

# Liberal way to get rid of your father-in-law

YOU CAN'T beat the Liberals for fairness. Especially if you join them.

Take Liverpool Liberal councillor John Wilde, for instance. The Liberals have been very fair to him.

Councillor Wilde had a problem. The sort of problem that can upset even the nicest family. He got landed with his father-in-law.

And unfortunately, as Mrs Wilde so charmingly puts it, her father is "a very awkward person" and

doesn't mix very well. He's only 60 but "he acts a lot older". (The charming Mrs Wilde again.)

So the Wildes decided to get rid of him - during the day, anyway. Last November councillor Wilde's father-in-law became a day patient at Croxteth Lodge, a residential home for the elderly.

He goes seven days a week, gets two square meals, watches television ...and he's unique.

There hasn't been another "day patient" at Croxteth Lodge in the last ten years.

For the princely sum of 15p a day the semi-detached Wildes seemed to have solved their problem. But they're still not satisfied.

All that driving from Woolton to Croxteth Lodge is getting Mrs Wilde down. It would be far better if her father lived in the home, actually. And, with that nice councillor

Johnston (Liberal chairman of the Libraries and Leisure Committee) taking a personal interest, anything is possible.

Of course, to suggest all this is underhand, that Councillor Wilde abused his position, or that he is better able than most to look after his relatives, that thousands of old people need the council's help more than his father-in-law...

To suggest anything like that would probably be unfair.



## Keeping a slum up angers the Joneses

A FAMILY in Anfield have two addresses - and are still without a decent home.

The Jones family live over a shop at 81 Breckfield Road North, and at 34 Rutland Street. One address is on the front and the other on the side.

It's not as if their home was large. Mr and Mrs Jones and their three children have to cram into two bedrooms.

And they spend most of their time in a very damp living room.

When they moved there a few years ago they were told by estate agents Sykes Waterhouse that it would shortly come down and they would be rehoused. Sykes Waterhouse even quoted a demolition date - last year!

A year ago all of Rutland Street was pulled down - all except No 34. Mrs Jones went to the Planning Department and was told they would be rehoused by the end of 1974. Needless to say, nothing has happened.

In their pre-election warm-up, councillors assured Mrs Jones that their home was to be compulsorily purchased. However, councillors tend to say anything just before an election.

Meanwhile Mr and Mrs Jones and their children live isolated from any other houses in appallingly bad conditions. The Public Health have been round to deal with the vermin, plaster is falling off the walls and ceiling and they have to wash up in an outhouse.

It appears the Corporation WERE going to knock the Jones' home down with the rest.

But because it was part of what is called a 'frontage' on Breckfield Road North, they decided to exclude it from the compulsory purchase order.

The reason is this: With shops and pubs the Corporation have to pay the market value of the property, and also compensation for loss of business.

But if all the surrounding property is bought and demolished first the shops lose their trade and the compensation is less. If the Corporation strikes really lucky the business becomes bankrupt and the property can be purchased for only site value.

Only when the conditions of frontage properties have become extremely bad and the loss-of-business payments very low, will the Corporation purchase them. And that is why Mr and Mrs Jones and their children have to live in a Corpy-induced slum - because the Housing Department puts cash before people.

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## Dangerous fumes for expensive perfumes

A SEVENTEEN-year-old lad was working with dangerous chemicals. Every day the management gave him a pint of milk to line his stomach.

Another lad in the same factory vomited for two days and had to leave.

It sounds extraordinary, but there's nothing unusual in it. The chemicals - Perchloroethylene and Trichloroethylene - are widely used in industry. And there are no specific regulations covering them.

This particular factory using them is the Dibro factory in Wellington Road, Seaforth. Dibro is a non-union firm. Among other things,

they paint plastic bottle tops for Faberge and Brute perfumes.

The tops have to be perfectly clean before painting. Our 17-year-old's job was to lift a tray of them into a bath containing ten gallons of the chemicals. He would have to lean over the bath again to lift the tray out and shake the liquid off.

On the side of the bath is a notice: "Trichloroethylene and Perchloroethylene. If inhaled in small quantities can cause drowsiness which will pass off in fresh air. But in large quantities may cause unconsciousness."

It's no joke. The fumes give people a happy feeling but they have been

known to kill. The liquid is thought to enter the body through the skin and is suspected of causing liver damage.

