

## A let-down by Urbco

**T**HE continuous price increases have given us no chance to breathe... telephone, public transport, the Urban Service Department's mass increases of fees and taxes, and now the latest is the postal charges.

But I'm most disappointed in the increases by the Urban Services on hawkers, restaurant fees and others.

My disappointment and regret is that our elected members do not stand on the side of the public.

Instead they are the men who help to put up the prices.

The Urban Council is the only body that represents public opinion through elected members, and this time they did not repay the trust of the people who voted for them.

Obviously, the council gives three main points as the reason for increasing the fees:

- Not sufficient funds,
- No increases over a very long period, and

- Only a few dollars a day.

But if you carefully study the increases, you will find many of them have gone up several times before.

I don't think the Urban Council should put up the fees at this stage.

Not long ago, the council reported a surplus and claimed they could lend money to other departments.

The Urban Council is not like other corporations — it is a body to serve the public and no margin of profit should be fixed in any form.

The council is getting six percent of the total Government rates and the amount will be more in a couple of years.

My opinion is that the elected members should act for the people who have put their trust in them.

● **MR William Shum, general-secretary of the Universal Consumers Association, was interviewed by a Star reporter.**