

Sheriff's Chain scare leads to City Hall review

By JIMMY WOULFE

A FULL review of the use of ceremonial chains is being carried out at City Hall in the wake of the latest scare involving the Sheriff's Chain which dates back to 1820.

While Mayor Jack Bourke was on an official

visit to the US, the Corporation issued a statement saying the chain, valued at more than £60,000 was missing. It had been worn by the Mayor at a circus on the previous Thursday night.

The statement said the Mayor indicated on Friday, before leaving for the US, that the chain was

missing.

Gardai were alerted and a major city-wide search ensued.

On Wednesday last City Hall appealed: "We are calling on the public to help in the recovery of the chain."

Back in Limerick today from his US visit, Mayor Bourke spoke of his sur-

prise at the search as he had never said the chain was missing. It was at his house at all times in a camera pouch.

"This is a molehill becoming a mountain," declared Mayor Bourke.

His son, Declan, had noticed the chain on a PC at the family home on Friday and put it into

safe keeping. Mayor Bourke said his son notified the gardai and the Corporation.

Mayor Bourke acknowledges that before catching his flight from Shannon for the US he had carried out a rushed search of his house for the chain, but could not locate it. He had told his

driver on the way to the airport, but he was not concerned as he knew it was in the house somewhere.

Last August the silver chain worn by the Deputy Mayor went missing after a break-in to the home of Cllr Kieran O'Hanlon, but it was later recovered.