

She Kip Mei

13 Dec. 1978

5,000 SIGNATURES OPPOSE RENT INCREASE

REPRESENTATIVES of the Public Housing Policy Council yesterday protested to the UMELCO Office and the Government Secretariat over a rent increase for Group B public housing estates, most papers reported today.

According to the papers, the representatives submitted to the authorities 5,000 signatures collected from tenants of Tai Hang Tung, Tai Wo Hau and Kwai Chung Estates, together with four demands.

The council proposed that rents in public housing estates be reviewed every four years instead of biennially; that the rate of increase not exceed the increase in tenants' income during that period; that management and other services in public housing estates be thoroughly improved before rents were in-

creased; and that the Government introduce legislation to control rent increases in public housing estates.

The Hong Kong Commercial Daily, in its letters-to-the-editor column, published a letter from a group of Ngau Tau Kok Estate tenants opposing the rent increases. The group suggested the setting up of an elected body to help manage the estate.

● In a separate report, a few papers said merchants' associations in Kowloon East and Tai Wo Ping had, at a recent forum, demanded that the Government give reasonable compensation to medium and small-sized factories cleared for development. They suggested that such factories

be resettled before clearance.

The merchants were opposed to the Town Planning Board's development plan for Shek Kip Mei because the board had not mentioned the question of compensation and resettlement.

● Editorially, the Hong Kong Daily News said the prices of land were rising. It urged the Government to expand its Home Ownership Scheme and public housing programmes.