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# Council move in on squatters

# PUT OUT ON THE STREETS

## Home offers to families — nothing for singles

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OUT . . . another picture on page 4.

A DEPUTATION of squatters met Camden councillors this week — after 50 of them had been evicted from Euston's Tolmers Square.

By GEORGE McMILLAN

Now another 50 occupying the other side of the square wait, fearful of similar eviction.

square could be heard, and several policemen were standing around outside.

In the room where I sat conditions were deplorable and the smell was sickening, no doubt partly due to the awful state of the property and partly because so many people were living in such cramped conditions.

The houses crashing down had been daubed with the words: "49 People Evicted May 4 by Camden Council. Call This a Housing Policy? Single People Need Homes."

### BASIC RIGHT

The Tolmers Village Action Group claims that Camden Council has 2,900 empty properties on its book. Leaflets distributed by the Group following the eviction, asking for support, said: "Unless Camden Council utilises these empty properties to rehouse the people evicted from Tolmers, these same people will have no alternative but to re-squat."

The deputation from the squatters was received by representatives of Camden Council at the Town Hall on Tuesday this week.

A document for discussion presented to the council stated: "The basic right to a home should be the priority. This right has been generally recognised for those with children, but ignored for single people.

Recognising, therefore, single people's rights to housing there are two im-

mediate solutions. (1) an extension of the existing council scheme to house single people in shared tenancies in 'hard-to-let' flats, or (2) as a transition, to house people in short-life accommodation to await tenancies."

The Council has told the Chronicle that the other side of the square is wanted for residential development and that they will offer other accommodation to the small number of families involved as required under the Homeless Persons Act.

But negotiations for the single people continue.

Another call to Camden Council to house the single homeless was made recently at the annual meeting of the New Horizon Youth Club, Covent Garden, which helps young people with accommodation and welfare matters.

Some of those put out on the streets by the Council last Friday's action had lived there for five years.

But a spokeswoman for the deputation meeting the council told me: "They were encouraging in that they said they would look into the possibilities of rehousing, however no promises were made and we are still at the talking stage."

Those evicted on Friday left peacefully, hurriedly gathering their belongings.

The small number of families involved were offered other accommodation by the council. Some of the single people promptly moved in with the squatters on the opposite side of the square.

The houses involved in the eviction were on the south side. Demolition began almost immediately to make way for the building of offices. The north side, also due for demolition, is wanted for residential development.

On Tuesday morning, I sat with some of the squatters in the first floor front room of number 12. Noise from the demolition work across the



## Nick look to the east

AH, SO! I hear that remarkable young man Nick W gone East to fight off property speculators on Long flung frontiers.

Nick — once the super squatter of Tolmers Square — is campaigning again. This time to keep the huge Limehouse Basin in the heart of Docklands for the

He's floating a unique idea among East End traditionalists and tenants' leaders for a people's property management company.

A talented architect and a formidable organiser dreams of a £20 million project involving public craft workshops, and a water adventure playgrou