

HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION HOUSES

Alderman Sullivan: "I am against the Relief Commission selling the houses in the Hydrostone District. I assume that some persons who cannot pay will have to find shelter elsewhere. I am against the Relief Commission selling the houses and removing some of the tenants who have been there some thirty odd years. Perhaps they could make a donation or give the houses to some of those persons up there who have been living in them for more than thirty years. I would suggest that this Council appoint a small Committee to interview the Relief Commission and find out what their ultimate intentions are."

Moved by Alderman Sullivan, seconded by Alderman Burgess that a Committee of three or four be appointed to interview the Relief Commission. Motion passed.

His Worship the Mayor then nominated the following to comprise the Committee:

Alderman Sullivan
 Burgess
 Abbott
 DeWolf

Moved by Alderman Adams, seconded by Alderman Doyle that the nominations of His Worship the Mayor be approved. Motion passed.

Alderman Lloyd: "Alderman DeWolf has made an excellent contribution on behalf of the City in this regard. Does the Relief Commission propose to sell these houses to parties who may own more than one and if so will they pass on to the tenants the commercial

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rate of tax if they should sub-let them?"

Alderman DeWolf: "I don't know what procedure the Commission has in its mind. All I know is what was in the papers. They are going to sell to those who are living in them. They intend to pay the City on the regular assessment at the residential rate which will give us \$12,000.00 more than an arbitrary rate which they pay on the business rate. A long term means 20, 30 or 40 years longer for the Commission to be in existence. I was after not only an increase in the tax rate for current purposes but back taxes during the years of the operation and that would amount to about \$1,000,000.00."

Alderman Lloyd: "Is it the intention of this Committee to explore the possibility of the City taking over the whole area at a negotiated price."

His Worship the Mayor: "Yes".

Alderman Lloyd: "It might help for a number of years until we catch up on the backlog of housing."

Alderman DeWolf: "About a year ago \$800,000.00 would have purchased the pensions for those who are now paying. They have increased that amount by 50% a month to these pensions which would require \$1,234,000.00. I believe that \$1,000,000.00 would purchase the pensions required to pay these people off. They have that money in hand. They could very well hand those properties over to the City in lieu of the back taxes together with a short settlement they made with the City. They settled for much less."

Alderman Lloyd: "If that is the target that should be uppermost in the minds of the Committee."

Alderman Kitz: "Let the Committee bear in mind that this Council was given an opportunity to purchase 400 houses from War-time Housing which appeared quite cheap per unit. Let us look at the broad picture before we jump. It involves a lot of money."

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His Worship the Mayor stated that the City Solicitor was authorized to contact Major Tibbs on this matter and then requested him to give the Council some idea of the proceedings which had taken place.

The City Solicitor then read a memo to the Council which he had prepared.