



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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LEGO BACKS UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS'S MOTION

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY SUPPORTED THE MOTION BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, THE REV THE HON PATRICK MCGOVERN WELCOMING THE REPORT +A PERSPECTIVE ON EDUCATION IN HONG KONG+.

THE APPROVAL WAS GIVEN IN A VOTE TAKEN AFTER AN AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION HAD BEEN PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON KENNETH TOPLEY.

THE OFFICIAL MEMBERS ALSO SUPPORTED FR MCGOVERN'S MOTION ON THE BASIS OF A CONCLUDING STATEMENT BY MR TOPLEY.

MR TOPLEY SAID: +IT IS CLEAR FROM WHAT FR MCGOVERN AND OTHER MEMBERS HAVE SAID ON THE AMENDMENT THAT THE MOTION IS NOT MEANT TO BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION. IT IS NOW MADE CLEAR THAT THE MOTION IS NOT MEANT TO EXCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION THAT IS CONTINUING. IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT THE REPORT IS NOT THE ONLY BASIS FOR FORMULATION OF POLICY NOR IS IT SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST PROCEED TOMORROW TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATION IN THE REPORT AS A FIXED BLUEPRINT.

+I MUST MAKE VERY CLEAR THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION OF DRAGGING ITS FEET AND INDEED THERE IS NOTHING IN OUR RECORD IN RECENT YEARS THAT SUGGESTS THAT WE DO NOT PURSUE AGREED POLICIES VIGOROUSLY. FINALLY THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE IT QUITE CLEAR HOW IT SEES THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS UNFOLDING, AND NOW I UNDERSTAND THAT THE MOTION IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THIS SEQUENCE -- A SEQUENCE OF EVENTS DERIVED FROM THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, FREELY GIVEN AS RECENTLY AS APRIL THIS YEAR.

+IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES I AND MY OFFICIAL COLLEAGUES ARE NOW PREPARED TO VOTE FOR THE MOTION.+

FR MCGOVERN'S MOTION WAS:

+THAT THIS COUNCIL RECEIVES WITH APPROBATION THE REPORT 'A PERSPECTIVE ON EDUCATION IN HONG KONG,' AND COMMENDS IT TO GOVERNMENT AS A BASIS ON WHICH THE CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATION IN HONG KONG SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED.+

MR TOPLEY HAD SOUGHT AN AMENDMENT OF THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS' MOTION BY LEAVING OUT THE WORDS --

+AS A BASIS ON WHICH THE CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATION IN HONG KONG SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED.+ AND INSERTING INSTEAD THE FOLLOWING WORDS -

+AS A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE POLICY ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.+

SPEAKING EARLIER ON THIS AMENDMENT MOTION, MR TOPLEY SAID THE MOTION PROPOSED BY FATHER MCGOVERN WAS +INCONSISTENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION+.

MR TOPLEY SAID THE OBJECT OF THIS AMENDMENT WAS NOT INTENDED TO BE COMBATIVE OR DIVISIVE; ON THE CONTRARY, IT WAS INTENDED TO BROADEN THE BASIS OF CONSENSUS TO PROVIDE A FORM OF WORDS WHICH ALL MEMBERS COULD AGREE UPON WITHOUT EMBARRASSMENT.

HE SAID IT WAS NOT BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT CARE ABOUT EDUCATION THE GOVERNMENT CARED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT EDUCATION, BUT BECAUSE THE ISSUE WAS NOT THE REPORT AS SUCH, BUT RATHER CONSULTATION ON THE REPORT.

+THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FREELY GIVEN AND WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED IS THAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE CONSULTED,+ MR TOPLEY SAID.

+THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO A SERIES OR A SEQUENCE OF ACTIONS: RECEIVING THE VIEWS OF THE PUBLIC, COLLATING THESE VIEWS AND SEEKING AGAIN THE ADVICE OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

+THE GOVERNMENT HAS THE OBLIGATION TO COMPLETE THIS PROCESS OF CONSULTATION.+

MR TOPLEY STRESSED THAT THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS INDIFFERENT TO THE REPORT OR TO EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS.

+FATHER MCGOVERN HAS SUGGESTED THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO BURY THE REPORT. THIS IS NOT SO. THE GOVERNMENT WILL EXAMINE ALL THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT IN THE LIGHT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID TO BESTOW UPON THE REPORT THE STATUS OF AGREED POLICY AS FATHER MCGOVERN'S MOTION IMPLIED WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF SHUTTING OFF FURTHER PUBLIC CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION.

MR TOPLEY SAID HE BELIEVED THAT MEMBERS HAD BEEN MISLED, NOT BY FATHER MCGOVERN, BUT PERHAPS BY THEIR EAGERNESS FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AND REFORMS INTO REDUCING THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD IN THIS IMPORTANT DEBATE.

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UMELCO WELCOMES EDUCATION REPORT

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THE REV THE HON PATRICK MCGOVERN TODAY MOVED A MOTION WELCOMING THE PANEL OF OVERSEAS VISITORS' REPORT ENTITLED +A PERSPECTIVE ON EDUCATION IN HONG KONG+ AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

THE MOTION READS:

+THAT THIS COUNCIL RECEIVES WITH APPROBATION THE REPORT 'A PERSPECTIVE ON EDUCATION IN HONG KONG' AND COMMENDS IT TO GOVERNMENT AS A BASIS ON WHICH THE CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATION IN HONG KONG SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED.+

TWELVE OTHER UNOFFICIALS SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION.

FATHER MCGOVERN, CONVENER OF THE UMELCO EDUCATION AND MANPOWER PANEL, OUTLINED 24 POINTS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED UPON BY THE UMELCO PANEL, ADDING THAT THIS WAS +A RARE ACHIEVEMENT+.

HE SAID THAT THE UMELCO PANEL HAD MET SEVERAL TIMES AT SOME LENGTH.

+IT MUST BE SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL THAT I AM ABLE TO REPORT THAT THE 12 UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED THE PANEL MEETINGS ON WHAT IS A BROAD AND CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT, REACHED UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT ON NO LESS THAN 20 POINTS SPECIFICALLY COVERED IN THE REPORT AS WELL AS ON A GENERAL PRINCIPLE AND THREE OTHER POINTS NOT DIRECTLY REFERRED TO IN THE REPORT,+ HE ADDED.

