

## CPI art for millennium

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### Bank official suspended during investigation

By EUGENE PHELAN

A BANK official has been suspended as part of an investigation into a suspected "crime family" in the Mid-West. The Criminal Assets Bureau is understood to have seized a "con-

siderable sum" of money from the family, which has run various businesses in the Clare/Limerick area.

The family has been under investigation for some time, as the CAB try to determine how they have acquired the big houses they live in and the

fast BMW cars they drive.

"How the family got their money is the big question, and the bank official has been suspended, following inquiries about suspected money laundering," said one source close to the investigating team.

The headquarters of the bank was phoned for comment in Dublin today, but there was no official comment at the time of going to press.

Other banks have also come under scrutiny as the undercover team from CAB continue their investi-

gations.

The Limerick Leader has learned that as much as £500,000 may already have been seized from the family.

"Around 10 are involved in different businesses. They have set ups abroad," the source added.

The CAB works inde-

pendently and carries out its investigations through detectives it sends down from Dublin.

"Yes, we are aware of the investigation, but they do their own thing," was how a garda spokesman described the situation.

# TWO IN HOSPITAL: PROBE BY GARDAI

By LAURA RYAN

TWO prospective thieves got more than they bargained for last night, in the course of a botched city burglary.

Two raiders, in their twenties, followed a Johnsate village resident home, shortly after 9pm last night.

According to gardai, they forced the resident into a house and proceeded to ransack it before turning the occupant.

Gardai say the occupant overpowered the raiders. Some time later, two men were admitted to city hospital suffering from knife wounds.

One man was admitted to St John's Hospital and underwent emergency surgery.

The other was found later at Lower Gerald Griffin Street, and brought to Limerick Regional Hospital, where he is described as being in a "stable" condition.

The occupant of the house received slight injuries, but was not detained in hospital.

Henry Street gardai say they are following a definite line of enquiry into the incident.

Meanwhile, there were three other failed burglary attempts in the city overnight.

Shortly after 4am, unsuccessful attempts were made to gain access to houses at Hillcrest, Claughaun Court, Granville Park.

Gardai also believe that an overnight fire—the second in a week—at a house in Moyross was started suspiciously.

### Five recover after two car accidents

FIVE Limerick people are recovering in hospital this morning, after two car accidents overnight.

Three young males and a female were taken to the Regional Hospital, Dooradoyle, after being involved in a two-car collision at the junction of O'Connell Avenue and Saint Street at 10pm.

Three ambulances brought the occupants to hospital.

Their injuries are not thought to be serious. Two units of the fire brigade also arrived on the scene.

The second accident occurred on the Bruff road, out of Hospital, at 2.30am. One woman was taken to the Regional and is being treated for her injuries.



Mayor Jack Bourke receiving the keys of a new Saab car from Neil O'Sullivan, sales manager, Clareview Motors, outside the city hall at the weekend. With them is Colm Tucker, sales manager, Saab (LL)

## Mayor Bourke steers into 2000 in Swedish style

By BARBIA LOOBY

IN the next few days Mayor Jack Bourke will be travelling in a brand new £25,000 Saab car.

The flashy black Saab with the much coveted '00-L-1' registration plate is at his disposal, until his term of office comes to an end in July.

It will then be passed on as a perk to the next may-

or. The Mayor was recently presented with the keys of the new Saab by Neil O'Sullivan, Sales Manager of Clareview Motors.

The Saab is leased by the Corporation until

next January at a cost of approximately £5,000. It will then be replaced with a '01-L-1' car of the Corporation's choice.

A spokeswoman from the Mayor's office explained: "The number

one registration plate is booked for the Mayor every year.

"It is not an automatic procedure, we have to go through the application process, like any other person who wants a par-

ticular registration number."

Although the car is on lease to the Corporation, it is there specifically for the Mayor's use, and he has it with him all the time.