

Poor planning debated

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have to borrow money, or, in some cases, hope they win a lottery.

In public housing 25 percent of the tenant's income is used for rent. But as Sewell says, "if you're earning little, 25 percent is a large part of your budget. If you're earning \$12,000 we'll (the MTHA) nab you \$3,000; for someone trying to support a family that is a large chunk of your income."



JOHN SEWELL

The chairman also pointed out that the individual who finds a well-paying job while in public housing gets caught in a catch-22 situation. His rent increases, thus he still end up earning a low income, and in some cases the tenant is evicted prior to stabilization of his financial situation and is placed back in the public sector in which he originally found it difficult to afford proper housing. Hence, the only way to stay in public housing is to stay poor, which hinders the initial objective, which was to provide housing for those who needed a home while working to become financially stable.

Another of Sewell's concerns is the social mix in public housing. Presently there is a waiting list of 6,000 people, and tenants are chosen on the basis of need.

"These choices are really difficult but they are done this way because we have a limited amount of service," Sewell said. "However, the problem is that certain people always end up on top of the list. They are always single parents, mostly female, with children, who are living in hostels and are on government assistance," Sewell said.

Sewell stated that they no longer have a high social mix. Instead, the homes are dominated by people on government assistance. "It is becoming a ghetto where there are certain types of people off-setting each other. You have to wonder what kind of community we're building. Thus the system doesn't allow for any cohesion, or, what one might call a good social mix."

Sewell proposes that the way to deal with these problems is to rehabilitate housing projects. "We have to give permanent . . . and practical housing. The construction of better designs will accommodate more people."

Sewell's present efforts are de-

voted to proper management of the existing units, but the chairman promises that rehabilitation of the projects will occur in the near future. Though he is reluctant to tear things down, Sewell does believe he can salvage many of the homes. One of his ideas is to get rid of underground parking, while keeping parking close to residences. He also plans to get rid of common space amidst the homes and apartments by building on the open space.

The new chairman said that he is so appalled at the badly planned suburbs, and that he plans to do research to find the architects who built most of these homes and publish their names.

"I think what they've done is a mess. What insanity led people to build 30 storey complexes? Consistently building small units is not working; houses are the solution. They must be houses you can buy up and use in all sorts of ways," Sewell added.

Sewell compared Toronto projects to those in small Ontario towns and believes they've worked because they were not built as large units. In reference to the Jane/Finch area he stressed that the last thing that area needs is more apartments. When asked why there will be additional apartments at the north-west corner of Jane/Finch his response was "does North York care?"

Professor Alex Murray of York University's Environmental Studies concurs with most of Sewell's ideas but does not believe that all of the homes are particularly bad, although they do lack services. "The children lack day care services. A lot of the problems stem from the fact that these women are single and must work. They simply have to slow down the development. The problems will be solved partly by helping (tenants) to help themselves."

John Sewell, known for his radical ideas, also plans to get tenants involved in the areas they're living in and plans to sit down with the tenants to discuss capital repairs for their projects. He also believes that persons of a racial minority should be appointed to the board to represent their group's concerns. Presently there are no blacks, for example, on the MTHA board.

According to Jeff Solotoroff and Shauna Gates of the Urban Studies Students Association, the reputed radical John Sewell will have a major impact on the MTHA board and a lot of interesting ideas will come from his appointment.

"He's a very bright caring person whose views I've always agreed with. I think it's a good appointment, but I think he'll find himself bumping against a lot of walls. He's not an insider at Queens Park. But it will make people feel good to know someone's on their side," Murray concluded.

York campaigns to get on-campus night service

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that you may be preventing forty people from driving home drunk."

Brolley reiterated the TTC position by pointing out that, "our mandate does not include reducing drunk driving in Toronto."

Gerard Blink, President of CYSF, asked why the TTC has not allowed the Keele Street bus 41D (which runs until 2:38 a.m.), to loop around in front of the Ross Building where it is well lit and well sheltered.

Brolley responded to Blink by explaining that "any time you increase the mileage of a route, you inconvenience the riders waiting down the line." Brolley also pointed out that with the new TTC program

York will never be isolated, with transit services only 15 minutes away during early morning hours.

Meininger explained to Brolley that there is a grave security concern for students walking around the Jane/Finch area, and waiting for a bus there during early morning hours may prove dangerous.

Brolley noted that while patrons are on the bus, the TTC is responsible for their safety and security. "However we do not consider the impact of a dangerous neighbourhood (on TTC patrons)," Brolley said.

"There is a real concern about this danger at York, Mr. Brolley," Meininger concluded.

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