Dibro's bath is in a hot room with little ventilation. The fumes are supposed to be sucked out by a fan nearby. No doubt this keeps them below the level permitted for this type of chemical.

The 17-year-old didn't wait to find out. He has now left. At £15.20 for 40 hours, who can blame him. Of course, if he'd waited until he was 18 he would have picked up £30.

But he wasn't sure what else he would be picking up with it.

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## BACKWARD STEP IN SEFTON

SEFTON COUNCIL have become the first local authority in the country to actually lower the standard of new council houses.

Sefton got the government's permission to cut standards for their 200 home Marshside estate in Southport.

The "justification", as always, is money. Sefton expect to save 20% of normal costs.

They are doing it by allowing a private builder to build to his own plans - and to the NHBC standards for private houses, instead of the usual, higher Parker-Morris standards.

The result will be the cheapest possible type of private house. There will be no ground-floor central heating and far fewer fittings than usual.

(The council say this will allow tenants to choose their own cupboards for instance... and pay for them).

But worst of all, the Marshside houses will be even smaller than normal council houses. And you know how rambling they are!

It is true that Sefton's scheme is progressing far quicker than usual local authority building programmes.

With a housing waiting list of 1,000 in posh Southport alone, it ought to be.

## Tenants reject underhand deal

THE NORTHWOOD Flat Dwellers' Action Group are having a tough time taking Knowsley Council to court.

It all started last year when the group accused the council of breaching the public health laws by not repairing council homes.

Summonses were taken out. On the day fixed for the hearing a mystery illness struck down the three clerks to Kirkby magistrates. Other magistrates' clerks in the Knowsley area quickly caught it, preventing the case being transferred there.

At the rescheduled hearing the authorities found a new solutions. All the summonses were struck out over a technicality.

But Knowsley council have also tried more subtle tactics. After one of the hearings Chris Welsh and Wally Traynor of the action group received a letter.

It was from their solicitor, Mr E.D. Walter, of Bartlett & Son, of Liverpool. And it was written after a little chat between Mr Walter and Knowsley council's solicitor.

It offered the Northwood Flat Dwellers a deal. If they would drop most of their summonses the council would re-house four of the tenants involved.

"This places me in a dilemma," wrote Mr Walter, "as technically I act for each complainant and it would be wrong for me to compromise the

proceedings of one as part of a 'deal' benefiting others unless this course was agreed by those whose summonses would not be proceeded with."

He needn't have worried. The action group would have nothing to do with it. They intend to press on with all the summonses even though Mr Walter is not very optimistic.

"Publicity would be the worst that could happen to the local authority as the likely order the court would make would be relatively toothless," he wrote.

For publishing some of these facts, the Kirkby Reporter was threatened with legal action. They needn't worry either. The speed of justice in Kirkby means they will probably run out of flower shows to report and close down long before it comes to court.

FLORIDA Highway Patrolman Jim Ivey, clutching his bleeding leg, told his rescuers a hair-raising story. A gang of greasy, leather-jacketed, drunken thugs on motorcycles had surrounded his patrol car, beaten him up, stolen his gun, shot him and ridden off into the sunset.

Later he admitted it wasn't quite true. Actually he'd stopped by the roadside to shoot at rabbits. He'd missed. But as he put his pistol away, he'd shot himself in the leg.



MR ANDREW WOOD, aged 79, was buried by mistake in the grave of Mr William Woodgate, aged 82. Mr Woodgate was buried in the grave reserved for 90-year-old Mr Herbert Johnson. The mix-up was spotted just as Mr Johnson was about to be cremated in mistake for Mr Wood. All three died in Taunton.



"The Home Office bends over backwards to help every serious sexual offender," Dr Field said.

Guardian



TO PUBLICISE a forthcoming flower festival in the village of Jump, Father David Warner spent a morning jumping up and down outside the church with a bunch of flowers in each hand.



INDUSTRIALIST George Clancey had to cancel plans to give his 1,000 workers a slap-up party at his country estate. The event was to commemorate the 50th anniversary of one of his firms. But the workers found another way to celebrate... and came out on strike.



THE CONGREGATION of twenty at Libanus Chapel, Gorseinon, Swansea, escaped unhurt when the organ blew up at the start of a service.



SOME POLITICIANS will do anything to get your vote. In the Portuguese elections the little-known Monarchist party began their election broadcasts with the words: "Comrade Monarchists."

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