

# Dalhousie sale in land Public Gardens debate

by Ralph English

The sale of Dalhousie land is causing a debate at City Hall.

A public hearing for a proposed zoning amendment was held Nov. 9 to lift height restrictions on the Hart-Butler property to allow high-density, high-rise development. United Equities, a development company, wants to

build two luxury condominium towers on the site, located on the south west corner of the Public Gardens.

Halifax librarian John Morse presented council with a 9000-signature petition opposing the proposed development.

Other submissions focused on microclimatic changes in the

Gardens, the Victorian houses to be demolished, the impact on the streetscape in the area of the Gardens and the alternatives to high-density housing.

Dal agreed to sell the Hart-Butler property to United Equities last February to generate nearly 1.5 million to help offset its financial deficit. But for the

sale to be finalized the company must first succeed in amending the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and city by-laws which control development.

Currently the land is zoned for medium-density residential and institutional (university) use.

ported economic benefits of the project. Such a development would not create many jobs, building materials would not necessarily be purchased locally, he said, adding that studies of similar developments in Halifax have not substantiated claims of large tax revenues.

Rezoning and the amendment of the MDP could lead to realization of the United Equities plan since contract development disputes can be appealed under the new Planning Act, warned Mills. City council would thus lose veto power over aspects of the project not already proscribed under the law, he said.

Keith Vaughan, a former member of the detailed area planning committee, said the proposal was not consistent with the MDP. He said that a medium density zoning was the intent of the plan. "For the university to short circuit the planning process is a very cynical attitude," said Vaughan.

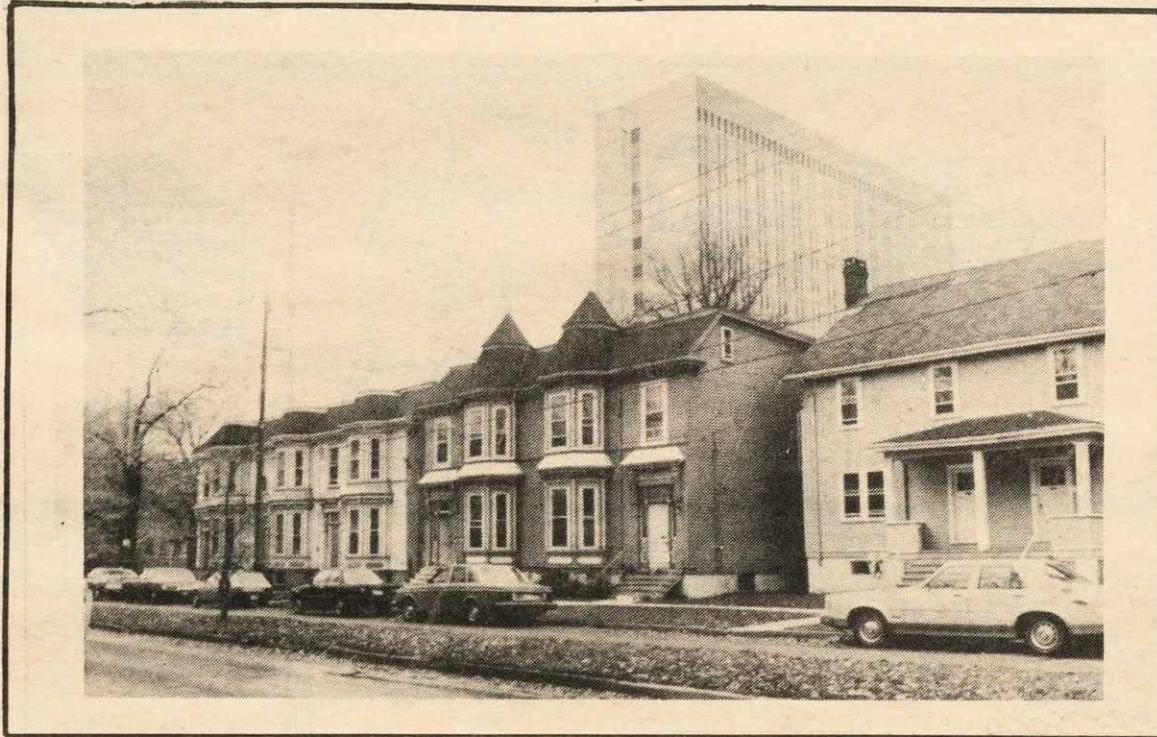
Dalhousie University president Andrew MacKay said the university had no use for the Hart-Butler property and wished to sell it in order to relieve the Dalhousie deficit.

Stephen Mills, a Dalhousie Law professor, called the project "an attack on the principles of the MDP." The MDP calls for redevelopment only at a scale and character comparable with the existing neighbourhood, he said.

