

## 'WE CAN'T HAND OUT FLOWERS...'

# Wanted: ideas for plaza

By **PETER ALLEN**

**Sydney City Council this week appealed for ideas on the official opening of the new Martin Place plaza.**

The exact form the opening ceremony should take has become a poser for council officials.

"When the area was first handed over last October, there was a short speech by the Lord Mayor and then boys and girls handed out flowers," plaza committee chairman, Alderman Leo Port, said this week.

Since then, the plaza has been undergoing a \$400,000 facelift.

It's to be officially opened in either late August or early September.

"The problem now is what would be the most suitable form for the opening.

"We can't really hand out flowers again."

"I'd be very glad to receive any ideas."

### **Fixed price**

The plaza is gradually taking shape under the watchful eyes of thousands of workers and shoppers.

The old road area in Martin Place is being topped with about 700 pink granite slabs, each weighing two tons.

About 100 are already in place.

The six-inch thick slabs, covering 50 square feet,



**Ald Port . . . "The problem is . . ."**

are being laid on low concrete platforms.

They can be easily removed for maintenance work.

The pavement laying is costing about \$250,000.

Ald. Port said an independent contractor was carrying out the job at a fixed tender price.

The contractor was now "on schedule" after an early delay.

"The early problem was that the contractor virtually had to learn how to do the job because it is so unusual," said Alderman Port.

The suspended slab system was designed specifically for the plaza.