SUMMARIES OF THE POINTS ARE:

- (1) THE REPORT SHOULD NOT BE SHELVED. APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EDUCATION SYSTEM SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AS AN ON-GOING PROCESS (GENERAL PRINCIPLE).
- (2) THE LACK OF HARMONY AND OVER-ADMINISTRATION IN THE EXISTING EDUCATION SYSTEM SHOULD BE REMEDIED (ASPECTS COVERED IN THE REPORT).
- (3) AN EDUCATION COMMISSION WITH STATUTORY STATUS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO OVERSEE THE FORMULATION OF EDUCATION POLICY IN HONG KONG. THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS SHOULD BE REINFORCED BY ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL INPUT WHILE THE NUMBER OF OFFICIAL MEMBERS SHOULD BE REDUCED.
- (4) THE USE OF CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION FROM PRIMARY 1 TO FORM III, WITH A WHOLEHEARTED PUSH TOWARDS GENUINE BILINGUALISM AFTER PRIMARY 6 IS SUPPORTED. CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, TEXTBOOK SELECTION AND PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS SHOULD BE RATIONALISED UP TO FORM 7 TO ALLOW SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS OPPORTUNITIES TO USE CHINESE IF THEY SO WISH.
- (5) THE USE OF CHINESE AS A MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION SHOULD NOT BE COMPULSORY. GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENCOURAGE IT BY STATING PUBLICLY THAT THERE IS NO NEED TO USE ENGLISH ALONE FOR TEACHING IN SCHOOLS.
- (6) THE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (JSEA) SHOULD BE ABOLISHED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. SUBSIDISED SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ANY ONE WHO WANTS IT. A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF SUBJECTS SHOULD BE OFFERED UP TO FORM 5.
- (7) BOUGHT PLACES SHOULD BE PHASED OUT IN THE LONG TERM. THE QUALITY OF SCHOOLS CONCERNED SHOULD BE IMPROVED IN THE MEANTIME.
- (8) THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NEEDS TO BE OVERHAULED AND STRENGTHENED. THE CURRICULUM SHOULD NOT BE DOMINATED BY EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS.
- (9) KINDERGARTENS SHOULD BECOME PART OF THE AIDED SECTOR.
- (10) SIXTH FORM COLLEGES SHOULD ONLY SUPPLEMENT BUT NOT REPLACE THE EXISTING MATRICULATION CLASSES IN SCHOOLS. ADDITIONAL FORM 6-7 PLACES CAN THUS BE PROVIDED FOR STUDENTS WHO CAN ADVANCE TO THAT LEVEL.
- (11) A MULTI-OPTION TWO-YEAR CURRICULUM FOR FORM 6-7, UNINTERRUPTED FORMAL EXAMINATIONS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED.

- (12) OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDY AT DEGREE LEVEL SHOULD BE EXPANDED.
- (13) ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS TO POST SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS SHOULD BE HARMONISED.
- (14) HONG KONG IS WELL SUITED FOR A SYSTEM OF EDUCATION BY RADIO AND TV.
- (15) THE WHOLE QUESTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SHOULD BE STUDIED IN GREATER DEPTH THAN THAT ACHIEVED IN THE REPORT.
- (16) EDUCATION FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE A +SERVICE+. IT SHOULD BE INTEGRATED INTO THE MAIN STREAM OF EDUCATION.
- (17) INDIVIDUAL NEEDS OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, RATHER THAN THEIR CATEGORISATION, SHOULD BE THE FOCUS OF EDUCATION FOR THE HANDICAPPED.
- (18) THE CAREER STRUCTURE OF TEACHERS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION SHOULD BE IMPROVED TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN SUITABLE PERSONNEL.
- (19) THE QUALITY OF TEACHERS SHOULD BE IMPROVED.
- (20) THE CONCEPT OF THE HONG KONG TEACHING SERVICES IS SUPPORTED AS ONE OF THE WAYS TO IMPROVE TEACHER QUALITY.
- (21) AGREED THAT THERE IS A STRONG CASE FOR EXPANSION OF TRAINING AT THE TECHNICIAN/CRAFTSMAN LEVEL.
- (22) THE IMPORTANCE OF ARTS SUBJECTS SHOULD BE EMPHASISED. THEY SHOULD NOT BE TREATED AS INFERIOR TO SCIENCE SUBJECTS (POINTS NOT COVERED IN THE REPORT).
- (23) THE SEVERE LACK OF PROPERLY MANAGED SCHOOL LIBRARIES, PUBLIC READING AND STUDY ROOMS SHOULD BE REMEDIED.
- (24) WITHOUT BEING IN BREACH OF STANDING ORDER NO. 23, AS A GENERAL OBSERVATION, WE AGREE THAT MONEY SPENT ON EDUCATION IS MONEY WELL INVESTED IN THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

FATHER MCGOVERN ALSO GAVE HIS PERSONAL VIEWS ON THE REPORT BY QUOTING A LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST (MAY 13, 1983) BY MRS E. ELLIOT.

MRS ELLIOT WAS QUOTED AS SAYING:

+IT IS NOT OFTEN THAT A COMMISSION INVITED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE A REPORT DISCLOSES THE TRUTH, RATHER THAN WHAT IT IS GUIDED BY ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE TO PROPOSE.

+THE FOUR-MAN TEAM OF EDUCATIONAL EXPERTS IS THERE TO BE CONGRATULATED ON THE SINCERITY OF ITS FINDINGS AND PROPOSALS. AND THE GOVERNMENT IS TO BE CONGRATULATED ON PERMITTING THE TRUTH TO EMERGE BY NOT PLACING LIMITATIONS IN TERMS OF REFERENCE.+

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UNOFFICIALS SPEAK ON EDUCATION REPORT

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MEMBERS OF THE UMELCO EDUCATION AND MANPOWER PANEL SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ON THE REPORT ENTITLED +A PERSPECTIVE ON EDUCATION IN HONG KONG+ AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY.

THE UNOFFICIALS WERE DR THE HON HARRY FANG, REV THE HON JOYCE BENNETT, DR THE HON RAYSON HUANG, THE HON CHARLES YEUNG, DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI, THE HON ANDREW SO, THE HON K.C. CHAN, THE HON SELINA CHOW, THE HON MARIA TAM AND DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP.

