

Danson Proposal In Parliament

Turn Over Rochdale To Senior Citizens

When Rochdale College in Metro has been emptied of its present tenants it should be refurbished and converted to housing for senior citizens said Barney Danson MP, York North in a debate on the topic of Rochdale in the House of Commons recently.

"This (Rochdale) was an experiment that failed," said Danson. "It resulted in a cesspool, a morass of drugs and slothfulness which none of us can accept and which we want to see cleaned up. It is a black mark on the legitimate co-operative housing projects which we all support, and it is a black mark on the legitimate students who are trying to further their education in imaginative ways. It really sets their case back."

Clarkson Company Limited, court-appointed receiver for the debt-ridden Rochdale College, was told March 29 that it can evict the 408 tenants remaining. A total of about 700 people now occupy the building, about 65 percent of capacity.

Judge Neil Fraser gave the receivers permission to issue eviction orders, giving 30 days notice to the tenants. All but four are renting by the month.

The college owes \$6.8 million in mortgage and interest, and the receiver has spent \$480 solely for security and management in the 18 storey building while receiving only \$488,000 in rent revenues, the court was told.

Mike Randall, vice-president of the college, called the judge's decision a "gross miscarriage of justice." He said, "We're going to appeal as a corporation, and if we lose the tenants are going to appeal individually."

The North York member urged the House to back up Minister of State For Urban Affairs Robert Andras in his efforts to get Rochdale cleaned up as quickly as possible under the law, and to back up the efforts of the receiver in his efforts to empty the building.

BADLY DAMAGED
The building has been badly damaged, Danson de-

clared, but it is well constructed and can be refurbished.

"I would like to see us carry on another type of experiment that has been highly successful, namely, the setting up of senior citizens' housing such as has been done in the central part of Toronto. We have excellent senior citizens' housing on Yonge Street downtown in the core of the city."

Danson described the downtown senior citizens' apartment building as "almost like a private hotel for senior citizens at nominal rents". The residents are close to shops and all facilities and to their friends. They are able to live in dignity. Such an atmosphere, he said, gives them a new lease on life and allows them to give "as complete human beings".

NO SEX SCANDALS
Rochdale on Bloor Street in the centre city should also be converted to such a use, Danson said. "This would be a constructive use for it. Our experimentation in this area has paid off. I have not heard of any drug or sex scandals in senior citizens' homes to date, and I think we should take our chances on that. We are deeply concerned, and I know the Minister is concerned. I hope we find a technique within the law to get this place cleaned out. It is a cancer on the whole student movement in Canada and certainly in Toronto."

(Considerable discontent has been expressed in Toronto and Metro Councils at the federal government's failure to get tenants out of Rochdale. Residents have threatened violence if an attempt is made to evict them).

STUDENT HOUSING
"I do not think we should get out of co-operative housing for students when it is run responsibly," said Danson. (Many Rochdale residents are not students). "We have learned a lesson, and if we experiment again in this area we should not leave ourselves open to the sort of abuse which has taken place in Rochdale College. It is a place that all the people I know in Toronto have condemned, and I think all the people of Toronto would support this clean-up and changeover."

From The Police Blotter

Arrest Two Men Armed Robbery, Youth Pistol Whipped

York Regional Police arrested two men and are seeking two others in connection with an armed robbery last week in Richmond Hill, in which one man was also pistol whipped.

The robbery took place March 29 at the apartment of Bryan Davis, 41 Hunt Avenue, when three men entered and demanded money of the two occupants, John Cosgrove, 16, of RR 3, King City, and Patrick Fitzsimons, Essex Avenue, Richmond Hill. One of the men was carrying a .45 automatic pistol.

Police said Fitzsimons gave the men \$1.50, but Cosgrove refused to empty his pockets and instead grabbed for the gun.

The gun went off just over his head and Cosgrove was then beaten with the pistol and also punched. The men took his wallet, but it didn't contain any money.

Arrested on a charge of robbery with violence was Donald Perry, 22, of 451 Elmwood Avenue. Warrants are also out for two other men.

Police later confronted another man at the apartment, while questioning witnesses, who was picked up for having an offensive weapon — a shotgun — in his possession.

Charged was Glen Davis, of 41 Hunt Avenue.

Police also arrested two other men in connection with a break-in and robbery at C. H. Atkinson and Company, 147 Centre Street East, March 23, in which almost \$2,000 worth of equipment and tools were taken.

The property was later recovered in a bush on 19th Avenue.

Facing charges of breaking, entering and theft, and possession of stolen goods, are Eric Staples, 18, of 265 DeMaime Crescent, and Wayne Carlisle, 20.

A House of Concord resident has been charged following a break-in at Scholastic Text Book Services, 123 Newkirk Road, between March 29 and 31.

Police said four boxes of books were taken and then scattered over the rear parking lot. Damage amounted to \$300.

Charged with breaking, entering and theft was Ronald Dowel, 20.

In Aurora, Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School was ripped off, as well as apart by vandals, March 31.

After breaking into the

school, the vandals took a quantity of equipment, and then turned the firehouse loose in the halls, pulled ribbons from typewriters and ransacked the rooms.

Unfortunately for them, they were observed leaving the school by a citizen, who called police.

Facing charges of breaking and entering and public mischief, are Douglas Schultz, 16, and Gary Knapp, 17, both of Johnson Road, Aurora.

Earlier in the week, six paintings on loan to the school, were taken from an exhibition there.

Biggest robbery of the week took place in a compound behind 450 Boves Road in Concord, where 30,000 feet of lumber, valued at \$6,000, was taken.

The lumber belonged to Rockwood Rentals, Rockwood, Ontario.

Next in line was the \$5,205 theft from the home of Peter Waxman, 71 Aberfeldy Crescent, Thornhill. The loot consisted of a quantity of money, jewelry, luggage, liquor, a silver service and two projectors.

A police raid on a store in Maple, resulted in the arrest of David Winn, Baythorn Drive, Thornhill, and possible charges of being in possession of obscene films and possession of narcotics for the purpose of trafficking.

The raid was made at the Corner Store, Keele Street, Maple.

Georgia Pyatt, 116 Lawrence Avenue, Richmond Hill, reported the theft of the canvas top of her convertible car, while it was parked at the Fina Service Station, 267 Yonge Street, March 29.

Loss was estimated at \$200.

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