

from page 17

## Rubble, Rust and Ruin

the landlords might well disapprove; and since there was no other apparent solution, take good advantage of the situation.

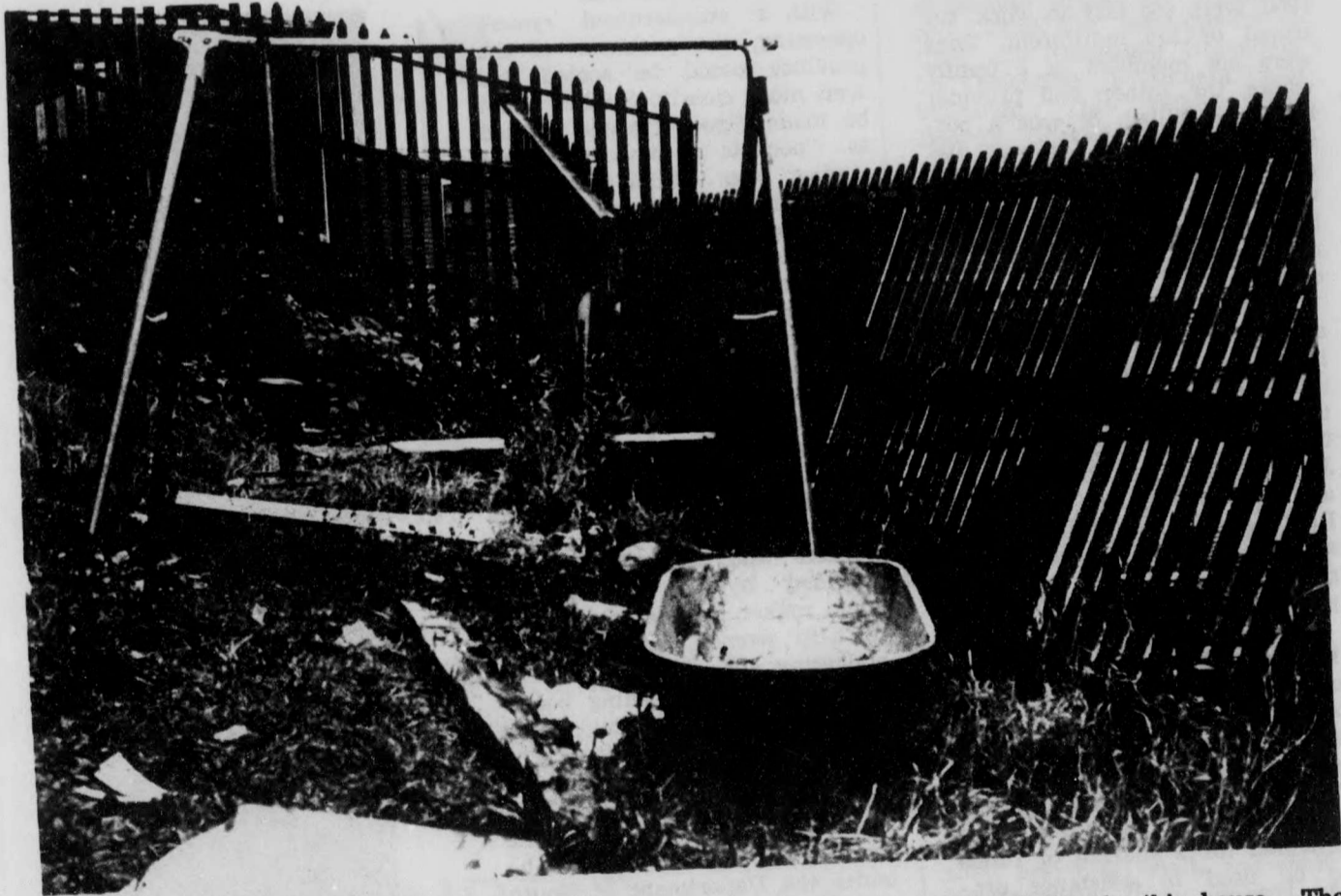
Not unlike the apartment at the top of page sixteen is an apartment house in the South End. Inside the plaster is cracked and falling, the halls are bare and dingy, the walls are covered with markings, the mailboxes in the front hall rusting, dirt is everywhere. The greater part of its former inhabitants have moved out, although one family and a few

single individuals still remain. No one wants to stay. The fire escape in the back is completely unsafe; the building itself is a virtual firetrap. Refuse is piled in the empty apartments. Within recent weeks of the writing of this article, there was no regular city collection of garbage, although perhaps by now that has changed. Instead a man hired by the landlord came once a month and shovelled the accumulation of garbage in the special room into his truck to haul away. Although, it must be admitted, there were times when he did not appear on schedule.

The picture on page 17 represents one of the city's problems. The house here is also in the South End, and the landlord here is the city itself. The house has four fire escapes, but only one of them is at all trustworthy, the other three having deteriorated over the past four or five

years. However, renovation is scheduled to begin in the very near future.

Yet, if the city has been careless in this particular landlordship, and if the city may be deemed largely responsible for failure to maintain adequate public facilities in a number of its substandard neighbourhoods, it is also through the city, and the city alone, that some measure of building reform is being affected. Its main concerns are the mass clearance of blighted areas and their general rehabilitation; new housing to accommodate the residents of the blighted areas; increased educational facilities to attend to the some few hundred students who will otherwise never go through high school; and hardly a minor matter, an availability of recreational grounds, especially for younger children, to make up for the one below.



This is a playground. It is the only plot of ground available to the kids that live in this house. The city of Saint John is investigating the feasibility of improved playgrounds for the poorer areas of the city of Saint John.

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