THEY WERE JOINED BY TWO OTHER UNOFFICIALS, THE HON T.S. LO AND THE HON PETER C. WONG WHO SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION MOVED BY THE CONVENER OF THE UMELCO PANEL, REV THE HON PATRICK MCGOVERN.

DR HARRY FANG URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO PUT AWAY THE IDEA THAT THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION TO DISABLED CHILDREN WAS A +SERVICE+.

+THEY SHOULD ENJOY THE FULL RANGE OF FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO OTHER CHILDREN.

+AS I SEE IT, THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO DO SO,+ DR FANG SAID.

HE AGREED WITH THE SECTION OF THE REPORT WHICH SAYS +THERE ARE NO TWO POPULATIONS OF CHILDREN IN HONG KONG SCHOOLS - THE ABLE AND THE DISABLED - BUT A SINGLE POPULATION OF CHILDREN- AND THAT INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES ARE MATTERS OF DEGREE, DISTRIBUTED ALONG A CONTINUUM+.

THE REV JOYCE BENNETT DESCRIBED THE MOTION AS +ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT WHICH THIS COUNCIL HAS HAD BEFORE IT FOR SOME TIME+.

+IT INVOLVES THE WHOLE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN- THEIR FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS TODAY AS WE CONSIDER WHETHER OR NOT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD USE THE REPORT AS A BASIS FOR CONTINUING ITS IMPROVEMENTS IN THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN,+ SHE SAID.

MISS BENNETT POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY TAKEN SOME STEPS TO IMPROVE LANGUAGE TEACHING.

+NOW WE NEED TO GO FURTHER AND HAVE THE GOVERNMENT GIVE POSITIVE ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE USE OF CHINESE AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION.

+BETTER CHINESE TEXTBOOKS MUST BE PRODUCED BEFORE MANY SCHOOLS WILL VENTURE TO CHANGE TO EDUCATION IN THE MOTHER-TONGUE,+ SHE SAID.

SHE SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SPONSOR TRANSLATORS FOR SOME OF THE BEST ENGLISH MATERIAL AND THE SERVICES OF THE PRINTING WORKSHOPS OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE ENLISTED.

/+I AM

+I AM CONVINCED THAT MANY SECONDARY SCHOOLS WOULD WILLINGLY TURN TO TEACHING IN THE MEDIUM OF CHINESE IN FORMS ONE TO THREE IF SUFFICIENT GOOD CHINESE BOOKS WERE AVAILABLE,+ MISS BENNETT SAID, ADDING THAT 'A' LEVEL COURSES IN THE CHINESE LANGUAGE SHOULD ALSO BE PROVIDED.

MISS BENNETT SAID THAT SIXTH FORM COLLEGES WOULD HELP MANY STUDENTS WHO HAD GAINED ADEQUATE FORM FIVE RESULTS, BUT WHOSE SCHOOLS DID NOT PROVIDE A SIXTH FORM COURSE.

+HOWEVER, SUCH SPECIALISED SIXTH FORM COLLEGES SHOULD SUPPLEMENT THE PRESENT SYSTEM, NOT REPLACE THE EXISTING MATRICULATION CLASSES IN OUR SECONDARY SCHOOLS,+ SHE SAID.

MISS BENNETT SAID THAT SHE HAD TO ENDORSE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION ANSWERABLE TO THE GOVERNOR HIMSELF.

+THIS PATTERN OF ADMINISTRATION HAS MUCH TO COMMEND IT AND I TRUST THAT THERE WILL BE AN INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONAL TO HEAD IT UP.

+WE NEED SOMEONE WITH SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY TO ENSURE THAT THE FINANCIAL PURSE STRINGS ARE LOOSENED TO ENABLE THESE GREAT IMPROVEMENTS TO BE PUT INTO EFFECT,+ MISS BENNETT SAID.

DR RAYSON HUANG SAID THAT IT WOULD BE A GREAT PITY IF THE +SHEER COMPREHENSIVENESS OF THE REPORT WAS USED AS JUSTIFICATION FOR DELAY AND OBFUSCATION.+

+WE ALL KNOW THAT JUST NOW FUNDS ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY BUT WE HOPE THAT THIS WILL NOT CONTINUE TO BE THE CASE FOR TOO LONG.

+SOME OF THE AREAS OF DEFICIENCY REVIEWED BY THE REPORT ARE SO GLARING THAT THEY DESERVE PRIORITY ACTION WHATEVER THE FINANCIAL SITUATION,+ DR HUANG STRESSED.

AS AN EXAMPLE, HE QUOTED THE FOLLOWING FROM THE REPORT:

+MOST OF THE SCHOOLS WE VISITED WERE SPARTAN TO SAY THE LEAST, WITH PUPILS FILLING THE ENTIRE ROOM - 40 TO 45 PER CLASS. SOME WERE BLIGHTED BY HIGH NOISE AND WE WITNESSED TEACHERS USING LOUDSPEAKERS AND SUSPENDING THEIR TEACHING SEVERAL TIMES IN THE COURSE OF A LESSON.+

DR HUANG SAID THAT STATEMENTS LIKE THIS SHOWED THAT IN PHYSICAL FACILITIES ALONE, HONG KONG'S EDUCATION SYSTEM HAD YET A LONG WAY TO GO DESPITE IMPROVEMENTS MADE OVER THE YEARS.

HE SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE GOVERNMENT ESTABLISH WHICH OF THE PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT SHOULD BE ADOPTED AND +MOVE INEXORABLY TO A PHASED IMPLEMENTATION OF THEM+.

+WHATEVER OUR OTHER PRIORITIES, EDUCATION MUST BE AMONG THEM AS HONG KONG FACES AN INCREASINGLY COMPETITIVE WORLD OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE.

+FOR HONG KONG'S ONLY RESOURCES ARE ITS HUMAN ONES. THESE ARE THE RESOURCES WHICH HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY IN THE PAST AND WILL DETERMINE HOW WE FARE IN THE FUTURE,+ DR HUANG ADDED.

