

Report before Hicks

Housing agency recommended

by Glenn Wanamaker
The major recommendations contained in a report currently before University President Henry Hicks call for a director and an agency to oversee all

aspects of university housing. Implementation of these recommendations could eliminate discrepancies between quality and fees among the various on and off campus

residences.

A sub-committee of the Student Affairs Committee has been studying the housing situation for two months.

It followed a report by John Holancin, former president of the Howe Hall Residence Council, which charged gross mismanagement in the financial operation of Howe Hall.

The problem in the committee stage centred on who the directorate should be responsible to. Holancin and Jim Kayne, a sub-committee member and SUB Communications Secretary want the director and agency to come under the vice-president (administration) while Student Services, which presently has jurisdiction over such things as Student Counselling and Student Health, want it to fall

under the vice-president (academic).

Dean Uhlman of Student Services falls under the VP academic and thus wants the housing directorate under him. Kayne feels the agency "wouldn't be as efficient unless it came under the vice-president administration".

The final recommendations now before Hicks have dropped any suggestion of authority over the agency. Instead they concentrate on other urgent problems.

Some of the problems in the past have been in purchasing where goods and furniture of excellent quality were bought but were so expensive that instead of being a service to students, they added to costs which in turn led to higher residence tuition.

Transfer payments, such as

outlined by Holancin's study, are also under attack. In Howe Hall, student health paid a \$10,000 transfer payment for the equivalent of 38 beds. Holancin estimated that \$30,000 would be more reasonable.

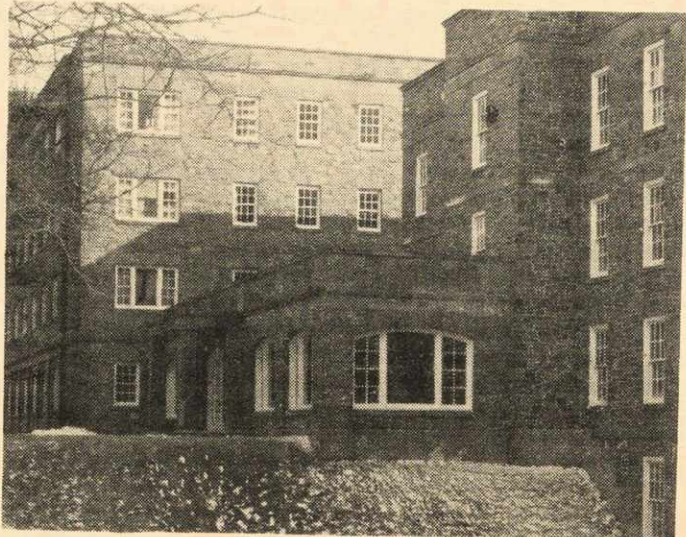
The sub-committee recommended more organization between housing people. "At present", says Kayne, "they are all going in separate and different directions."

There is a lack of planning in replacement costs for furniture and accessories. There is also a definite need for a cost accountant to run university housing as evidenced by Holancin's study of mismanagement.

Kayne says the recommendations were made "with the thought that the housing could be remedied by having a housing director and agency to co-ordinate and maintain all aspects of student housing including labour, food contractors, equity of rates between residences, standardization of services, etc."

The basic idea, he believes, is to provide a "clearing housing concept" to housing. The agency should be a service before a business, but presently it is the opposite.

Kayne is pleased that the recommendations are finally out the committee stage. Some concrete steps are expected from the administration for implementation next year.



ted coldwell/ dal photo

Election — a dismal failure

an opinion
by Roger Annis

Another election has now gone by at Dalhousie and we find ourselves saddled with the same old problem — a student government which is unlikely to fight for the important issues facing students today.

The key issues at Dalhousie, or any other university, is the transfer of power from the Board of Governors to the hands of the students. The students must be the ones to decide how money is to be allocated, how and what we are to learn, and how the university facilities are to be utilized to help correct all that is wrong with this society. Mr. Smith et co. have proven themselves incapable of rising to this task.

What does Mr. Smith mean when he says that he will lead a boycott of classes next year in the event of a rise in tuition? It sounds to me more like a vote-

getting gimmick than anything else, but I will be fair and examine the issue closer.

A major decision over the two most successful means of fighting a tuition increase (boycott vs. non-payment of fees) has to be made before any action can be undertaken. A boycott of classes seems to offer the best possibility for success. I do not question Mr. Smith's ideas on the method of action to be taken, but I cannot believe that he will advocate action.

Where was Mr. Smith last year? Why was there no call for a boycott last year when tuition went up? Could it be there was no election being run at the time? Smith claims that the rise in tuition last year was because of the increased operating costs of the four new buildings at Dalhousie, i.e., the blame for allowing the rising costs rests in the hands of previous administrations. What

in hell is to prevent him from using the same argument next year? The fact still remains that we, the students, have to pay for the irresponsibility of the university administration!

There can be no compromise over a rise in tuition. The struggle to prevent a rise in tuition is not an end, but only the beginning of a long, hard uphill climb. What about the concept of free tuition, to be paid for in part by a corporation tax? After all, we are being molded to fit into the corporate structure — why shouldn't industry pay for it?

Many students at Dalhousie want no part in a university controlled and run by students — "The Board of Governors knows best". That kind com-

placency disgusts me. Students have the brains and ability to run their own university, all they need is a purpose. This university, is being run today to train students to fit into a slot in our industrial complex. What is needed is a university to involve students in the changes this society needs so badly!

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