

## Winch Project

# No Action Taken On 'Home' Issue

City council is still too much in the dark to take any action to prevent E. E. Winch, M.L.A., opening the dwelling at 3181 W. 2nd Ave., for the rehabilitation of women discharged from Escondale Mental Hospital.

After receiving another letter from R. E. Cummings, representing the 480 petitioners against the plan, and another from D. E. McTaggart, corporation counsel, discussing what action the city might take under certain circumstances, council has "received and filed" the letters.

"The situation is rather obscure," declares Ald. George Worthington.

"We played checkers right round the board with Mr. Winch and we could not find out what the building is to be used for," says Ald. George Buscombe, chairman of the civic sub-committee studying the matter.

### COUNCIL STUMPED

Council appears stumped as to whether it is to be private hospital, mental hospital, convalescent home, or simply a rooming house.

Mr. McTaggart points out that the petition declared it was to be used as a rooming house. In that case, a civic bylaw would apply, making a licence necessary with a penalty up to \$100 for non-compliance.

If it is to be a private hospital, he asserts, a licence from the Provincial Secretary would be necessary, with a penalty of \$25 a day imposed for operating without permission.

In either case, he says, there would be violation of the city's zoning by-law but under Federal order 200 the bylaw is overridden and, in fact, the sharing of one family homes with other families is encouraged by it.

If Mr. Winch proposes merely to share accommodation, any prosecution under the bylaw would fall, it is shown. Counsel further contends that if he carries on a hospital or rooming house without a licence he could be prosecuted.

### PATIENT ACCEPTED

"The place is to be used as a mental hospital," states Mr. Cummings in his letter, "and the first patient entered it on Jan. 13."

He cannot understand the collection of \$11,000 for operation of a rooming house" as suggested; nor why there should be a secretary-treasurer of such an establishment. He wants to know what would become of the profits and believes there should be an investigation in the interests of the initial subscribers and the petitioners.

"It seems that nothing can be done until there is some violation of a bylaw," says Ald. Charles Jones.