HE VOICED SUPPORT FOR THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE ENTRANCE QUALIFICATION TO THE UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNICS SHOULD BE HARMONISED, AND SUGGESTED THAT IN DUE COURSE, THERE SHOULD BE ONE SINGLE AGENCY FOR THE WHOLE OF HONG KONG TO RECEIVE AND PROCESS APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THESE INSTITUTIONS.

HE ALSO SUPPORTED THE RECOMMENDATION THAT FORMS SIX AND SEVEN SHOULD FORM AN INTEGRATED TWO-YEAR COURSE IN A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF SUBJECTS.

HE ENDORSED THE PANEL'S VIEW THAT +THERE IS AN OVERWHELMING CASE FOR THE EXPANSION OF OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDY AT THE DEGREE LEVEL+.

HE SAID THAT FOR A POPULATION OF NEARLY SIX MILLION, 12 000 UNIVERSITY PLACES HAD TO BE CONSIDERED +QUITE INADEQUATE+.

+EVEN AMONG SOME UNDER-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, THE YOUNG HAVE GREATER ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION THAN OURS HAVE IN HONG KONG,+ DR HUANG SAID.

HE ALSO EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE MOTHER TONGUE WAS THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION FOR FORMS ONE TO THREE.

VARIOUS OF THE VIEWS WERE SHARED BY OTHER UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

MR CHARLES YEUNG, HOWEVER, SAID THAT THE USE OF CANTONESE AS A MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS SHOULD BE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE SCHOOL AUTHORITY, AS UNIFORMITY OFTEN FAILED TO CATER FOR DIFFERENT SITUATIONS.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE REPORT DID NOT DEAL WITH THE SPECIAL SITUATION OF EDUCATION IN AREAS OUTSIDE METROPOLITAN HONG KONG.

+I WOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO MAKE A PLEA THAT THE EDUCATION COMMISSION MAY BE DISPOSED TO LOOK INTO DETAILS OF THE SCHOOLS IN THE NT,+ HE SAID.

DR HO KAM FAI CONSIDERED THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT TO BE GENERALLY +SOUND, PRAGMATIC AND WORTHY OF IMPLEMENTATION+.

WHILE ENDORSING THE REPORT'S RECOMMENDATION ON THE ISSUE OF THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION, DR HO SAID THAT SCHOOLS WITH PROVEN SUCCESS IN THE USE OF ENGLISH AS SUCH A MEDIUM SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE THEIR TRADITION.

MR ANDREW SO SPOKE OF THE GENERALLY CROWDED AND NOISY ENVIRONMENT IN HONG KONG, AND SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SET UP SUFFICIENT NUMBERS OF LIBRARIES, STUDY ROOMS AND READING ROOMS TO CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS AND AS PART OF AN OVERALL EFFORT TO IMPROVE EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.

MR CHAN KAM CHUEN SAID THAT PRIORITIES HAD TO BE SORTED OUT AND THOSE ITEMS WHICH WERE VITAL AND WHICH HONG KONG COULD AFFORD SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED.

ON THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION, MR CHAN SAID THAT WITH THE DETERIORATING STANDARD OF ENGLISH, THE USE OF THE MOTHER TONGUE HAD TO BE ACCEPTED.

MRS SELINA CHOW SAID THAT TOP PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOLS, GIVING CONSIDERATION FIRST AND FOREMOST TO THE NINE YEARS OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

+I AM ECHOING THE THINKING OF THE PANEL OF VISITORS WHO MADE THE POINT THAT EMPHASIS, IN PER CAPITA EXPENDITURE TERMS, SHOULD BE TILTED MORE FAVOURABLY TOWARDS THE JUNIOR BRANCHES OF EDUCATION,+ SHE ADDED.

SHE ALSO URGED THAT A PUBLIC-SECTOR OPEN UNIVERSITY, EFFECTIVELY USING THE MASS MEDIA, BE ACTIVELY EXPLORED.

MISS MARIA TAM ALSO EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EDUCATION COMMISSION AND FOR OTHER SUGGESTIONS MADE BY FATHER MCGOVERN.

AMONG OTHER POINTS, MISS TAM SAID THAT THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NEEDED TO BE OVERHAULED AND STRENGTHENED.

WHILE PAYING TRIBUTE TO HONG KONG'S +REMARKABLE FEAT+ IN EDUCATION, DR HENRIETTA IP SAID, +WE MUST CONSOLIDATE AND RESHAPE OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM TO ADAPT TO THE CHANGING DEMANDS.+

MR PETER C. WONG, ALSO SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION, REPEATED HIS EARLIER CALL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A THIRD UNIVERSITY, EMPHASISING THAT THE TIME WAS RIPE TO SET IN MOTION THE PLANNING OF SUCH AN INSTITUTION.

TEACHING QUALITY MUST IMPROVE -- T.S. LO
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HONG KONG MUST IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF TEACHING IN SCHOOLS, THE HON T.S. LO TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION ON THE REPORT ENTITLED +A PERSPECTIVE ON EDUCATION IN HONG KONG+.

MR LO POINTED OUT THAT HIS PROPOSAL FOR INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE TEACHING SERVICE WAS BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE REPORT AND WAS DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS:-

- * AN IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE ENTERING THE TEACHING PROFESSION, BY MEANS OF HIGHER ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, AND SIMULTANEOUS UPGRADING OF THE COURSES PROVIDED BY THE COLLEGES TO THE STATUS OF A BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (B. ED.) DEGREE CONFERRED BY THE UNIVERSITIES.
- * A CONTINUING PROGRAMME OF MODULAR IN-SERVICE EDUCATION AND TRAINING (INSET) COURSES FOR PRACTISING TEACHERS, SUPPORTED BY CAREER AND SALARY INCENTIVES, WHICH EVENTUALLY LEAD TO THE AWARD OF A B. ED. DEGREE.
- * A REQUIRED DISCLOSURE OF STAFF STANDARDS BY SCHOOLS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR LEADING ULTIMATELY TO A SCHEME OF ACCREDITATION.

REFERRING TO THE FIRST PART OF HIS PROPOSAL, HE UNDERLINED THE NEED FOR A MUCH HIGHER QUALITY IN PRE-SERVICE TEACHER PREPARATION AND SAID IT WAS DESIRABLE THAT THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION SHOULD RAISE THEIR ENTRY REQUIREMENTS TO A SPECIFIED NUMBER OF PASSES AT ADVANCED LEVEL (TAKEN AFTER TWO YEARS IN THE SIXTH FORM).

