

Task force to protect tenants

by Roger Metcalf

Halifax City Council has moved closer to the establishment of the Housing Task Force proposed by Mayor Edmund Morris on November 25. As committee of the whole Council gave initial approval on December 4, and tonight it will make the final decision.

The proposal includes having the Task Force look into fair rents and housing standards, the two items raised by the Ad Hoc Committee on Rent Control and pressed by the Dalhousie Students' Council.

The Ad Hoc Committee met with the Mayor before he made his proposal. Student Union President O'Connor and Economics

Chairman Sinclair both attended the meeting as part of the Committee. The members were fairly pleased with the Mayor's response to their concerns, and they seemed hopeful that the Task Force would accomplish something for the tenants of Halifax.

That positive attitude was dimmed somewhat when City Council decided to remove two of the citizen members of the Task Force. The Ad Hoc Committee and the public housing tenants would each have one member rather than two. Many of those concerned about the housing situation are disappointed with the civil servant majority that Council wants to create.

On December 4 the student presidents from all colleges and universities in Halifax wrote the City Council to express their approval for the Task Force and the inclusion of a student member. They also gave a brief description of the housing problems that face students in Halifax.

It is not certain whether the student enthusiasm has been cooled by the Council's move to cut back citizen participation in the housing Task Force. The vote in Council was only 6 to 4, with Aldermen Downey, Meagher, Shannon and Stanbury opposing the cutback. The Mayor only votes in the case of a tie, but he had suggested the seventeen

members rather than the fifteen that were approved.

There may be an attempt to restore the two citizen members at this evening's City Council meeting. If it fails, most of the other citizen members of the Task Force (including the student) may be hesitant about participating when sixty per cent of the membership comes from Council and the civil service.

It was Ward One alderman Dennis Connolly who originally delayed creation of the Task Force, and it was he who proposed removing the two citizen members. He has publicly stated on many occasions his belief that private enterprise can do

everything better than government. This may explain his reluctance of City Council and citizens to study rents, housing standards and housing supply.

The student presidents pledged their assistance to the Housing Task Force. If there is any possibility of the amended proposal to act in tenants favour, then that pledge will likely be honoured. However, if it appears that the Task Force as finally approved is one that does little for tenants, Halifax students may be called upon by their presidents to protest the inaction, and to demand that Halifax start to protect its tenants from exploitation and speculation.

Cypriot morality play

by L. Hadzis

When Archbishop Makario was driven out of Cyprus less than five months ago, the world was virtually unanimous in its reprobation. It was distressing to see yet another legally elected leader overthrown by a violent military coup, particularly as in this instance the coup was to transparently the work of a foreign government, itself a dictatorial military regime.

The fact that now Archbishop Makarios is back in Cyprus should be hailed as something like the triumphal denouncement of a morality play. For once it has been seen that violence and illegality does not always pay, even in politics...even in the Middle East. The meddling Greek dictators have paid the penalty for their folly and the rightful Ethnarch has returned to his people.

The heroes of this morality play are, or should be the Turks. They alone took effective action to reverse the coup of July 15 at a time when the rest of the world was visibly resigning itself to the fait accompli. Their intervention on July 20 was perhaps a drastic measure but was called forth by a drastic situation. Differently exploited it might have won the Turks the lasting gratitude of the Archbishop himself, of the great majority of the Greek Cypriots and indeed of the mainland Greeks whose seven year servitude, it brought an abrupt end. It could thus have provided a unique opportunity for reconciliation between Greeks and Turks and so have enabled the Turkish Cypriots at last to enjoy their full rights under the Cyprus constitution.

Unfortunately, the Turks have scarcely attempted to exploit their achievement in this way. Though pleased by the swift collapse of the Athens directed regime, they very quickly let it be seen that the creation of that regime had not been the real reason for their invasion but a long awaited pretext. They soon showed that as far as they were concerned there was little to choose between the colonel's puppet Sampson and the Archbishop.

And now a Turkish foreign ministry spokesman has taken it upon himself to announce that the talks between the Greeks and the Turkish-Cypriots, on the matters of humanistic purposes, will cease as soon as the Archbishop returns to the island. The spokesman justified this announcement with the remark that "a man whose leadership, uncertain even among his own people, will not help the situation by returning". (It is a remark which comes well from the spokesman of a government that has just been defeated

on the 2nd of December, on its first vote of confidence by 358 votes to 17.

The Turks are learning slowly, as the British did in 1955, that only the Ethnarch has the authority to represent the Greek Cypriot. In short, the Turks more than anyone, need the Archbishop if they are to get a settlement to their liking. They need him in Cyprus so that he can see for himself the new situation created by their invasion. And thus realize as Mr. Clerides, the now acting

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Senate decides to improve teaching

Several of the non-routine items that Senate has dealt with recently passed a stage of development at the December 9 meeting of our second most powerful governing body.

The most important was improving university teaching and learning. As per usual, it was merely a report from Vice-President MacKay that action will be taken in the near future. After prodding from the Faculty Association this matter was given general approval by Senate in the spring. However, the university administration has not exhibited much enthusiasm and they took until late November to decide who would be responsible.

Improved teaching is obviously a subject dear to student hearts, and the student members of Senate welcomed work in the area, as has the Student Union. Both the Union and the Faculty Association will probably have to devote a lot of energy to ensuring that the administration does not let the item slip into the oblivion while it awaits those matters that lack enthusiasm at "the senior levels".

Another item was one that received Senate approval in June, after Student Union prodding. It is the creation of a University-Community committee to foster communications and co-operation

with people living in the surrounding region. It has already received its student and faculty members. Senate has now approved the committee's recommendation that members from the community be nominated by community organizations upon the committee's invitation. The committee will soon have six "community" and six "university" members, who will face the formidable task of making Dalhousie better serve and better understand the two cities and the county.

Senate agreed to a recommendation from the Intro Dal committee that it be held on February 22 and 23, a Saturday and Sunday. If it is possible all classes on the 22nd are to be cancelled.

Senate also agreed to the creation of a co-ordinating committee which will lay the groundwork for the long-awaited Faculty of Administrative Studies. Dr. Hicks announced that a Dean should be chosen by July 1, 1975. It is rumoured that the establishment of the Faculty was delayed a year because of Dr. Hicks' machinations to convince those concerned that Michael Kirby should be the Dean of the new faculty. It would appear that just when the good Senator had eliminated all other candidates, Dr. Kirby gave up and took a job in Ottawa.

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