

J. A. M. S.

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## Broadside for Sales' housing suggestion

Urban Council Chairman Mr A. de O. Sales' recent suggestion that the Housing Authority be reconstituted as an independent professional body has been attacked by Urbco and Housing Authority member Dr Denny Huang.

Mr Sales reportedly said last week that the present membership of the Authority should be cleared away and replaced by architects, surveyors, estate managers and engineers.

He said that some current members of the Housing Authority, on which eight Urbco members sit, tend to take political advantage of their positions.

But Dr Huang yesterday called the suggestion "ridiculous," and attacked Mr Sales' logic in assuming that technical experts could or should fill policy-making posts.

"If that's the way he is thinking, then I challenge him to quit the chairmanship of the Urban Council first, before he talks about experts running this business," said Dr Huang.

"If his thinking is right, the electoral system would have to be scrapped all over the world.

"A defence minister doesn't have to be a military man, and a Housing Authority member need not be an engineer.

"Of course we need technical advisers, but the policy-

makers should be elected by the people."

The Housing Authority, said Dr Huang, needs members who know the overall situation of Hongkong, not just one area of expertise.

Urbco members fill that role, he said.

Dr Huang said Mr Sales' charges that some members were using their posts to take political advantage were "nonsense".

"There's no way any Urban Council member can take advantage of a Housing Authority position."

Mr Sales, he said, is attacking with strange haste a body that until only last month he was a member of himself.

"He resigned when he wasn't given a committee chairmanship and now he's attacking the membership," he said.

"I think that's childish and ridiculous."

Another Urbco representative on the Housing Authority, Dr Henry Hu, also condemned Mr Sales' suggestion.

"I think the Housing Authority is doing its job very well," he said.

"I see no reason for it to be reconstituted."

Dr Hu said that he believed that the Urbco members on the Housing Authority were fulfilling their function satisfactorily and bringing a good deal of experience in housing matters.