

Federal housing policy blasted



The site of the Master Plan — beautiful downtown Halifax.

by Dan O'Connor

Susan Fish is co-author of the report of the Task Force on Low-Income Housing. She is a consultant on housing and urban affairs who has worked for the United Nations and the Bureau of Municipal Research, as well as teaching at York University and writing numerous articles. On March 12, she spoke here about housing in Canada, especially the planning and governmental aspects.

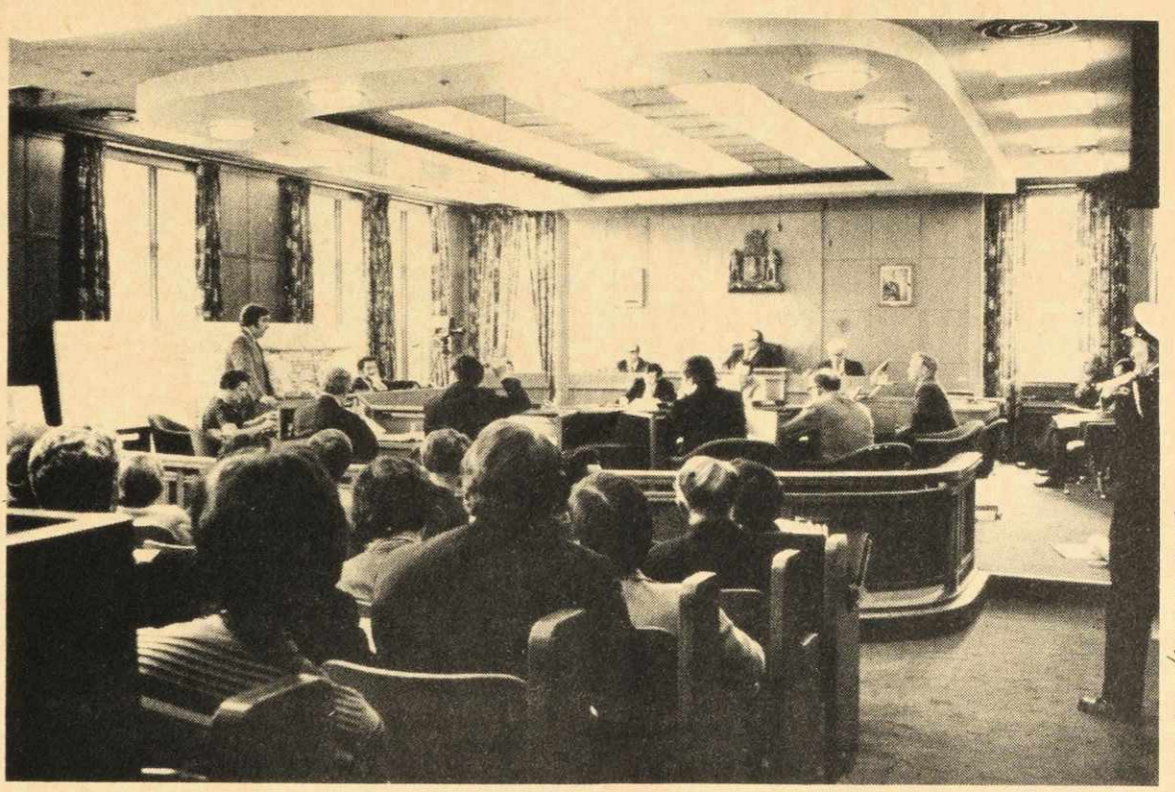
Ms. Fish was especially critical of recent federal housing policy. She described it as concerned only with gaining maximum publicity for the least cost. It insists that its programmes have uniformity, a highly visible federal presence and an identifiable profile. It has been accustomed to playing a dominant role while disclaiming any responsibility for housing.

Federal programmes have always insisted that the initial approach be made by the provinces and the municipalities. There was a traditional lack of provincial activity and interest in housing. The result was a surplus of unused federal money every year, with the onus for the failure on the provinces. However, this situation was created by the federal guidelines in setting up the agreements.

The central government deserves credit for taking the lead twenty years ago in starting to plan housing policy for Canada. However, they should now get out of the detailed and trivial aspects. The feds have never felt it incumbent upon them to engage in direct lending to create social housing. They have done it through C.M.H.C. for homeowners and developers.

The direct lending has caused great stress and change at the municipal level. Most of the money was directed into subdivisions. There was more of this type of building than the normal market demands warranted. The result was a segregation of certain age and class groups outside the city. The federal government never asked the municipalities about the stress this would create on basic services and what it would do to integrated housing policy. Farming, recreation, schools, sewers, etc. were affected.

It is only in the area of public assistance (social housing) that Ottawa takes a hands-off policy regarding direct involvement. However, they give money with extremely detailed strings attached, sometimes even specifying the kind of doorknobs a



Halifax City Council, where housing policy is decided?

