

one has had its origin in either residents, concerned architects or other groups approaching this union for assistance.

Your editorial does not accord with the thinking of people in Sydney and other parts of Australia who have written to this union congratulating it on its consistent stand in the interests of people and the particular environmental causes that we have supported.

Consistently, we have advanced the demand that Governments enact suitable legislation to protect the ordinary people against the rapacious developers, most of whom have very little, if any, respect for the environment.

Likewise, we have called for legislation to be enacted so as to preserve historically and architecturally significant buildings. Our concept of democracy is that all interested people with a conscience have the right to speak up and to act in line with that conscience on these issues.

Our union will continue to do this and I would suggest that the energies of the "Herald" would best be served by assisting those people who are really concerned about the environment and who, like us, believe that cities should be lived in and not consist only of glass and concrete banks, insurance and office blocks.

The Rocks area is not a privately owned piece of real estate to be exploited in the most profitable way. The land in question has been acquired or is controlled by the Government on behalf of the people of NSW. It is part of the national heritage, paid for many times over by the generations since the continent was first settled.

We agree with the conclusion drawn by the Royal Australian Planning Institute that the State Government is sidestepping the moral issue involved here, that being, in simple terms, to use this land in such a way as to bring the greatest benefit to the most people over time. This implies the same courage and foresight that must have been exercised by early decision-makers in this State when areas such as Hyde Park, the Domain and Centennial Park were set aside for public use and enjoyment in perpetuity.

Regarding your concern for overseas investors, I would like to say that this union believes there should be a reorientation as to the type of buildings which should be erected in the public interest.

During the so-called building boom of the 60s we have seen a surplus of architecturally ugly

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## TO THE EDITOR

office blocks rising towards the sky; yet at the same time there is a scarcity of hospitals, schools, universities, kindergartens, creches and quality homes. Could I suggest that any responsible newspaper should be more concerned about this problem than worrying about developers and overseas investors whose only real concern is amassing quick dollars?

J. B. MUNDEY,  
Secretary,

Australian Builders Labourers'  
Federation, NSW Branch.  
Sydney.

## The sale of Lyndhurst

SIR, — May I refer to the item ("Herald," August 5) relating to the purchase by the Department of Main Roads of the historic building, Lyndhurst.

It is there suggested that the demolition of Lyndhurst is more imminent now that the department has secured the building by purchase.

The course of dealings on the part of the department since the then Minister for Local Government and Highways announced in Parliament — wrongly, as it turned out — that Lyndhurst did not have an unchallenged historical value, that this historical value could not be substantiated, and that its restoration to its original state could not be guaranteed, may call for clarification; but I would be loath to assume that a public authority such as the department would push on with the purchase of a historic monument with the purpose of defeating measures being taken by the community to assure its preservation.

That there are such measures being taken and that the project of preserving Lyndhurst is entirely realistic is well known and of course well known to the department.

To assume that the department would incontinently intervene to frustrate the community's efforts to save this part of its historic heritage would be to ascribe to it the motives of an unscrupulous developer who would rush in and bulldoze a building in order to prevent moves to preserve it; and to

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