Row over 'sale' of mosque in Darnall

By TIMOTHY WORDSWORTH

Mr. Alay Rasul, Sheffield's community relations officer, is to investigate a religious dispute between two sections of Sheffield's Pakistani community.

He said last night: "I'm not fully acquainted with the facts yet, but I shall certainly be looking into the case tomorrow."

The row has blown up over the "sale" of the Moslem Mosque in Industry Road, Darnall, Sheffield, and cancellation of the registration of the mosque for marriages, announced in today's *Morning Telegraph*.

Yesterday, a group of Pakistanis went to the mosque and found it locked. They then asked Mr. Ali Hedar of Elmham Road, Darnall, who keeps the keys, to let them into the mosque. But he told Mr. Mohammed Nur that the mosque had been sold to Mr. Hedar's niece.

Mr. Nur, a businessman, of Grange Crescent, Ecclesall, said that he approached Attercliffe police and asked to be given the right to enter the mosque.

Holy law

Mr. Nur and ten other Pakistanis, including Mr. Mohammed Aslam, a grocer, of Attercliffe Common, then went to the mosque.

"When we reached the mosque we found there were five policemen. Outside the mosque was Mr. Hedar with some of his relations and inside there were two women," said Mr. Aslam.

"Mr. Hedar told us we had no right to enter the mosque as it had already been sold by him. Mr. Nur told Mr. Hedar that he was breaking the holy law by selling the mosque."

Mr. Nur and his associates then tried to break into the premises, but were restrained by the police.

Attercliffe police said last night they had told both parties to seek legal advice as it was a dispute over ownership. They planned no action themselves, said the police spokesman.

Mr. Nur said: "The mosque was purchased in 1962 from Mrs. Hedar and there were seven trustees who signed the deed."

Legal advice

"Thousands of pounds was subscribed to the purchase and the expenses of the mosque. Many of our people are simple people."

He claimed that "no mosque has ever been sold in Moslem history except Sheffield's mosque.

"I shall be taking legal advice and I shall be writing to Mecca for religious advice."

Last night, Mrs. Hedar said on behalf of her husband: "The mosque was bought by the Moslem society of which Mr. Nur isn't even a member.

"We have got five of the trustees to agree to the sale, but it has all been tied up legally."

Some of the angry Pakistanis last night. From left are Mr. Nur, Mr. A. Di[illegible] Aslam and Mr. S. Malik.

FAMILY LOCKED IN BLAZING HOME

Morning Telegraph Reporter

Sheffield police were last night searching for a firebug who locked a mother and baby in their blazing city home.

Two fires had been started in the Industry Road, Darnall, house: one in the hallway and one on the landing outside Mrs. Jennifer Ridal's first-floor flat. The fire raiser locked the front door and escaped.

Eighteen-year-old Mrs. Ridal, in bed recovering from flu, fought her way to safety carrying her nine-week-old baby, Mark.

Description

Police questioned neighbours who saw a man lurking outside the house. He was described as aged between 20 and 23, 5ft. 6in. tall, with short fair hair. He was wearing a navy blue coat with a badge on the left lapel.

After Mrs. Ridal escaped, she telephoned police who broke into the house through the front door. Plaster and floorboards on the landings were damaged.

'ANARCHY' IN THE DOCKS

Traders investigate

Grimsby Chamber of Commerce is to investigate complaints that the dockers' new deal has led to "dock anarchy."

The chamber will be told of dockers watching pneumatic drills and mechanical shovels clearing fertiliser from a ship's hold—and being paid 17s. 6d. an hour above normal rates plus overtime for doing so.

"Drills and shovels were sent aboard because 1,100 tons of cargo had set fast and could not be moved," said a spokesman for Fison's Fertilisers Ltd.

Other complaints to be heard by the chamber this month centre on shippers' claims that work on ships often stops completely while pay rates are thrashed out at dockside arbitrations.

The chamber's president,

Teacher quits after sex-course complaints

Morning Telegraph Reporter

An Ecclesfield teacher has resigned after complaints from parents of some of his pupils that an English course he set was "nothing but sex."

Mr. Peter Watson, head of the English department of Ecclesfield Comprehensive School, near Sheffield, for three years, has announced that he will be leaving in the summer.

Complaints came to the school's headmaster after Mr. Watson had introduced D. H. Lawrence's Sons and Lovers into a sixth-form English study group.

Small

Mr. Watson said this weekend: "A small group of parents have objected persistently to the type of literature I have been discussing with the sixth form. Complaints were put to the head and I feel that I can not compromise my position as head of the department any more.

"The headmaster considers that the force of local prejudice is irresistable and he does not feel he can support me unless I modify my approach. I can not modify the course, however, without neglecting my pupils' needs."

Complaining parents were only a small minority of those involved, claimed 32-year-old Mr. Watson. "I feel that it is unfortunate that a small grou[illegible]

Decision this week on 'canned' tan

Morning Telegraph Correspondent

A plan to create a vast sundrome at Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire, for visitors to buy sunshine at half-a-crown an hour, will be considered by the pleasure grounds committee this week.

The plan — it would cover the whole of the resort's bathing pool with an enclosed canopy and provide tropical sunshine all the year round —is expected to cost £250,000.

A £100,000 scheme to give the bathing pool a face lift has had to be dropped because of the squeeze.

Mr. Arthur Ingham, the resort's [illegible]icity officer

Police se[illegible] killer dogs

Morning Telegraph Re[illegible]

West Riding polic[illegible] searching last night [illegible] killer dogs which ra[illegible] yesterday amongst a [illegible] 200 sheep at a f[illegible] Adwick-on-Dearne, ne[illegible] borough.

Six ewes in lamb, b[illegible] to Mr. Noel Palframa[illegible] killed and another [illegible] ewes — also in lamb [illegible] to be destroyed. The[illegible] were discovered y[illegible] morning.

Description

Police later issued [illegible] cription of the tw[illegible] believed to be resp[illegible] Both are medium size[illegible] thought to be mongr[illegible] is said to be brown an[illegible] and the other [illegible] coloured.

It is the second [illegible] attack on the farm w[illegible] few days. Last week fiv[illegible] were killed.

A police spokesman [illegible] "A dog chasing a fl[illegible] sheep about at this t[illegible] the year, when they [illegible] lamb, can do untold da[illegible]

POLICE HU[illegible] HANDBA[illegible] SNATCHE[illegible]