

Statement made to the City Council, March 1948.

Your Worship and Members of the Council:

It was very kind of you to give me this time for I know that you have so many things to consider that leisure and you have definitely parted company. However the matter on which I wish to say a few words is of mutual interest to the city as of Dalhousie University.

First of all, however, I should like to thank you, Your Worship, and the members of the Council for the helpful and cooperative attitude that you have always shown in your treatment of requests addressed to you by the University. This is the first opportunity that I have had to thank you personally, but I have publicly stated on more than one occasion that we in the University have reason to congratulate ourselves that we have City Fathers who show themselves invariably ready to do anything in their power and within reason to assist us.

The names of the City of Halifax and Dalhousie University are inseparably associated; and it has been my experience in this and other parts of Canada and in other countries to meet people who think of Halifax not primarily as the Eastern Canadian Port but as the whole of the University which has achieved a high order of academic distinction, during the 128 years of its existence as an institution of the city. Everything that makes for the progress and reputation of Dalhousie adds glory to the name of Halifax also.

For many centuries the cities have considered the possession of worthy institutions of higher learning to be among the chief glories that they could possibly claim. They have vied with one another in the inducements<sup>ed</sup> which they offer/Universities and the advantages which they extended to them. It is a great honor to Halifax to be the home of a University as well known as Dalhousie, and I should like to add that you as the City Fathers in this home of the University have shown, in all my experiences with you a truly paternal interest in the University's growth and welfare.

Although I do not intend to stretch this aspect of the matter I should like to say in passing that from the material point of view, Dalhousie is a great asset to the city, and that it is in the city's own interest that it should expand. The

direct expenditures that the University made last year were well over three quarter of a million dollars. The personal expenditures of about 1200 out-of-town students would be well over half a million. Further the parents of the six or seven hundred Halifax students save at least half that amount because they do not have to send them away from home to attend University.

These figures do not represent the maximum/advantage that Dalhousie will bring to its home city. The University will in the course of the years extend the scope of its activities, and the beginning of that process will not be long delayed. We plan soon to erect a new Arts Building, to cost from three quarters of a million to a million dollars. This project will mean a considerable amount of employment. Further the National Research Council of Canada has decided to build a laboratory on our campus. The building alone will cost some hundreds of thousands dollars. It will house 50 scientists, 25 of whom will be top-ranking specialists, to carry on continuous research on problems affecting the economy of the Maritime Provinces. It is estimated that the operation of this laboratory will cost \$150,000 a year. Finally I know that those who are preparing plans for this research enterprise are making provision for its enlargement as time goes on.

As I have indicated, I mentioned the material side only incidentally, although I recognize it is not unimportant. The point that I wish to stress is that Dalhousie is indispensable to the intellectual and cultural distinction of Halifax, and I know that you appreciate the crowning importance of this aspect of our corporate life.

The suggestion that I have been authorized to convey to you is that you make a zoning regulation that will restrict new building along the Morris Street boulevard from Robie Street to the Studley Gates to buildings having to do university activities, scientific research, public health and kindred purposes. If you could assure, by this means, that the new buildings to be erected along the boulevard from time to time would be of this character, Halifax would eventually have an avenue of stateley impressive buildings that the citizens of the city would show with pride to visitors - the boulevard would be a kind of showplace of the city, and the vista would be

dominated from the high point of land in Studley by the magnificent view of the new Arts Building which the University has decided to erect. I give you therefore a vision of a street of noble buildings devoted to intellectual, cultural and scientific research and the application of modern knowledge and skill to the healing of human disease.

The suggestion that I make has two features that I would like to emphasize. The first is that I'm not asking for a gift for Dalhousie. If I were asking for such a gift I know that I could still count on your willingness to do anything that is reasonably possible: but I am not coming to ask for an advantage for Dalhousie any more than for other institutions - hospitals, research activities, and any others that come within the group that I have mentioned.

In the second place I am not asking for a direct gift at all. You have been exercising your ingenuity and calling on all your resourcefulness for some time past to work out your budget and to find the money with which to meet the claims made on you. I am happy that I do not ask you to add anything to your estimates, but rather to adopt a policy as part of your city planning that will be a permanent witness to your appreciation of a place of higher education in all fields of endeavour, and of your civic statesmanship in guaranteeing the University a reasonable right to expand without leaving its present site and without meeting almost insurmountable obstacles.