



KNIFE ATTACK ON EX-MAYOR

By **AIDAN CORR**

FORMER Mayor of Limerick, Paddy Kiely was still recovering today following a vicious attack when he was struck with a sledgehammer and a jagged-edged carving knife.

"It was one of the most terrifying experiences of my life," the former Fianna Fail councillor said this morning as he relived the horror of the assault which took place as he came from a house in Creaval Park, Moyross at 7.45 p.m. on Friday last.

"There were two assailants, maybe three, and each had his face disguised with a balaclava. I had just sat into the car, which was parked outside the house, when one of them kicked the door and nearly knocked it off the hinges. The next thing I remember I was being pulled

out of the car and thrown down on the ground.

This is the fifth occasion that the local insurance agent has been attacked and robbed.

"One of them hit me in the face with the sledgehammer while the other slashed both of my hands with the knife. They then snatched the money, which totalled between £400 and £500, from me and made off into the darkness," said the Scottish Legal Insurance Company employee.

Residents of the area were soon on the scene and Paddy was brought into a nearby house where first aid was administered while the ambulance and gardai were on their way.

"Fortunately," said Paddy, "I did not lose consciousness and I would like to thank the residents of Creaval Park, the gardai and the staff of the Regional Hospital for their consid-

eration and care."

Paddy Kiely has been a long serving figure on the local political scene, being Mayor of Limerick in 1972/73 and secretary of the Fianna Fail Comhairle Dail Ceanntair, east Limerick executive, since 1959. He has also acted as director of elections for the party on numerous occasions and has given a lifetime of dedicated service.

"Attacks such this are a sad reflection on the society in which we live," continued Paddy, "and it makes one wonder where the solution to such violence lies. Even if these criminals are caught, what kind of sentence are they going to get? Maybe the time has come to bring back the birch."

"There have been a number of similar assaults in the past few months," he told us from his home in Pennywell, "and it makes one won-



Paddy Kiely

der if the same gang are involved. Personally I will feel very nervous in the future as I go about my business which is centered mainly in the sprawling residential areas of the city."

Norwood

CLLR Kieran O'Hanlon has been informed that work on roads in Norwood Park will commence early in the new year.