

BATTLES FOR KWUN TONG EAST/WEST

**MRS
ELSIE TU**



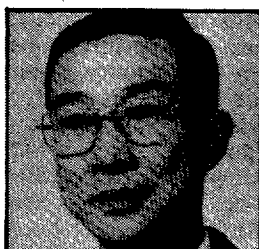
AGED 72, married, graduate of Durham University, United Kingdom; school supervisor; incumbent Urban Council member.

**MR CHAN
KANG-CHOW**



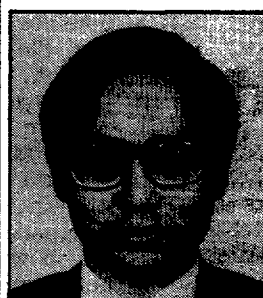
AGED 47, married with four children; post secondary education; school headmaster.

**MR LAM
CHAK-PIU**



AGED 45, married with three children; secondary education; garment technician; incumbent Urban Council member.

**MR TSOI
LOK-KEUNG**



AGED 31, married, Bachelor of Engineering; executive; incumbent DB member.

The Personalities

A case of too little, too late?

20-15

MANY people were surprised when a headmaster declared his intention to oppose Mrs Elsie Tu in the Kwun Tong East constituency two days before the nomination period closed.

Most observers thought the veteran Urban Council member, who indicated that she would retire after another term, would get her seat unopposed again, as she did in 1982.

Although she is not Chinese, Mrs Tu is well-known to people throughout the territory as a champion of the local people and their causes.

Observers thought no one would dare challenge the 72-year-old council member because of the great support she commands.

Even people who covet the seat would rather wait three years for Mrs Tu to retire before making a bid.

But the 47 year-old headmaster, Mr Chan Kang-chow, finally decided to try and unseat the oldest member of the 100-year-old municipal body.

Mr Chan explained: "At first, I had no intention of contesting. If there had been a Chinese candidate vying for the seat, I would not have become a candidate. I think it is better to have a Chinese council member representing our

constituency.

"Actually, I do not care whether I win or not. If people think I am more suitable, they will support me."

Rumours are rife that his participation was provoked by a group of district board members who promised to give him their full backing.

But Mr Chan declines comment on this, saying only that he has enlisted support from many sectors, including the 13 area committees. He refuses to disclose which board members support him.

The headmaster is no stranger to the district, as he was previously a board member for two terms. He was defeated during the last district board poll.

"My last defeat has no bearing on the coming elections. As you know, there are many unpredictable problems arising."

In Kwun Tong West, the competition is between an Urban Council member, Mr Lam Chak-piu, and a district board member, Mr Tsoi Lok-keung.

Though, at first glance, the two candidates seem to have contrasting images, both claim to represent the grassroots.


Mr Lam, who is a garment technician, is usually called "Uncle Piu". His easygoing, friendly image is an advantage in appealing for support in the constituency.

But 31-year-old Mr Tsoi claims he also represents the common man, even though he is now an executive.

He points out he lived in a squatter when he was young and is now a public housing estate tenant.

This is the second time Mr Tsoi is facing Mr Lam. The young executive attributed his last failure to his age.

"I was the youngest candidate last time. But after three more years on the district board, I am now better established in the district."



ELECTIONS 1986

**URBCO/
REGIONAL
COUNCIL**

by
Chalina Chung