+THERE IS SOME INDICATION, INDEED, THAT A GROWING NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS TO THE COLLEGES DO ALREADY HAVE AN ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATION.

+THE OBJECT OF THIS MOVE IS TO INCREASE THE ACADEMIC QUALITY OF THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO WILL BE TEACHERS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN FOR THIRTY TO FORTY YEARS OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL LIVES,+ MR LO SAID.

THE REPORT CRITICIZES THE FACULTY OF THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AS BEING DRAWN FROM TOO NARROW A CATCHMENT AREA (TEACHERS IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS ONLY), AND AS HAVING TOO FEW SALARY AND STATUS INCENTIVES TO UPGRADE THEIR PROFESSIONAL SKILLS, HE SAID.

+ONE WAY OF IMPROVING THIS SITUATION IS TO INSTITUTE A COURSE LEADING TO A B. ED. DEGREE BASED IN THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION BUT EXTERNALLY VALIDATED BY THE UNIVERSITIES,+ HE SAID.

THE SECOND PART OF MR LO'S PROPOSAL DEALT WITH THE PROBLEM OF EXISTING TEACHERS AND THE METHODS BY WHICH THEY COULD BE ENCOURAGED TO UPGRADE THEIR SKILLS.

WHILE AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE INTAKE AND THE STANDARDS OF PRE-SERVICE TEACHER TRAINING COURSES WOULD IN THE LONG RUN PRODUCE A BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON THE STANDARD OF TEACHING IN SCHOOLS, HE SAID, IT WAS DESIRABLE AT THE SAME TIME TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE TEACHERS AT PRESENT PRACTISING THEIR SKILLS IN SCHOOLS FOR TWO REASONS.

+IF IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSE ARE TO REALISE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL, TWO CONDITIONS MUST BE MET. FIRSTLY, THERE NEEDS TO BE A SYSTEM OF INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE ALL TEACHERS TO ATTEND IN-SERVICE COURSES AND NOT JUST THE ENTHUSIASTIC MINORITY WHO ATTEND AT PRESENT.

+THESE INCENTIVES COULD BE EITHER OF THE POSITIVE VARIETY, SUCH AS AWARDING ADDITIONAL POINTS ON THE SALARY SCALE TO THOSE TEACHERS WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE SUBSTANTIAL IN-SERVICE TRAINING, OR OF THE NEGATIVE VARIETY WHEREBY A BAR TO INCREMENTS ON THE SALARY IS PLACED FOR THOSE TEACHERS WHO DO NOT ATTEND COURSES OR A LITTLE OF BOTH.

+SECONDLY, IN-SERVICE EDUCATION AND TRAINING (INSET) COURSES NEED TO BE CO-ORDINATED INTO A MODULAR SYSTEM IN WHICH SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A SPECIFIED NUMBER OF INSET MODULES WOULD LEAD TO THE CONFERRAL BY THE UNIVERSITIES OF A B. ED. DEGREE OF EQUIVALENT STATUS TO THE PRE-SERVICE B. ED. DEGREE THAT I REFERRED TO IN THE FIRST PART OF MY PROPOSAL,+ HE SAID.

INDIVIDUAL INSET MODULES SHOULD BE OFFERED IN A VARIETY OF FORMATS -- DAY-RELEASE, PART-TIME, SUMMER SCHOOL OR FULL-TIME -- AT A VARIETY OF INSTITUTIONS -- THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, THE UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS OF EDUCATION, THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE CENTRES, THE INSTITUTE FOR LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION AND THE BRITISH COUNCIL.

THEY SHOULD ALSO COVER A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS JUDGED TO BE PROFESSIONALLY RELEVANT TO HONG KONG TEACHERS, SUCH AS LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THEIR SUBJECTS (E.G. COMPUTER STUDIES FOR MATHEMATICS TEACHERS), MORE EFFICIENT PEDAGOGICAL APPROACHES (E.G. ACTIVITY LEARNING AND SMALL GROUP TEACHING), AND THE LINGUISTIC SKILLS REQUIRED TO TEACH SUBJECTS EFFECTIVELY THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF ENGLISH IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS (E.G. SPECIALISED COURSES IN ENGLISH FOR TEACHERS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY).

TURNING TO THE THIRD PART, MR LO SAID IT DEALT WITH THE PROBLEM OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND THE METHODS BY WHICH THEY COULD BE ENCOURAGED TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF THE TEACHING STAFF.

+GIVEN THE SYSTEM OF PRE-SERVICE AND IN-SERVICE CERTIFICATION OF TEACHERS PROPOSED IN PARTS I AND II, IT IS DESIRABLE TO MAKE USE OF THIS SYSTEM IN THE ACCREDITATION OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

+IF PRIVATE SCHOOLS WERE REQUIRED TO MAKE PUBLIC THE QUALIFICATIONS HELD BY ALL TEACHERS ON THEIR STAFF, THEN, ON ONE HAND, PARENTS WOULD HAVE A CLEARER IDEA OF THE RELATIVE QUALITY OF THE SCHOOLS THEY WERE CONSIDERING SENDING THEIR CHILDREN TO +ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE WOULD BE A STRONG INCENTIVE FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS TO UPGRADE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THEIR TEACHERS.

+MOREOVER, AND THIS IS AN ADDED BONUS TO THE SCHEME, AT A CERTAIN POINT IN THIS UPGRADING PROCESS, WHEN THE SCHOOL MANAGEMENT, BUILDING AND TEACHERS COULD BE SHOWN TO BE OF THE DESIRED QUALITY, THEN A CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION COULD BE GRANTED TO THE SCHOOL TO SHOW THAT IN ALL RESPECTS IT WAS OF AN EQUIVALENT STANDARD TO SCHOOLS IN THE GOVERNMENT-AIDED SECTOR,+ HE SAID.

MR LO SAID THAT SCHOOLS, UNLIKE UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNICS, AFFECTED ALL CHILDREN AND THEIR QUALITY WOULD HAVE A PROFOUND EFFECT ON OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS AND THUS OUR FUTURE.

