under new management.

## Brighter homes and DIY

THE FIRST Limerick Brighter Homes and Do-It-Yourself Exhibition opens in the Parkway Motel on Wednesday, September 29th.

The show, which will last for five days, has already attracted more exhibitors both from Limerick and nationally than had been originally estimated. It is expected that the final count will be in the region of over 50 display stands and feature presentations.

To accommodate the increase in stands the display area has been extended to include the first floor function rooms of the Parkway. This will give visitors not only more to see but also more accommodation and variety.

Exhibits will cover the full range of home products and appliances for the home lover and do-it-yourself enthusiast. Included in the list are timber products, kitchens and kitchenware, electrical lighting and fittings of all kinds, tools for the handyman and handywoman, leathergoods, self-assembly kits, curtains, wallpaper, paints and tiling, hi-fi and stereo equipment, home education, gardening, furniture, double-glazing and insulation, bathrooms, antiques and giftware, sewing machines, heating and fireplaces, and more.

The exhibition is sponsored by the Irish Hardware Association and organised by John Palmer (Exhibitions) Ltd.

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