Dal Radio sets P.R. policy

Dal Radio's policy towards its members' activity outside the station became semi-public last week. Basically, the policy seems to be that every member of Radio should try to be a public relations man for Radio all the time that he is with other people. The operations committee of Radio and the members of the station try to keep track of the P.R. work through the feedback about members from around the campus.

When this feedback seems particularly bad, the operations committee attempts to work things out with the member in question. In one case, the operations committee and general membership felt

that the feedback about one person continued to be sufficiently bad and to be so connected with Radio that the person was suspended for two months.

Many outside of Dal Radio may feel that this organization should have no control over its members' activity outside the station. However, almost every member of Radio appears to agree with Dal Radio's policy. They take their work at the station and its public image very seriously. Anything affecting the image is of deep concern to them. Even the suspended member appears to agree with this general attitude and policy.

Gazette gets justice

Council completes appointments

by Don Retson and Stephen R. Mills

The Dalhousie Student Council met last Sunday evening in council chambers. After five hours of democracy in action, eight appointments were made, two new committees formed, the constitution changed, two conferences financed, and steps taken toward a SUB policy on Campus Police.

The meeting opened with President Mike Gærdner chairing. Applications, held over from last week, were dealt with first. Gardner turned the chair over to Larry Steinberg, who, in turn, yielded it to John Stobie. Stobie had been recommended as chairman last week but had not been present. He was ratified this week.

The Entertainment secretary was also appointed. The Applications Committee recommended Peter Greene but, because this was contested by several members, all candidates were given an opportunity to present their proposed programs. A preferential vote was then taken and Greene was ratified.

Mike Lynk was approved as member-at-large. A motion to table, because last week's recommendation, Glenn Wanamaker, was absent at the moment, was defeated.

Following this, Arts Rep. Les Grieve and Law Rep., Arch Kaiser, were named to the executive council. Grieve was also picked as chairman of the Grants Committee, the other members being Lynanne Sharpe and Mike Lynk.

Appointments concluded, the council moved on to consider the Campus Police policy in the SUB. President Mike Gardner moved that student representatives on the Board of Management of Campus Security be increased to two. Confused and prolonged debate followed, involving all council members, and several spectators, including SUB Night Managers, Don Grant and Stu Barry. The vote was finally taken and passed unanimously. More to the point, a committee was later established to study Campus Police Policy. Arch Kaiser was named chairman and about eight council members volunteered for the committee.

Gardner next moved that council recommend charges laid against a student caught shoplifting in the SUB bookshop be dropped and dealt with internally. Gardner seemed confused about the exact details, but it seemed the culprit would have a



Did you ever have the feeling nobody likes what you're doing — Applications Committee: Bob Pottle, Wilma Broeren, Laurie Murchison.

criminal record if convicted. This would be particularly harmful as he was a law student and this would effectively ban him from the Bar. However, he was also known to have made a habit of pilfering records. The motion passed, but it indicated more of a desire for a clear policy on SUB discipline for all students rather than a concern for a particular student.

The proposed constitutional changes enabling the staff of the GAZETTE to elect its own editor was passed with a few minor amendments. Also, the present Advertising and Business Manager, Frank Baker, was formally approved.

Finally, Dal Radio was granted money to attend two conferences in Washington, D.C., and a motion directing Office Services to advertise the selling of Kinsmen Bingo cards was passed.

The next Council meeting is set for Sunday, April 1 at 7 p.m.

Constitutional changes

The following is the main body of the constitutional amendments passed at Sunday's council meeting concerning the GAZETTE.

Section 5: (1) The Editor shall be appointed before January 15 of each year and shall take office on February 1.

(2) The Applications Committee shall open nominations for the Editorship to all members of the Student Union within the first week of January. Each Applicant may nominate two persons who, in the view of the applicant, are willing to serve with the applicant as Business and Advertising Managers. Each applicant shall then meet with the staff of the paper to outline the course that the paper shall follow under his editorship.

(3) "Staff" in subsection (2) means persons who have contributed to at least three issues of the Gazette in the current academic year, as certified by the Editor.

(4) The Applications Committee shall then supervise an election for Editor in which the staff, all applicants and their nominees are eligible to vote. The winner of this election shall take office as Editor.

(5) The Editor may only be dismissed for demonstrated incompetence by a specific motion to that effect agreed to by a two-thirds majority of Council.

The motion to accept these amendments was passed by the Council with only one member opposing.

M.S.S.W. isolated

by Marg Bezanson

Few students at Dalhousie are aware of the activities of the Maritime School of Social Work or even of the fact that it is affiliated with Dal. A certain lack of awareness and interest exist on both sides.

An example of the isolation of the School of Social Work is the recent Student Union elections. Few students at MSSW were aware that they were taking place. Only one presidential candidate canvassed the school and there were no posters or any other notice of the upcoming elections at the school. This resulted in less than 5 percent of the MSSW students voting.

The MSSW is a member of the Graduate Student Association. Two members of the Association, Shirley Shannon and Mary Anne Scriven, were recently elected by acclamation.

A newsletter "The Listener" is now being published by-weekly by the student council of the MSSW. The editor is Grant Fair.