+I FULLY APPRECIATE THAT IT WOULD BE AN MONUMENTAL TASK TO UPGRADE THAT QUALITY. LET US BEGIN AT ONCE,+ HE SAID.

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GOVERNMENT PRAISED FOR EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL *****

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 AT ITS RESUMED DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THREE UNOFFICIALS PRAISED THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN TO PROBLEMS AND ITS PROMPTNESS TO TAKE REMEDIAL MEASURES.

THEY WERE DR THE HON HARRY FANG, REV THE HON JOYCE BENNETT AND THE HON SELINA CHOW.

DR FANG CONGRATULATED THE GOVERNMENT ON ITS SPEEDY RESPONSE TO PROBLEMS AND SUCCESS IN PRODUCING ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS.

+ITS WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN, READINESS TO APPRECIATE PROBLEMS, AND PROMPTNESS IN TAKING REMEDIAL MEASURES ASSURE US THAT WE HAVE A GOOD PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND AN OPEN GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE INCLUSION OF NURSERY CLASSES FOR THREE-YEAR OLDS UNDER THE AMBIT OF EDUCATION, AS PROPOSED IN THE BILL, WOULD STREAMLINE THE ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS ON THE PROVISION OF PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION TO YOUNG CHILDREN.

HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE WELCOMED BY KINDERGARTEN OPERATORS AND PARENTS ALIKE.

THE REV JOYCE BENNETT ALSO THANKED +THE CIVIL SERVANTS CONCERNED WITH THIS BILL FOR LISTENING TO THE CRITICISMS OF THE OPERATORS OF KINDERGARTENS WHO RESENTED THE PROPOSALS TO SEPARATE THE EDUCATION OF THE YOUNGEST CHILDREN FROM THE TWO YEARS OF KINDERGARTEN SCHOOLING.+

+BASICALLY WE SHOULD LEARN FROM THIS BILL THAT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT MAKE CHANGES IN LONG-EXISTING INSTITUTIONS WITHOUT CONSULTING THOSE INSTITUTIONS,+ SHE SAID.

+LET US NOTE WITH PLEASURE THAT OUR OFFICIALS DO LISTEN TO THEIR CRITICS AND CHANGE THEIR PROPOSALS,+ MISS BENNETT ADDED.

MISS BENNETT SAID THAT SHE WAS GLAD ALL THREE YEARS OF KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION WOULD NOW BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

BUT SHE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO EXERCISE PROPER SUPERVISION OF THE KINDERGARTENS.

+THERE MUST BE A RAPID INCREASE NOT ONLY OF THE TRAINING OF KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS, BUT ALSO OF THE EXPERTISE IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND IN THE NUMBER OF KINDERGARTEN INSPECTORS,+ SHE SAID.

MRS CHOW ALSO THANKED THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR THE +PROMPT AND RESPONSIVE WAY+ IN WHICH THEY HANDLED THE REACTION TRIGGERED BY THE EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL AND THE CHILD CARE CENTRES (AMENDMENT) BILL, BOTH OF 1982.

+NOW WE WELCOME THE FACT THAT THIS MOST RECENT LEGISLATION NOT ONLY REMOVES THE KINDERGARTEN OPERATORS' FEARS, BUT ALSO BRINGS THE ADMINISTRATION OF SUCH CLASSES UNDER THE CORRECT UMBRELLA - THAT OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT,+ MRS CHOW SAID.

BUT SHE ADDED THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR SOME FLEXIBILITY IN APPLYING THE LOWER AGE LIMIT OF THREE-YEAR OLDS FOR ENTRY TO NURSERY CLASSES AS THE LOWEST AGE LIMIT FOR ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTENS IS THREE YEARS AND EIGHT MONTHS.

+OBVIOUSLY, THIS WILL HAVE TO BE APPROACHED WITH COMMONSENSE ON THE PART OF THE PARENTS, THE OPERATORS OF THE NURSERY CLASSES AND THE AUTHORITIES,+ MRS CHOW SAID.

IN MOVING THE BILL THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND THE FINAL READING, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON COLVYN HAYE, THANKED THE THREE UNOFFICIALS FOR THEIR +HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS AND SUPPORT OF THIS BILL+.

+I AM PARTICULARLY GRATIFIED THAT THEY SEE THE BILL AS TRIBUTE TO A RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATION, AND I CAN ASSURE THEM THAT WHAT THEY HAVE SAID TODAY WILL BE VERY MUCH IN MIND AS WE SEEK TO IMPLEMENT THE IMPROVEMENTS TO NURSERY AND KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION ENVISAGED IN THE WHITE PAPER AND GIVEN FORCE BY THIS LEGISLATION,+ MR HAYE SAID.

MORE SAFETY FOR PEOPLE WORKING AT HEIGHTS
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON APPROVED A SET OF NEW REGULATIONS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE MORE PROTECTION FOR PEOPLE WORKING AT HEIGHTS.

MOVING THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1983, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, POINTED OUT THAT THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY CONTINUES TO ACCOUNT FOR THE LARGEST NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS IN ANY SINGLE INDUSTRY. IN 1982, THERE WERE 19 198 ACCIDENTS, INCLUDING 74 FATALITIES, IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY. +FALLS OF PERSONS+ ACCOUNTED FOR 2 874, INCLUDING 35 FATALITIES.

THE +FALLS OF PERSONS+ ACCIDENTS LARGELY INVOLVED WORKERS FALLING FROM SCAFFOLDS OR PLATFORMS WITHOUT ADEQUATE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS, OR WORKING NEAR UNFENCED OPENINGS, CORNERS OR EDGES.

AN ANALYSIS OF THE 35 FATAL ACCIDENTS REVEALED THAT 10 PERSONS FELL FROM SCAFFOLDS, SEVEN FROM WORKING PLATFORMS, SIX OVER FLOOR EDGES OR FLOOR OPENINGS AND THREE FROM LADDERS.

HE SAID THAT THESE ASPECTS OF SAFETY ARE AT PRESENT DEALT WITH BY REGULATION 45 OF THE PRINCIPAL REGULATIONS, WHICH REQUIRES GENERALLY THAT WORKING PLATFORMS, FLOOR OPENINGS AND OTHER DANGEROUS PLACES SHOULD BE SECURELY FENCED TO A HEIGHT OF NOT LESS THAN THREE FEET OR TO BE 'OTHERWISE PROTECTED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE COMMISSIONER'.

