

A say wanted in staff matters

The Urban Council wants to play a consultative role in the grading and engagement of Urban Services Department staff, according to the Chairman, Mr A. de O. Sales.

He said the council must be consulted in such matters because two-thirds of its total expenditure went on salaries for USD staff.

"I have written to the Director of the Urban Services Department stating that we are interested in the grading and engagement of its staff and asking that this council be consulted in future," he said.

Mr Sales was replying to remarks by councillors speaking on the motion seeking

approval of the council's 1975-76 budget.

One councillor, Mr Tsui Sai nin, said it was regrettable that while the council paid the wages of USD staff - \$229 million in the next financial year - it had no control over them.

Other points raised by the councillors included a warning by Mr Peter T. K. Chan that the "rumoured" Government take-over of the management of car parks would diminish public interest in the council's future elections.

He said that the council's range of activities, already narrowed last year when the Government took back the housing

management, would be further restricted if the car parks were also taken away from next April as rumoured.

Mr Chan claimed that the council had been blamed for the 100-150 per cent increase in parking charges even though it was the Government which decided to do so without consulting the council.

"Over the years, the council has been asking for wider powers so that it can serve the public better," he said.

"But the contrary is the case. I hope the Government will reconsider its attitude, otherwise I fear that all public interest in future elections will be killed."