

## EHRlich REZONING MOVE DRAWS RESIDENTS' IRE

**Public Hearing Monday Attend-  
ed by Large Group From  
Fourth-Laurel Area**

Incensed residents jammed the Village council chambers and overflowed into the hall last Monday night when a public hearing was held on the petition of Benjamin H. Ehrlich, asking the rezoning of property at Laurel avenue and Fourth street to permit the erection of apartments. The hearing was conducted by a special zoning commission, appointed recently by the Village board and composed of Robert Stoddard, Frederick J. Newey, Frank C. Huffman, Lloyd C. Ayres and Julius D. Roth.

The session early assumed close resemblance to an indignation meeting as property owners from the area affected aired their opinions on the situation with considerable fervor. The construction by Mr. Ehrlich of a house, regarded as certainly not pretentious, particularly drew the wrath of those speaking and it was branded in no uncertain terms as a weapon of intimidation, wielded to force the residents to consent to the rezoning requested.

### Agree But Disagree

The group quickly split into two divisions, both of which agreed that apartments were not desired. They were widely at variance, however, upon the vastly more important question as to the relative desirability of apartments and houses of the type being erected by Mr. Ehrlich, tenanted by rumored "undesirable people."

One division, with distinctive phrasology, established its position as destined either to burn or swim and arrived

with some heat—albeit consternation—at the conclusion it much preferred to swim. The other, in equally animated terms, assumed the attitude that in the face of a firm stand the fire would either go out or could be put out. The meeting adjourned with the former group silenced but not exactly convinced.

### Taken Under Advisement

The fate of Mr. Ehrlich's petition, which requests that the three lots comprising the half block on Fourth street between Laurel avenue and the first alley north be rezoned from "A Residential" to "Commercial" classification, rests, as a matter of course, in the hands of the commission. This body will in the near future submit a report with recommendations to the Wilmette Village board following which final disposition of the petition will be made. It is likely that the report will be made to the board at its next regular meeting, May 6.

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