

# E. Kildonan Council Plans Police, Fire Dept. Combine

East Kildonan Council has decided to implement a plan which has been in progress for the past year to combine police and fire depts. for the purpose of bringing about more efficient, economical and up-to-date methods of fire protection following charges that the department was "inefficient."

The charges were made in a letter from Mrs. Ella Picken, 738 Consol ave., which also demanded an inquiry into firemen's work by Council following a fire Sunday night at 851 Consol ave.

Capt. G. R. King said the fire was a perfect illustration of manpower shortage. When the alarm came in at 8.55 p.m. the two men on shift were out on another call on Henderson Highway.

Delays at the scene of the fire, Capt. King said, were caused by the fact that two men could not operate the pumper.

Mrs. Picken's letter said the firemen "fiddled around" with the controls for at least 10 minutes before bystanders suggested taking the hoses and hooking them on at Prince Rupert ave.

In a press release issued Tuesday Acting Mayor George Sible said Council has gathered information concerning the trend toward the police and fire protection being afforded by one municipal department which has been reported favorable upon in both the United States and Eastern Canada.

In the opinion of Council increased fire and police protection can be given the residents of East Kildonan in this manner.