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Going Ahead With Hospital Home

Threat to Prosecute Winch if Law Defied

Prosecution of E. E. Winch, MLA, if he defiantly establishes a boarding home at 3181 West Second Avenue for women discharged from mental hospital was contemplated Monday by the City Council in planning committee.

A report on legal measures which might be taken to deter or punish the promoter of the proposal was ordered to be prepared for council's meeting next Monday by Corporation Counsel D. E. McTaggart, KC.

Furniture for the home is now being moved in, the committee was told by Harry Rogers, who lives with his wife and three small sons in one of the four suites into which the premises are already subdivided.

"Mr. Winch told us he was going ahead with his plans," said Mr. Rogers. The Rogers family and one other still in the house got one month's notice to vacate last November 15, but haven't been able to find other accommodation.

Last month, however, after receiving a petition of protest from 489 residents of the district, the council informed Mr. Winch that the scheme would violate the zoning bylaw and that he couldn't obtain a lodging house license.

Mr. McTaggart's snap judgment was that the city "would be at the mercy of the police magistrates" if Mr. Winch breaks a bylaw.

"And knowing them as I do," he added, "I would say that they are not apt to be severe in cases of this kind. They usually impose only a small fine. What would you do then, if he kept on running?"

Mr. Winch complicated the question still more by sending the committee a letter alleging that "a considerable number" of other houses in the same area are being used already as boarding, rooming or apartment houses.

"If it is to be the policy of the council to enforce the one-family dwelling zoning regulations in this district," he wrote, "they must be applied equally to one and all and not on a discriminatory basis against one particular person or premises."