



Limerick Chronicle
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Friday, April 22, 1972

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SOUTHILL EVICTION OPPOSED

THE "Rent War" between the Southill tenants and the Limerick Corporation took a serious turn yesterday when the Corporation attempted to evict Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hayes, 335 O'Malley Park, and their four children, from their home.

As soon as news spread throughout the housing scheme—the largest in the city—over 300 men and women with prams gathered outside the Hayes' home to resist the move by the Sheriff and Corporation officials to get the tenant out of the house.

The Hayes family are one of many in Southill who have refused to pay their rent to the Corporation in protest against the alleged method of assessment on the gross income. The tenants, who have the full backing of the Limerick Tenants Association and the National Association of Tenants Organisations (N.A.T.O.), contend that the rent should be assessed on the basic wage only.

Mrs. Breda Hayes told the "Limerick Chronicle" that the Corporation were demanding a rent of £3.38 per week, and that her husband's basic wage was £15.75. Her husband, Thomas, was an employee of Lana-Knit factory in Shannon Airport. They have four children—two boys and two girls—whose ages range between 11 and 2 years.

Saved

"We have not paid rent since Christmas twelve months in protest against the Corporation's method of assessing the rent. We owe £216, but we have saved the money until the Corporation accept the old rent based on the basic wage," stated Mrs. Hayes.

Mr. Con Foley, chairman of the Limerick Tenants' Association, said that the Sheriff, Mr. Bunty McLoughlin, a rent collector and two Gardaí in plain clothes, attempted to evict the Hayes family at 10.50 a.m. "When they saw the big crowd that gathered bearing placards, and realised the tensed situation they had created by the move, they went away. Meanwhile, we are standing by for fear the Corporation will try again. We intend to resist any eviction by force, if necessary, stated Mr. Foley.

Statement

The following statement was issued by Mr. Con Foley, president of the Limerick City and County Tenants' Association, at the house shortly after the attempt to evict Mr. Hayes:

"Notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Hayes is willing to pay his rent as assessed on his basic

evict him this (Friday) morning by the Limerick local authority. Mr. Hayes is involved in the present rent strike in South Hill, and has the full backing of not alone the Limerick Tenants' Association, but also of N.A.T.O.

The Limerick City Manager is well aware that we are prepared to sit in conference with him to reach agreement in this

dispute provided such agreement will be sanctioned and honoured by the Minister for Local Government."

Mr. Foley said previous agreements had not been honoured by the Minister.

He also said great tribute was due to the committee who mustered such a force at short notice.

Mr. Paddy D'Arcy, Housing Officer, Limerick Corporation, pointed out that ten tenants were directly involved in the dispute with the Corporation over the assessment of rent on the gross income. "Nine of these tenants came to an agreement, but Mr. Hayes did not accept the same terms offered. An order for possession was granted in the District Court last January, and now the warrant is being executed by the County Registrar. The matter is now in the hands of the Court," stated Mr. D'Arcy.

He agreed that a big number of tenants who were not directly involved were supporting those tenants in dispute.

Appealed against gaol sentence

LIMERICK CIRCUIT Court was told this week that a man went out and got drunk on learning that his father was dying of cancer. The case was a sequel to a row in Southill on September 4 last when a number of people tried to obstruct the Gardaí in their duty.

James Normoyle, 489 O'Malley Park, appealed against a six months sentence imposed by the District Justice. He had pleaded guilty to assaulting Garda Peter Cawley at Collins Avenue, Southill, on September 4 last.

Mr. Gordon Holmes, State Solicitor, prosecuting, said that a big row developed in Southill and two cars of Gardaí were called at 12.45 a.m. to quell the disturbance.

Abusive

"Some people in the large crowd tried to obstruct the Gardaí in their attempt to restore order. As the Gardaí were effecting a number of arrests, Garda Peter Cawley arrested the appellant, who was most abusive and kicked him," said

serious state of affairs.

Judge Barra O'Brien said that the Gardaí must be protected in this kind of thing, which was quite serious. He was not prepared to lift the sentence at the moment, but he would adjourn the case to Michaelmas to see how he conducted himself in the meantime.

Dies after accident

The death has taken place at Barrington's Hospital, Limerick, of Mr. Augustine O'Neill, 6 Clontarf Place, Limerick, following injuries received when he was involved in an accident



A section of the audience at Defence Campaign held at the

Thomond Develop Program

THE FIRST PHASE of the development Programme begins with the rehousing of 75 houses in the Hill district.

The people living in this area have received notices from the Corporation this week which have disturbed many of them. There are two points which I would like to make to allay their fears. Firstly, not all those who received these notices will be moved. The housing officer, Mr. Paddy D'Arcy, has assured me that only those, whom it is essential to move for the proper development of the area, will be disturbed. However, the statutory notices had to be sent to all.

Rehoused

Secondly, anyone who is moved will be rehoused in the area as soon as the houses are ready for occupation.

Nobody will be forced out of the Thomondgate district against his will. The tragedy is that so many people have been forced to leave the area over the last twenty years. The programme for Thomondgate is a development programme, one for the building up of an area that is falling into decay.

An important aim of the programme is to preserve the community, with all its distinctive