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE AMENDMENT REGULATIONS, MR HENDERSON EXPLAINED, WERE TO MAKE MORE DETAILED PROVISIONS BY CREATING 19 MORE SPECIFIC REGULATIONS FOR SAFETY OF WORKING AT HEIGHT TO REPLACE REGULATION 45.

UNDER THE NEW REGULATIONS, THERE MUST BE SAFE ACCESS TO AND EXIT FROM EVERY WORKPLACE AND SUITABLE SCAFFOLDS OR LADDERS FOR WORKING AT HEIGHT. ANY ERECTION ALTERATION AND DISMANTLING OF SCAFFOLDS MUST BE UNDERTAKEN BY COMPETENT WORKERS AND UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF COMPETENT PERSONS.

PROPER CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF VARIOUS TYPES OF SCAFFOLDS AND LADDERS, AND OF BOATSWAIN'S CHAIRS WERE SPECIFIED.

A SCAFFOLD MUST BE INSPECTED AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH BY A COMPETENT PERSON WHO SHOULD REPORT IN THE PRESCRIBED FORM TO THE CONTRACTOR CONCERNED.

WORKING PLATFORMS AND GANGWAYS, MR HENDERSON ADDED, MUST BE PROPERLY CONSTRUCTED AND GUARDED BY RAILINGS AND OPENINGS, CORNERS, EDGES AND OTHER DANGEROUS PLACES MUST BE SECURELY FENCED TO PREVENT WORKERS FROM FALLING.

IN SITUATIONS WHERE IT WAS IMPRACTICABLE TO PREVENT WORKERS FROM FALLING BY FENCING AND OTHER MEASURES, SAFETY BELTS AND SAFETY NETS WOULD HAVE TO BE PROVIDED, AND WORKERS MUST USE THE BELTS.

MR HENDERSON ALSO POINTED OUT THAT REGULATION 40 OF THE PRINCIPAL REGULATIONS HAD BEEN AMENDED TO REQUIRE ANY EXCAVATION, SHAFT, PIT OR OPENING TO BE FENCED OR COVERED WHENEVER PRACTICABLE, EVEN THOUGH WORK WAS ACTUALLY IN PROGRESS.

A NEW REGULATION WAS ALSO INTRODUCED TO PROHIBIT THE OPERATION OF MECHANICAL EARTH MOVING EQUIPMENT AT CONSTRUCTION SITES BY UNTRAINED OR YOUNG PEOPLE.

THE OPPORTUNITY WAS ALSO TAKEN TO CONVERT THE IMPERIAL UNITS OF MEASUREMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL REGULATIONS INTO METRIC UNITS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT'S METRICATION POLICY.

MR HENDERSON PROPOSED THAT THE NEW REGULATIONS SHOULD COME INTO OPERATION ON FEBRUARY 1, 1984, TO ENABLE CONTRACTORS TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW LEGISLATION.

MEANWHILE, THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE WOULD PUBLICISE DETAILS OF THE NEW REGULATIONS AND TO AMEND THE EXISTING GUIDE TO THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS TO INCLUDE THE NEW PROVISIONS, HE ADDED.

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UMELCO POLICE GROUP PRAISED FOR WORK

MEMBERS OF THE UMELCO POLICE GROUP WERE PRAISED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY FOR THEIR WORK.

+WE AS A COMMUNITY ARE MOST FORTUNATE TO HAVE PEOPLE WHO ARE PREPARED TO PUT ASIDE SO MUCH OF THEIR OWN TIME FOR THIS TASK,+ THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON PATRICK WILLIAMSON, SAID.

MR WILLIAMSON WAS SPEAKING ON THE UMELCO POLICE GROUP REPORT FOR 1982, WHICH WAS TABLED AT THE COUNCIL.

MR WILLIAMSON SAID: +ANYONE READING THE REPORT CANNOT BUT BE STRUCK BY TWO THINGS: THE CONTINUING DYNAMISM OF THE GROUP IN SEEKING TO IMPROVE BOTH ITS OWN AND CAPO'S EXECUTION OF ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE, AND THE TIME AND EFFORT REQUIRED BY THE GROUP'S MEMBERS TO DEAL WITH THE EVER-INCREASING WORKLOAD.

HE ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE STAFF OF THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE OFFICE -- CAPO.

+INVESTIGATING COMPLAINTS AGAINST ONE'S COLLEAGUES IS AN OFTEN THANKLESS AND UNPLEASANT DUTY. THE HIGH AND IMPARTIAL STANDARDS THEY CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN ARE A CREDIT NOT ONLY TO THEMSELVES BUT TO THE FORCE AS A WHOLE,+ MR WILLIAMSON SAID.

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CRIME DETECTION RATE HIGH

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THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE IS SATISFIED THAT WITHIN PRESENT RESOURCES, SUFFICIENT POLICE OFFICERS ARE EMPLOYED TO DETER AND COMBAT ARMED ROBBERIES.

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON PATRICK WILLIAMSON, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS BY THE HON WONG LAM.

HE ALSO DISCLOSED THAT SINCE JANUARY THIS YEAR, 160 ROBBERIES HAD BEEN REPORTED IN WHICH FIREARMS OR PISTOL-LIKE OBJECTS WERE USED, WITH 21 CASES INVOLVING REAL FIREARMS.

THESE FIGURES COMPARED WITH 148 SUCH CASES IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, IN 17 OF WHICH FIREARMS WERE USED.

+THE GOVERNMENT CAN NEVER BE COMPLACENT ABOUT A SITUATION LIKE THIS.

+HOWEVER, THE DETECTION RATE FOR THESE CRIMES IS RELATIVELY HIGH,+ HE SAID.

ELEVEN OF LAST YEAR'S 17 CASES WHICH INVOLVED REAL FIREARMS AND FIVE OF THIS YEAR'S HAD BEEN DETECTED SO FAR, HE ADDED.

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+CONSULTATION ON INTEREST RATES ESSENTIAL+

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PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS SETS THE MAXIMUM INTEREST RATES FOR A RANGE OF HONG KONG DEPOSITS, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SIR JOHN SAID THAT IN HIS OPINION, THIS PROCESS WAS WORKING WELL.

