

Cabinet makes final decision

By EUGENE PHELAN

BRINGTON'S Hospital is to close. Cabinet met yesterday and approved the decision already made Health Minister Mr. Rory Hanlon.

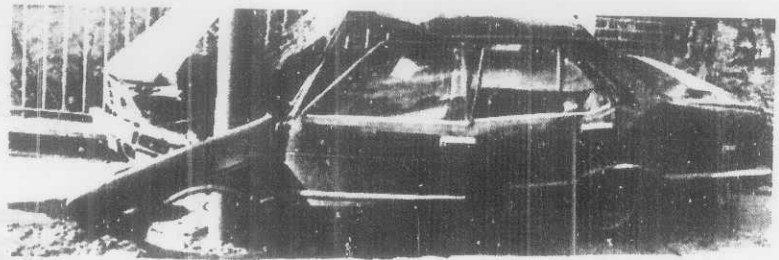
While there were no formal announcements regarding the decision, the *Irish Leader* has learned

that funding of the hospital will cease from March 31, on which date beds are to be transferred to St. John's and the Regional Hospitals.

The Cabinet is understood to have spent a short time discussing the issue, which was quickly passed by for more "urgent matters", said a source.

So despite the Dail vote and the efforts of Deputy Willie O'Dea, who voted against the Government, it seems certain that the hospital will close.

The tactics of the Government appears to be to keep this issue in low key, though Health Minister Dr. Rory O'Hanlon is expected to make a formal announcement in the next few days.



The Fiat car which crashed outside St. Munchin's College yesterday.

Schoolboys lucky escape

By LEADER REPORTER

shaken. The cars were later towed away.

Schoolboys returning to St. Munchin's College after lunch yesterday had a miraculous escape from injury, as did two motorists, when a car rounding a bend near the school entrance crashed into a pole near the gates, and another car crashed into the back of it, according to Gardai. An ambulance called to the scene at about 1.55 p.m. was found to be not needed. The driver was said to be

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'George' sold for £800,000

THE Royal George Hotel has been sold for a sum believed to be around £800,000 and the new owners intend upgrading the city centre facility straight away.

The new owners are understood to be well-known Limerick businessmen, Mr. Xavier McAuliffe, and Mr. John Costello of Glin, while manager Mr. John Likely also has a share.

They immediately intend investing £250,000 to improve the facilities of the city centre hotel, which was owned by Mr. Bobby Kennedy.

While auctioneer Mr. Pat Kearney of Rooney's was not available to confirm the sale today, the *Limerick Leader*

has learned that the purchasers have bought the premises "lock, stock and barrel".

There will be no redundancies and the Royal George, one of Limerick's best known landmarks, will continue to be managed by Mr. Likely.

The new owners are two very successful businessmen. Mr. McAuliffe owns Spectra Laboratories and has a share in the Skelig Hotel, Dingle, while Mr. Costello, who runs the well-known television and video business, based in Glin, is understood to have a share in the Clare Lakelands Hotel.

Rooney Auctioneers have also, it is understood, completed the sale of the Ark Tavern, Corbally, for around £300,000.

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