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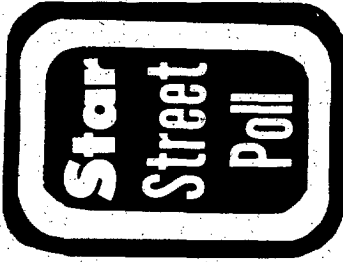
# 5-year wait for homes

THE Secretary for Housing, M Ian Lightbody, said yesterday almost 10,000 of the 110,000 families wanting public housing had been on the waiting list for more than five years. — the average waiting period.

Do you think a five-year wait is too long?

Should the Government speed up its housing plan?

Here are the views of some people interviewed in the street:



● **MR John Leung, business adviser:**

I THINK the Government should speed up its public housing building plans. There is enough Crown land for such purposes and if the Government uses land which does not have to be reclaimed, construction work can be speeded up. Looking for remote land which is not of commercial value is not the answer.



● **MR Chan Tat-hing, interior decorator:**

THE time has come for the Government to get serious with its building plans. The problem is not hard to solve if one takes into consideration the Government's revenue and the fact that housing estates are now being priced to be self-sustaining. Money excuses are not good enough.



● **MR Cheung Kuem, barber:**

A CRASH programme of public housing is definitely needed. As we all know, rents in the private sector are too high for most families and these will go even higher when the new rates come into being. The Government should devote most of its extra revenue to public housing.



● **MR Chan Siu-fai, gardener:**

HOUSING is a big problem. The Government has much land in Kowloon and the New Territories and there is no reason why these should not be given over to public housing. A five-year waiting period is shocking.



● **MR Stephen Lau, import and export:**

RENTS in the private sector will get higher and the demand for public housing will therefore increase. Asking people to wait for five years is almost a crime. By that time their children will have grown and could be in need of housing themselves.



● **MR Tsang Man, businessman:**

PUBLIC housing and more flats for sale — that's the answer to our problem. The Government can easily raise the revenue it needs from direct and indirect taxation and therefore there is no excuse for the go-slow.