Fair feels that some of the reasons for the isolation of the School include the physical isolation (the school is situated on the corner of Coburg and Oxford just off the campus); the fact that most of

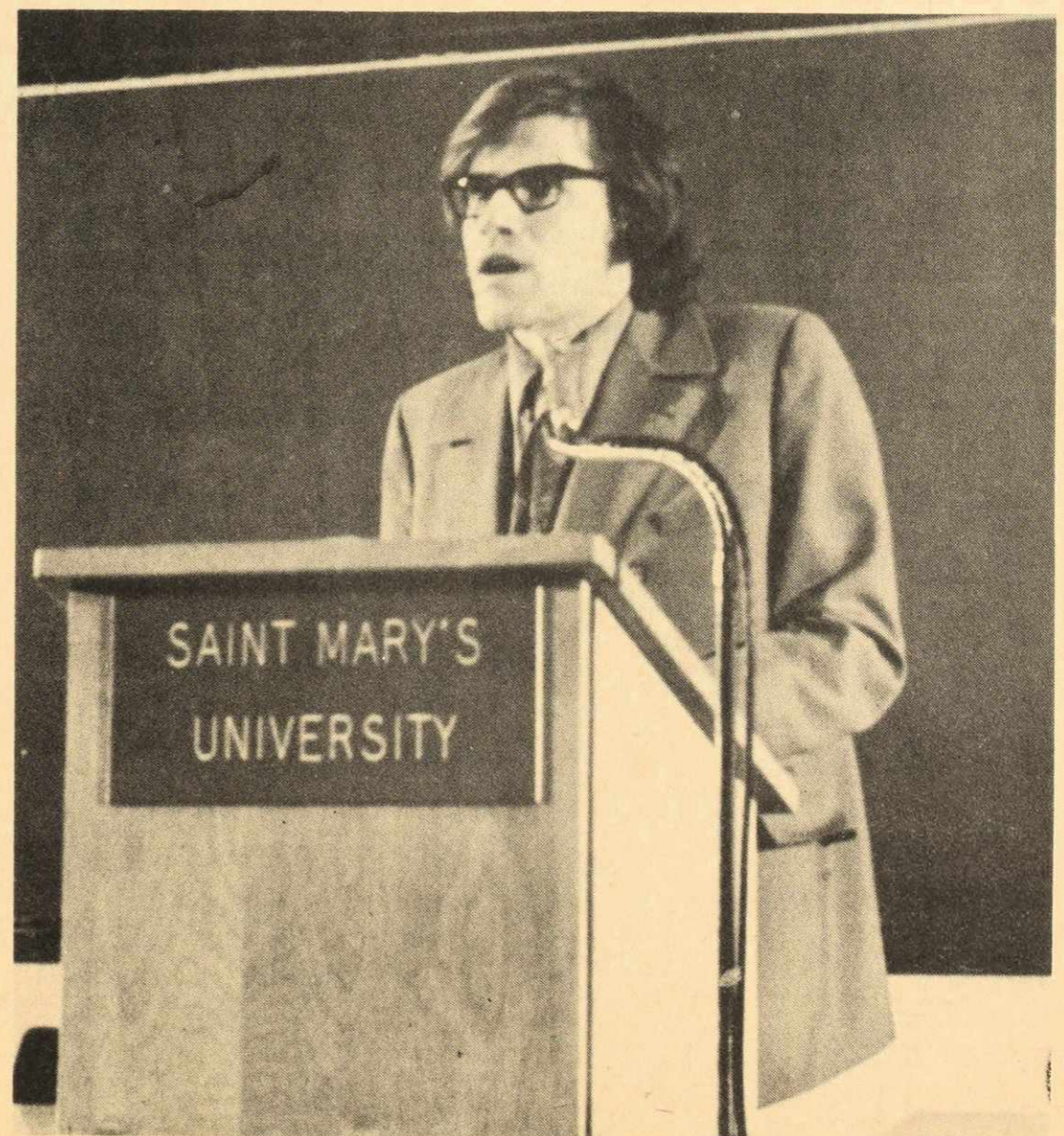
the students are very busy with their work; and that the School joined Dal a relatively short time ago (four years).

There is an enrollment of approximately 85 students at the MSSW. The course involves a two-year training program. First year students take a general program while second year students do more concentrated work and half their time is spent field working.

An effort is being made to move away from the stereotyped image of the social worker — a well-meaning middle-aged woman who actually does little good. Social workers are now encouraged to be agents of social change. The School is also trying to attract students from disadvantaged, minority groups as part of this effort to get away from the image of the charitable middle-class worker.

There are a number of interesting articles in "The Listener." It is presently being circulated only in the MSSW and other Schools of Social Work. However, it there is demand it can be circulated on the Dal campus. This would be useful in breaking down barriers and encouraging communication between the School and the rest of Dal.

Bruce Kidd visits Halifax



Bruce Kidd, former track star, addressed a gathering at Saint Mary's University, Thursday, March 15, concerning sports in Canada.



Dalhousie new Student Council in action.