

Companies Clash In Underpass Probe

DOZENS of solicitors, L.C.C. officials and objectors sat in a surprised and stony silence at a St. Pancras Public Inquiry on Tuesday when one investment company began questioning the actions of another.

The inquiry was into the L.C.C.'s proposed £850,000 underpass at the junction of Euston-road and Hampstead-road, N.W.1.

Among the premises that would have to be demolished to make way for the newly-widened road and underpass are 15-17 Euston-road, owned by Baxter Investments Ltd., of Great Portland-street, W.1.

But Mr. K. R. Bagnall, representing Baxter Developments, complained that in an attempt to obtain these premises the agents of another company, Balgray Investments Ltd., had threatened to have an L.C.C. compulsory purchase order clamped on the property.

They refused to sell—and a few months later 15-17, which was originally excluded from the L.C.C. scheme, came into it.

"I leave anyone to draw their own conclusions," he said, "And no doubt they will," added the Chairman (Mr. P. H. Harrold).

Mrs. Rosemary Baxter, Director and Secretary of the company, said she and her husband purchased the premises in 1959 with the specific intention of developing it.

"Sometime later we were invited to lunch with Mr. J. Levy, of D. E. and J. Levy, the Estate Agents for Balgray Investments," she continued. "We knew they owned the premises next door to ours and we wanted to buy it."

"But when we arrived Mr. Levy said: 'I want to buy your property, and no fancy prices.' Then he said that if we did not sell to him he would get the L.C.C. to put a compulsory purchase order on us. He got very angry."

"Sometime later we put in a planning application to the L.C.C. for development of the site but it was refused."

Mr. Bagnall's comments drew immediate response from Mr. R. Silkin, representing Balgray Investments. "I understood no attack would be made on my client or their agent and consequently I have not been instructed," he said.

And Mr. K. A. Goodfellow, for the L.C.C.: "I am not in a position to accept or challenge, or in any way deal with what took place between Mrs. Baxter and the other company."

He added: "One can understand how the suspicion grew in the mind of Baxter Investments that the L.C.C. were in some way seeking to acquire their premises and help Balgray Investments. But this has nothing to do with the matter before the Minister."

LABOUR BACK HOUSING PLAN

of the St. Pancras Conservatives

With a proviso that existing residents should be rehoused locally at low rents and that provision should be made for the widening of Hunter-street, W.9.1, the Labour-controlled London County Council have approved a scheme submitted by the Tory-controlled St. Pancras Council for the re-development of a large part of the Foundling Estate.

The area scheduled for re-development is bounded by Bernard-street, Brunswick-square, Hunter-street, Tavistock-place, Marchmont-street, Coram-street and Kenton-street. Before the last war this area comprised numerous small hotels and boarding houses and some of the larger residences of famous Bloomsbury inhabitants.

New buildings to be erected on the site include blocks of flats, an hotel, shops, offices and adequate parking facilities.

Financial Move

Because the wages of drivers employed by the firm of contractors engaged in the collection and removal of street refuse in St. Pancras was increased by £2 1s. 4d. per week on August 18, the council are to approve an increased estimate of £450 to cover the rest of the financial year.

Former estimate was £10,000 per annum

"STUPIDNESS MADE ME TAKE BEER GLASS"

Conditionally discharging a man accused of stealing a beer glass from a public-house, the Clerkenwell magistrate (Mr. L. E. Barker) told him: "You have not been convicted for dishonesty for some 30 years. That is in your favour."

David Fleming, a 46-year-old driver, of Arlington-road, N.W.1, pleaded guilty to stealing a beer glass, worth 2s., from a public-house in Inverness-street, N.W.1.

A police officer said that at 9.35 on Sunday night he saw Fleming outside the public-house. He saw him put a beer glass under his jacket. The officer questioned the accused, who then produced the beer glass and said: "A friend gave it to me to take up to Edinburgh."

The officer asked Fleming to accompany him back into the public-house, and Fleming replied: "All right, I stole it." He was said to have three previous convictions.

Fleming told the court: "Stupidness made me take the beer glass."

17 Nov 1961

Mr. Cooke, in referring to the London Rate Equalization Scheme, says that since attempts have been made to equalize the great burdens falling upon the metropolitan boroughs, and the original scheme provided that those boroughs whose rateable value per head was below the average for the administrative County of London, should be credited with rateable value sufficient to bring theirs to the average, and, on this basis, to receive payment out of a pool financed by a levy at a uniform rate poundage on all metropolitan boroughs.

This scheme failed to achieve the desired result, and was the subject of much strong criticism. It was revised in 1953 and the present scheme was introduced in 1959. This is based upon a grant pool of 70 per cent. of the aggregate local expenditure of all the boroughs, which is then shared proportionately to their

IMPLEMENTS CHARGE: BAIL IS REFUSED

Charged with being found in possession of housebreaking implements by night; and driving while disqualified and without insurance, Albert Dennis Lynch (22), car washer, of Stanhope-street, N.W.1, was remanded in custody until November 20 by the Clerkenwell magistrate (Mr. Frank Powell).

P.C. Day said that at 1 a.m. that morning he saw Lynch, whom he knew to be disqualified from driving, driving a car in Stanhope-street. "The car was stopped and the car searched, and in the boot he found 21 keys, a hacksaw blade, a screwdriver, a torch, a piece of plastic and a pair of gloves."

Lynch said from the dock: "I finished work at 12.30 a.m. and these officers were waiting for me. They showed me that parcel, but it did not come from the car's boot."

His application for bail was refused.

Patrick Joseph. All old kitchen, ton-road, N.W.1. was breaking and entering in Parkway, N.W.1. w to call on my in hours of Sunday morn

He was committed to the County of London on November 21.

Miss Elizabeth Harner, nurse, of Parkway, N.W.1, was in bed at ab when she heard the bed open and someone com room.

She thought it was a friend she was expecting from a party. She asked you enjoy the party?" was no reply. She then suspicious and asked to turn on the light.

She saw a man, whom she as the accused, with blood face. He struck a match. Miss Harner said she her dressing gown and man to get out. He went she shut the door behind her. She later looked over the stairs and saw him sitting

stairs. She told the accused and he asked her if she matches. She said she and he then offered her etc. At this point she the stairs and into the bring assistance.

On the way out she glass on the floor near door leading to the he returned with a pass stayed with her until phoned the police.

P.C. Matthews told that he went to the 1.20 a.m. and saw th

Bathroom Tra

On Tuesday a schoolgirl, Frances W her three-year-old b Brian, were found d bathroom at their Rochester-square, N.W understood that the gi to have a bath and small brother with he she could keep an eye An inquest will be he

Housing Cry: 'U' Furnished Caravan

AT this week's meeting of St. Pancras Borough Co Labour Group will move a Notice of Motion urging agency measures to deal with the increasing number of being made homeless by the 1957 Rent Act.

Their motion demands: "That, in view of the ever-increasing number of families becoming homeless and the overcrowding of L.C.C. homes and institutions since the introduction of the 1957 Rent Act, this council seeks temporary emergency powers to requisition houses on the market, and hotels and other suitable buildings and erect temporary houses and furnished caravans on all vacant sites in St. Pancras that are not due for re-development before 1965."

The Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr. C. Ford, J.P., Leader of the Group, and is supported Socialist members.

Commenting on the this week, Cllr. Hatch this journal: "It is not poor who are being th of their homes wholeser bridged and greedy land even people in this bor Holborn who have been of up to £12 a we danger of being thrown the street."