

600,000 predicted to be affected by rise in flat rental

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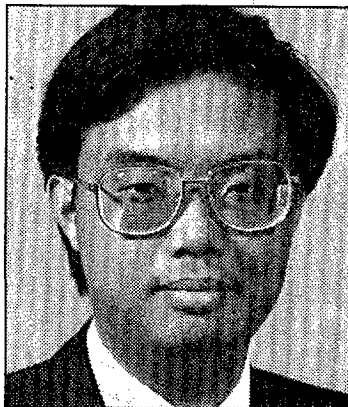
LEGISLATIVE Councillors have expressed fears that the number of tenants to be affected by the proposed lifting of rent control might be greater than the 190,000 official estimate.

This followed statements from two bodies who told members of the *ad hoc* group on the Landlord and Tenant (Consolidation) (Amendment) Bill that the Government had greatly underestimated the number of families living in rent control flats.

The Social Workers Concerned Group on the Abolition of Rental Control and the Society for Community Organisation, said their research showed that the number of tenants to be affected by the phase-out of rent control was 600,000.

They said their studies were continuing and that they should come up with more reliable figures if given one more month to do further research.

The proposed legislation would allow landlords of pre-war tenancies to raise their



JAMES TO: Precise figures.

rents to 60 per cent of market value this year, 75 per cent next year and 92.5 per cent by the end of 1994.

The Government had said earlier it wanted the new rents implemented by next month.

However, legislators said they wanted to know exactly how many families would be affected before they endorsed the proposed legislation.

"I think we have to wait until we get precise figures of the affected households before we can pass the bill," said the *ad hoc* group's convenor, James To.