

J. C. M. P.

13 December 1982

## 510,000 sign power petition

About 160,000 people yesterday braved the cold weather to sign in the campaign against power rate increases bringing the total signatures collected over the past four weeks to more than 510,000.

The campaign which ended yesterday was organised by the Coalition for the Monitoring of Public Utilities.

"This is a historic figure," said a coalition spokesman, Mr Lau Chin-shek.

"It is even more than the 350,000 signatures collected in protest against the Japanese revision of history textbooks."

Mr Lau said last night that the coalition workers were still counting the signatures and the exact figure could be out today.

"With so many supporting our campaign, it is obvious that the public is against the power rate increases," he said.

"People are getting more concerned about their interests and are willing to make use of channels to express their viewpoints."

About 100,000 signatures had been submitted to the Government and the remaining would be sent to the Umeleo Office on Thursday when they would meet officials concerned about the issue, he said.

Mr Lau added that signatures were collected on the Saturdays and Sundays of the past four weeks on both sides of the harbour.

Signing-in stands were put up in more than 10 busy locations in Hongkong, Kowloon and the New Territories.

He said the coalition will fight on to press the Government to amend the schemes of control on the power companies.