

ONE LANDLORD MUST PAY \$328 AS NINE INSTANCES REVEALED DURING TRIAL IN COURT HERE

Consent of Tenants Has
No Bearing, Special
Prosecutor Says

MUST OBEY RULINGS

Second Owner Assessed
\$100—Admission of
Guilt Is Made

Recent intensive activity of the war-time prices and trade board in investigating complaints of landlords allegedly violating rent control regulations was indicated in magistrate's court to-day. Listed on the roster were no fewer than 15 charges, with one landlord being convicted on two charges, and pleading guilty to seven others. Fines and costs totalling \$328.50 were imposed on this accused, Frank Baker, of 103 Stuart street west, by Magistrate James McKay. One charge was withdrawn.

Unaware of Law

After convictions had been registered on two charges which he denied, Baker, through his attorney, Harry Hazel, admitted the others. J. P. O'Reilly, K.C., special prosecutor, said that the department would be content with fines of \$25 on each charge. Crown costs of \$10 in each case, and witness fees, of \$13.50, boosted the total to the \$328.50.

In most instances the rental increases in each case above that paid in the basic period of January, 1941, was small. Baker said he had raised the rents with the consent of the tenants after making considerable repairs. Not able to read or write, he had been ignorant of the regulations, he said.

"If there had been any great increase we would have asked for higher penalties," Mr. O'Reilly said.

"We do not care if the tenant agrees or not to a rental increase—that is what we are trying to stop."

Woman Is Fined

Pleading guilty to raising rents in three apartments, Arthur Jacques, 48, of 2nd Connaught avenue south, was fined \$100.

Mr. O'Reilly suggested this fine "in view of the three offences, although only one charge was laid."

Convicted on the same charge, Mrs. Helen Belasko, of 470 MacNab street north, was fined \$50 and costs. An investigator for the war-time prices and trade board said accused raised the rent of a MacNab street north house from \$15 to \$25.

Charges against two others were adjourned one week.

Admits Mischief

Pleading guilty to a mischief charge—he put his fist twice through the wall of a hotel room—

James Carpenter, 31, of 55 Murray street west, was remanded to Saturday for sentence. He will be sentenced on a drunk charge, which he admitted, at that time.

John Allister, 31-year-old truck driver, of 21½ Foster street, was remanded a week for sentence on a charge of theft from his employer. He denied the charge, but was convicted of taking \$216.

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