



# NUACHT AN CREAGAÍN

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## HOUSING SURVEY

After a recent survey on the modernisation of the houses in Creggan Heights a number of complaints have come to light regarding poor workmanship, poor quality materials and the length of time taken by workmen to complete jobs.

In a number of cases although it was bitterly cold weather, families were left with no form of heating, while the original fireplaces were removed and new fireplaces were installed, this process taking up to 4 days.

There was an unreasonable amount of damage done to personal property, for example, bed broken, carpets ruined and oilcloth torn off the floors.

The electric drills that were used for removing the old fireplaces were plugged into the mains supply of the peoples homes and so far no compensation has been paid for the amount used, which will mean higher electric bills for the people in the area, some fences were ripped down and have not been replaced.

Although the maintainence programme was started in May 1981, windows, kitchens and bathrooms have only just been installed and in quite a few cases internal improvements have not even been started yet.

When the people were informed of the new improvements to their houses they were told that they would receive a re-decoration grant of between £10 - £140. This in our opinion is totally inadequate considering that in addition to internal re-decoration in some cases new carpets and oilcloth have to be purchased. Although small grants have been offered in some cases no-one has received any money yet. Further, some families have been informed that they will be back-charged on any grant if they are in arrears with their rent.

This procedure is unjust as the majority of the men in Creggan are unemployed and will find it impossible to set aside the money to re-decorate their houses. We believe that the Housing Executive should re-consider their policy of interfering with grants, which are specifically designated to alleviate in a small way, this pressing difficulty for Creggan householders.