F.B. Wickwire, solicitor for United Equities, emphasized increased employment, building materials purchases and tax revenues the project would bring to Halifax. He also cited a city staff report stating the project would probably have no significant effect on the microclimate of the Public Gardens.

The Spring Garden Road Merchants Association and the Downtown Halifax Business Association both supported the United Equities presentation. The project, they argued, would stem the flow of development and money from Halifax to Dartmouth and Halifax County.

Mills questioned the pur-



Summer Street row housing

# Falk quests for a new world order at Dalhousie

by Geoff Martin

"The nation-state is, as Orwell envisioned, not a liberating force in the late 20th century but a constraining force," Princeton University Professor Richard A. Falk told a Killam lecture audience last Thursday (November 10) evening.

In a lecture entitled "The Quest for World Order: The Legacy of Optimism Re-examined", Falk assailed the nation-state and specifically the super-powers, but did suggest that there are grounds to believe the world is moving towards a more stable order. This is illustrated, he said, by growing "grass roots" political movements, peace movements and non-governmental organizations, both in the West and in the Soviet Union.

"The western liberal democracies appeared to be a moderating force after 1945, but those earlier hopes have been fundamentally destroyed," he said.

Falk believes democratic institutions in the western liberal democracies have been undermined by the power of what he calls the "national security" or "military-intelligence" interests.

"Military-intelligence interests have enormous influence over the allocation of resources, the media, and they have nullified the electoral process," he said. Formal democracy exists in the United States, but there is no way for the institutions to challenge the "national security consensus"

which he said in the United States is the belief in armed deterrence and intervention.

"There has been little change in the nature of United States politics since the second world war," he said. The state within the state, which in the United States he defined as the dominant corporate and military interests, has led to the erosion of liberal democracy through the imposition of sharp boundaries within which politicians must operate. "Henry Wallace, Fred Harris, Gene McCarthy, George

McGovern and Jerry Brown were politicians who operated outside these boundaries, they were seen as a threat, and they were discredited," Falk said.

Falk said we need "blind hope" - the belief that a world without war can be attained. "Humanity can only function creatively if it has not foreclosed on its future by foreseeing doom," he said. We need blind hope as a motivating force not

only to make conditions in the world tolerable but to make the world a better place, he said.

Professor Falk said the common attitude today is one of "false hope", which can be seen in the "realist consensus", a consensus which denies the need or possibility for real change in our world order and is "either a form of complacent failure to acknowledge danger or some kind of trivializing escape through the technology which has led to the danger."

The "realist consensus" can be seen in the present balance of terror between the United States and the Soviet Union, and in the

belief that life today in the world is not so bad, and is probably sustainable, he said.

"Throughout the world there is a disenchantment with what had been the source of hope - the political moderation and technological development of the West - and equal disillusion with Marxist revolution and state capitalism, which were to have been efficient and equitable...but instead have produced repression in a very extreme way," he said.

Professor Falk said we need a global orientation, some conception of human nature and the potential for development which encompasses the species as a whole, and finally we need a prescription for a new world order.

"We need a liberation of society from the state. The state is now simultaneously too large to satisfy the identities of groups, and too small to deal with functional and operational global needs," he said.

He argued that a new world order is imperative if we are to ensure the survival of humanity. In the long term, this new order will mean the revitalization of democracy, the abolition of war, and the sharing of resources on a global scale.

Professor Falk spoke under the auspices of the *Dorothy J. Killam Memorial Lecture Series*, presented every fall at Dalhousie.

# Press freedom debated

CALGARY (CUP)—The war between print media moguls and the federal government continued last week at the University of Calgary.

The opposing forces were Tom Kent, the journalist who headed the 1978 Royal Commission investigating newspaper media monopolies, and Patrick O'Callaghan, publisher of the Southam-owned Calgary Herald.

Kent's 1982 recommendations about newspaper ownership regulation angered both the Southam and Thomson newspaper chains, who prompted the investigation when they closed several Canadian dailies.

Both Kent and O'Callaghan

agreed that freedom of the press was the issue at stake. But that's where the agreement ended.

A soft-spoken Kent said freedom of the press was threatened when many Canadian cities were left with only one daily newspaper.

"Once competition is eliminated, most newspapers are a He added newspapers that do not have to compete for readers may become "cash cows" for those who own them.

A fiery O'Callaghan said any government regulation of newspapers would be a move towards "dictatorship" and called the Kent Commission recommendations "Orwellian".

O'Callaghan said he is concerned "there are so many papers in so few hands," but he strongly opposed any government involvement in the news.

"I believe in the fundamental freedom of speech, and freedom of the press, which is just a turn of the same coin," he said. "That freedom also includes, by inference, the right to own newspapers—ownership is part of the same freedom."

Kent is not in favour of rolling back the more recent closures and takeovers by Southam and Thomson, but would like to see the proposed legislation enacted to prevent further monopolization of newspapers.