

# Crime programme provokes protests

By LEADER REPORTER

LIMERICK Harbour Commissioners are outraged at what they regard as a media attempt to paint Limerick "the crime capital of the country."

Speaking of Last Sunday's RTE radio programme, "This Week," chairman Ald. Ted Russell said: "It was not the first time that Limerick was presented in an unfavourable light by the media."

## Impression

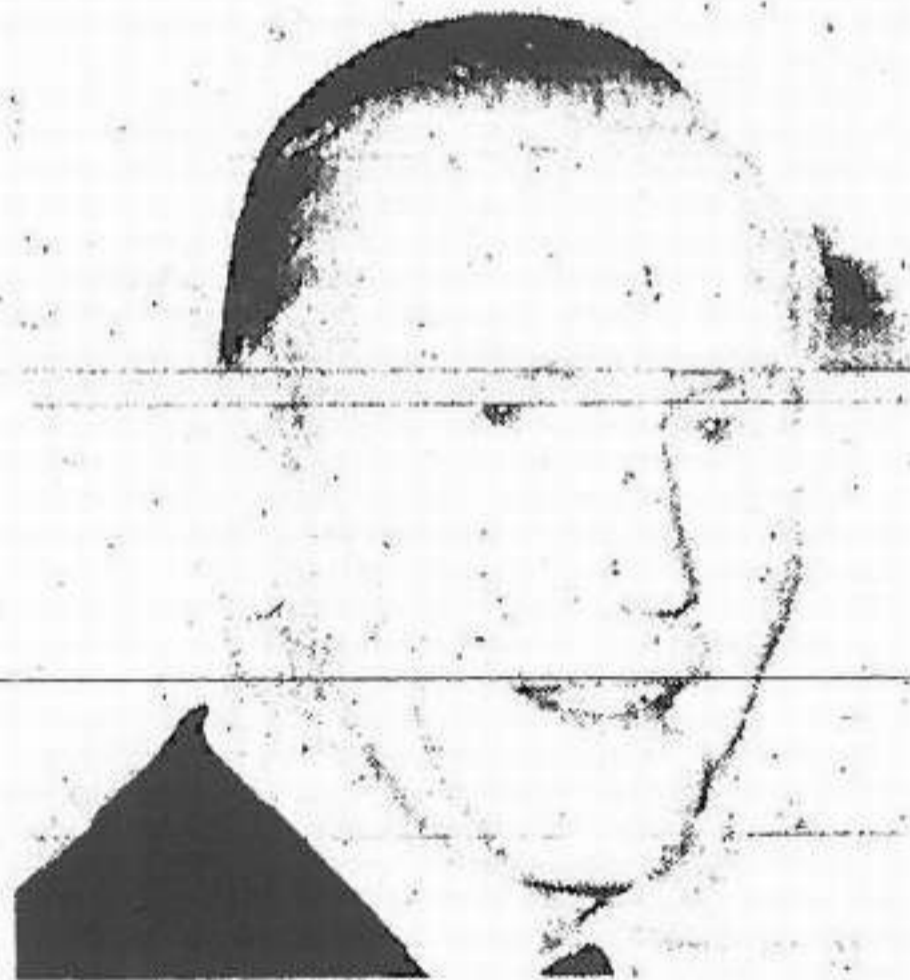
Mr. Jim Wallace said that the manner in which facts on crime in Limerick were broadcast on Sunday gave a totally false impression of the city.

A list of fairly serious crimes, committed over a long period, was presented as if they had happened in recent days, he claimed.

"They made us sound like the crime capital of the country," he said.

Mr. Wallace also claimed that a statement by a Garda superintendant that Limerick was no worse than any place else in terms of size, was played down.

"It was unfortunate," said Mr. Wallace, "that this unfair and biased look at Limerick should have been presented on the day when the eyes of



Chairman Russell: expressed his revulsion.

the country were on us, because of political events."

Mr. Wallace said that he was a member of a juvenile delinquency committee which reported to the Mayor during Mr. Ted Russell's term of office. He had kept up his association with this committee, and he said he was in a position to state that the impression created by the radio programme "This Week" was totally false.

Images like that, he said, would not help Limerick to attract civil servants

and business people who would be of benefit to the city.

Stating that the matter concerned Limerick Port as well, the chairman, Mr. Russell, expressed his revulsion at the type of programme presented. "It doesn't do Limerick any good," he said.

Mr. Russell said that the outgoing president of Limerick Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Kevin O'Connor, was very concerned at the effects an unbalanced presentation could have on the business life of the city.

"The timing was unfortunate," said Ald. Russell, "and the contents of the programme were biased and unfair. It's not the first time Limerick has been portrayed in an unfavourable light by the media."

Mr. Tom O'Dowd said that they should complain to the RTE Authority, a suggestion which was seconded by Councillor John Quinn.

## For years

Councillor Tom Shanahan (North Tipperary) said that he had been visiting Limerick for years and had never found anything like what was reported on the radio.

"The city was painted as a den of vandalism and corruption," he said.