

58/77.

STORM VICTIMS ASK HELP.

Filth and mess indescribable, most of the downstairs furniture ruined - that was the fate of people in nearly eight hundred houses in the Basildon area of Essex. The freak storm that raged over so much of the country reserved its greatest fury for this district. Unless they get help from outside the folk don't know how they can hope to repair the appalling damage. In some rooms the water rose four feet high. Yet, in the terrible east coast floods of 1953 Basildon gave temporary homes to 10,000 refugees from Canvey Island. The Chairman of the Urban District Council is leading the local appeal effort. May the response be adequate.

The Harris family with 18 children are particularly hard hit. Much of their spare clothing was soaked; some of it will never be fit to use again. They badly need the kind of help they gave without stint five years ago. Two old age pensioners were able to save very little of their furniture. Their plight emphasizes the dire need of the stricken people of Basildon.