

New Councillor Decker was suspicious but she too was preoccupied with Larkin. In the middle of the discussion of Larkin, A-C-T-I-N-G Mayor Reeves gave a superb performance asking, "What is the Council's desire?" That was Councillor Sullivan's cue.

This was one of several moves that evening contrary to Robert's Rules of order. The A-C-T-I-N-G Mayor diverted (diversified?) the discussion to a report by the City Manager dated November 2, 1999. It concerned the disposition of the Kendall Square Fire Station and abutting city property at 350 Main Street, Kendall Square. The lot near MIT was for sale. The matter on the table was still Larkin, but no one was paying attention.

The Deputy City Clerk recalled the City Manager to the meeting. He referred to the study which reported that the firehouse land was "not appropriate for housing." He said, "There is no neighborhood there."

One wonders if the Salvation Army headquarters is an appropriate location for humans to live. Or the Lutheran Church shelter or any shelter. Is "affordable housing" the latest politically correct buzz-phrase, which means "talk the talk but don't walk the walk?" The City Council speaks with forked tongues.

If the lot is not suitable for permanent housing why is it appropriate for transient housing? The Report of the Cambridge Historical Commission, April 30, 1999 notes that "the site is at the edge of the M.I.T. campus, directly across from the Legal Seafoods restaurant at Cambridge Center and a block from the Kendall Square Red Line. ... Directly across Main Street is Cambridge Center ... which provide[s] first-class retail and office space in Kendall Square." Is proximity to a Red Line T station and first class retail shops negative characteristics for housing?

In Boston, St. Botolph Street neighbors wonder why transient housing is permitted without necessary city licenses. (Stephanie Ebbert, "St. Botolph residents want answers," *Boston Globe*, February 1, 2000. Money appears to be the answer there. The owner and developer of that alleged unlawful transient building is a contributor to the Boston Mayor's election campaign.

A member of the Alliance of the Boston Neighborhoods said, it is "entirely contrary to the mayor's policy of preserving current housing units. The city is like a sieve. We are pouring units into one end and they're leaking out at the other even faster." (Loc cit) The sale of the Cambridge Fire Station is likewise contrary to City policy regarding the housing emergency.

City owned land available to create affordable housing is sold for transient housing? The City Manager's report (November 2, 1999) states as a Public benefit of transferring this property to the Affordable Housing Trust, "Permanent affordable housing would be created and developed." What is the motivation for the Cambridge City Council to sell land during a housing emergency?

Was it a trade-off for a favorable vote on the Larkin petition? Or is there a connection with contributions by associates of the Mary Prentiss hotel corporation? What kind of sausage was made (Councillor Davis) during the "lengthy recesses and discussions?" (Frank Dabek)

With a flush treasury, income for city services was not the issue. Establishing a utopian academic elitist community in Cambridge is the suspected objective of this sale.

Ignoring the danger of recognizing reality, the City Council voted fearlessly last year to announce that there *is* a housing

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emergency in Cambridge. As if no one else recognized it. Many long term residents left the city permanently due to the greed of landlords, and the Harvard-legal-and-academic elitists who arranged through an illegal state-wide vote to remove rent control.

Councillor Decker, the lone thinker, asked the City Manager why the city was purchasing the land. The A-C-T-I-N-G Mayor announced, "We own the land."

Recovering quickly she added, "I wonder why are we selling land when we're trying to create affordable housing?" (Hmmm? A trouble-maker on the Council? Is she trying to walk the walk and embarrass the rest of us?) Councillor Born smiled knowingly nodding her head in support, but maintained her silence.

Healy continued his award-winning performance saying, "According to the study of the Planning Board it was determined that ONLY [my emphasis] seven units would fit on that parcel of land." Only seven? Are other locations available? Is Harvard University or MIT lining up to sell land or to develop housing for moderate and low income residents?

What the City Manager failed to state was that the same study (page 5) recognized as a Public drawback [???] that a 31 unit building could be constructed with a change of zoning to C3A. The study noted that such a building would be "very awkward." How awkward is it for homeless residents of the shelters to live without any privacy or bathroom or cooking facilities? That must be right up there in the high awkward range of living large.

The A-C-T-I-N-G Mayor called for a vote on whether to accept the recommendation of the Planning Board on this matter. (Larkin was still the issue on the table.) The vote was eight in favor to one abstention (Decker) for suspension of the rules moved by Councillor Sullivan. This was followed by a nine zero vote to accept and act on the recommendation selling the parcel to a private developer for transient housing--a 65-room seven story hotel! Recall this location was declared not suitable for housing by the City Manager!

Councillor Sullivan stood immediately after the nine-oh vote to insure that this was made final. He called for a suspension of the rules again in order to take a second required vote on the land deal.

This was all done in the middle of the discussion of the Larkin petition which had everyone else's attention. It was Reeves' Rules not Robert's. Some think the best way to hide (See page six of Three-card-monte Dealer's Manual) is in plain sight; and to confuse and divert the attention of the mark or whoever is watching intently.

It was a triple play; Reeves to Healy to Sullivan. They pulled it off without a murmur from the audience. After testifying Healy left his seat in front of the Council with a proud smirk on his face. Was he thinking, "What a team! Me, Sully and the A-C-T-I-N-G Mayor. What performers!?! " (Note: Hypocrite is a Greek word meaning actor.)

This sale will insure diversity in Cambridge. More interlopers from the wealthy upper classes. Without rent control, the council can create the perfect city with no poor or low class persons. An academic enclave on a hill. Divest (Diverse, divest, what's the difference?) our city of the poor, the unwashed, the trouble-making thinkers, the readers, the mentally ill. Golden parachutes for all.

