

14 FEB 1969.

# North London Press

Friday, February 14, 1969

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## 72-YEAR-OLD MAN IS OFFERED £250 TO QUIT HIS FLAT



Mr. William Byrne stands outside his home in North Gower Street.

A 72-YEAR-OLD controlled tenant has been offered £250 to quit his Euston flat. But he has refused the offer and is determined to stay where he is, even though workmen have moved into the rest of the house to recondition it.

Mr. William Byrne, a retired warehouseman, has also refused an offer of alternative accommodation. "I was born here and I don't want to leave unless they can find me better accommodation," he said at his home in North Gower Street this week.

"It is impossible for me to find rooms. The only way you can get rooms is to offer an estate agent key money, and I haven't got any money."

The £250 offer was made by the landlord, Mr. A. V. Keats, who has an office in another house he owns in the same block.

In a letter addressed to Mr. Byrne by Mr. Keats's company, Elan Management Ltd., it was stated that unless the offer were accepted within four weeks it would be withdrawn.

The letter continues: "We wish to make it quite clear that you are entitled to stay where you are, but we feel it may be of mutual convenience

if you make a renewed effort in this matter."

Mr. Byrne has refused the offered accommodation as being unsuitable.

He said: "I was banking on being rehoused if the council took over the properties and demolished them."

In fact, the properties in this part of North Gower Street are due to be demolished by Camden Council as part of the Tolmers Square redevelopment scheme in perhaps two to three years.

He went along to the "surgery" held by Regent's Park Ward councillors in Albany Street and now Cllr. Chris Turner has taken up his case.

Cllr. Turner said: "It is difficult to know whether to advise him to accept £250 and try to find other premises or to get the agent to find another place, but there is no doubt that if he stays here he is going to be troubled no end by the landlord. At present I would say 'sit tight.'"

As a controlled tenant, Mr. Byrne pays just over £1 a week rent.

Mr. Keats was not available for comment at the time of going to press and a member of his staff had no comment to make.

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## Council row over 2d.

## Neighborhood Centres for Camden

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## Land for housing associations

Camden Council is to sell four plots of land in the

CAMDEN Council's Tory leaders were accused this week of putting forward the "meanest, unfairest, wickedest, most unnecessary and most despicable" proposals in the history of the borough.

The attack came during a stormy four-hour debate at Wednesday night's council

and heavy burden on individual people,

The services for which the Tories wanted to charge more should be provided out of the rates, said Mr. Hughes-Stanton.

"The rates are there to provide community services and to look after the members of the community who cannot