An editorial cartoon published in the January 8, 2000 Boston

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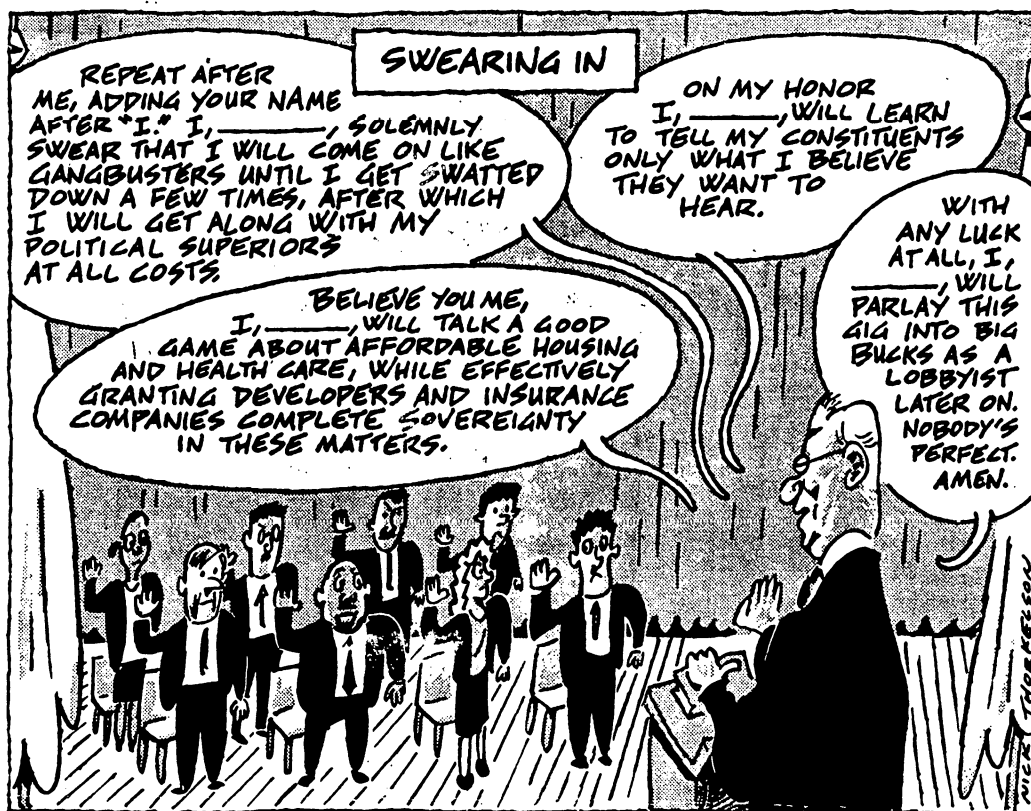
Globe showed a swearing in ceremony for elected officials. One oath they took stated, "Believe you me, I, _____, will talk a good game about affordable housing and health care, while effectively granting developers and insurance companies complete sovereignty in these matters." Was the Council meeting on January 24th, life imitating art?

Selling this land is an abomination during a declared housing emergency. It should be halted and the land transferred to the Affordable Housing Trust. Inaction allowing this loss of land is a betrayal of the citizens of Cambridge.

Ry Bercaw

BOSTON GLOBE

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*** Channel 9 Cambridge Community Television ***
***** Rebroadcast Wednesday 9:00 AM *****

Honorable Members of the
Cambridge City Council
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge MA 02139

February 2, 2000

350 MAIN ST.

Members of the Council,

In Autumn, 1999 the Cambridge City Council declared a housing emergency in the City of Cambridge. A priority asserted by Councillor David Maher is to "begin to address issues that threaten the ability of many working families and seniors to stay in Cambridge, including escalating housing costs ..." (Lisa Kocian, "City councilors outline their goals for the year," *Cambridge Chronicle*, January 12, 2000, page 4)

Councillor Henrietta Davis cited the need to "increase the supply of affordable housing [and to] adopt a goal of 20-percent affordable housing up from 15 percent." (Loc cit) Councillor and Representative Timothy Toomey indicated the need to "develop mechanisms for increased affordable housing units in all areas of the city." (Loc cit)

Councillor Anthony Galluccio suggested that "zoning should be used to require affordable units in all new developments and increase the overall supply of housing." (Loc cit) Councillor Kathy Leahy Born named "a sane and balanced land plan that emphasizes new housing for low- and middle-income families ..." (Loc cit) Councillor Michael Sullivan said, "We still have to address what happens to people just above the line. Are we going to lose middle-income people or the working poor, who are being edged out because of federal guidelines?" (Loc cit)

But it was "Bait and Switch" at the Cambridge City Council meeting on January 24, 2000. A life-sized game of three-card-monte. Citizens, city hall journalists and new councilors were all fooled. It was *The Sting* without Robert Redford or Paul Newman.

While attention was on the Larkin petition, (Lisa Kocian, "Councilors put the chill on development," January 26, 2000, page one; Edward Colby "In First Major Vote, New City Council Passes Development Moratorium," *Harvard Crimson*, January 26, 2000; Frank Dabek, "City Council Approves New Development Ban," *The Tech*, January 26, 2000; Mary Hurley, *Boston Sunday Globe*, January 30, 2000) the scam was run by A-C-T-I-N-G Mayor Reeves, Councillor Sullivan, and City Manager Healy. No media outlet other than *Enough Room* (CCTV Channel 9 on January 25, 2000 and February 1, 2000) reported the sneaked sale of the Kendall Square Fire Station.

Consent Communication #8 3/5

A communication was received
from Roy Bercaw, Editor,
Enough Room, relative to the
affordable housing emergency
in the City of Cambridge.

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In City Council February ¹⁴~~2~~, 2000

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