+I CONFIRM THAT THERE IS PRIOR DISCUSSION IN EVERY RELEVANT INSTANCE BETWEEN THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HKAB AND THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS (WHO IS PARTY TO MY VIEWS) AND THAT I, AS FINANCIAL SECRETARY, TAKE DIRECT PART WHENEVER IT SEEMS NECESSARY.

+I ALSO CONFIRM, THEREFORE, THAT THE COMMITTEE OF THE HKAB TAKES FULL ACCOUNT OF GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS, WHICH MAY BE HARD OR SOFT ACCORDING TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES,+ SIR JOHN STATED.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW SO AS TO HOW THE GOVERNMENT ENSURED THAT DEPOSIT RATES SET BY THE ASSOCIATION WERE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY.

+MR SO WILL APPRECIATE THAT THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE HKAB IS A DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THIS COUNCIL AND I PAY TRIBUTE TO HIS AND THE COMMITTEE'S DEEP SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY IN AN AREA OF MAXIMUM IMPORTANCE TO HONG KONG AS A WHOLE,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE DID CONSIDER NOT ONLY THEIR OWN INTERESTS AS BANKERS BUT THE BROADER INTERESTS OF THE TOTAL COMMUNITY, HE ADDED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT PRIME RATE IS ESTABLISHED FOLLOWING A DECISION BY THE HKAB ON DEPOSIT RATES BY A STATEMENT OF INTENT FROM THE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANK AND THE CHARTERED BANK.

WHILE THEIR PRIME RATE IS NORMALLY OBSERVED BY OTHER BANKS, THERE IS NO RESTRICTION ON BANKS TO QUOTE ANY RATE FOR THEIR LOANS, SO THAT LOANS MIGHT BE AT RATES HIGHER OR LOWER THAN PRIME, SIR JOHN ADDED.

+MOREOVER, THERE IS A GROWING TENDENCY FOR MAJOR BORROWERS TO PRESS FOR PRESENTLY LOW +HIBOR+ RATES, I.E. REFLECTING INTER-BANK RATES,+ HE SAID.

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NET EXPENDITURE \$925M LESS THAN ESTIMATED
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NET EXPENDITURE AT \$34.6 BILLION FOR THE FULL FINANCIAL YEAR 1982-83 WAS ACTUALLY \$925 MILLION LESS THAN THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMIDGE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE SAID THIS RESULTED FROM +SAVINGS FOUND UNDER OTHER SUBHEADS -- IN OTHER WORDS REDUCED EXPENDITURE ARISING OUT OF MANY REASONS.+

+I BELIEVE THAT MEMBERS WILL RECOGNISE THE BITE OF CONTROLS, AND THE STERLING EFFORTS OF MANY VOTE-CONTROLLERS TO WHOM I EXTEND MY THANKS,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WAS MOVING A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION AMOUNTING TO \$1.8 BILLION FOR THE FOURTH AND FINAL QUARTER OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR.

SIR JOHN SAID THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAD APPROVED ALL THE ITEMS IN THE SCHEDULES OF THE PROVISION.

MAJOR ITEMS UNDER THE PROVISION INCLUDE:

- * \$1.09 BILLION FOR VARIOUS SALARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE AND STAFF OF SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS ARISING FROM THE 1982 PAY TREND SURVEY AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDING COMMISSION;

/* \$251 MILLION

- * \$251 MILLION TO MEET ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE ARISING FROM A REVISION OF THE BASIC RATES OF PAYMENT AND AN INCREASE IN CASELOADS FOR BOTH PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES
- * \$134 MILLION FOR INCREASED EXPENDITURE ARISING FROM THE PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES ADJUSTMENTS AND
- * \$96 MILLION TO MEET INCREASED EXPENDITURE ARISING FROM A HIGHER LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT DONATION TO THE GRANT AND SUBSIDIZED SCHOOLS PROVIDENT FUND SCHEMES.

THE SCHEDULES BRING THE TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION FOR 1982-83 TO \$3.4 BILLION.

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REVIEW OF INDUSTRIAL ESTATE TERMS URGED

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AN OBJECTIVE REVIEW SHOULD BE CONDUCTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ATTRACTING INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS INTO THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION, THE HON ALLEN LEE SUGGESTED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR LEE WAS SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983.

HE SAID THE OBJECT OF THE BILL WAS TO EXPAND THE PRESENT PURPOSES AND POWERS OF THE CORPORATION TO ENABLE IT TO GRANT SHORT TERM LEASES OF LAND WITHIN THE ESTATES FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.

+IT WILL ALLOW ANY LAND HELD BY THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION WHICH IS NOT IMMEDIATELY SALEABLE FOR INDUSTRIAL USE, TO BE MADE TEMPORARILY AVAILABLE FOR OTHER PURPOSES SUCH AS OPEN STORAGE AND POSSIBLY, TEMPORARY HOUSING,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT HE HAD EARLIER EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN TOO SLOW IN ATTRACTING INVESTMENTS INTO THE ESTATES AND SUGGESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD RE-EXAMINE THE QUESTION OF PROMOTION, CRITERIA AND CONDITIONS OF LEASE.

+I AM GLAD TO SEE SOMETHING HAS BEEN DONE BUT UNFORTUNATELY IT IS NOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF ATTRACTING INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS.

+IN MY OPINION, IT IS AS CRITICAL AS EVER THAT WE NEED INVESTMENTS IN OUR INDUSTRIAL ESTATES,+ HE STRESSED.

THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON CHAN NAI-KEONG, THANKED MR LEE FOR SUPPORTING THE BILL.

HE SAID THAT, AS A MEMBER OF THE CORPORATION BOARD, HE KNEW THAT THE QUESTION OF HOW TO ATTRACT MORE INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS WAS VERY MUCH IN THE MINDS OF THE BOARD.

/HE SAID

HE SAID A RANGE OF VARYING LOT SIZES AND PLOT RATIOS WERE BEING OFFERED AT THE YUEN LONG ESTATE AND TENDERERS NEEDED ONLY TO FULFIL THE DEFINITIVE CRITERIA FOR SELECTION.

THE CRITERIA WERE THAT THE UNDERTAKINGS:

- (A) MUST BE OF A NATURE OR REQUIREMENT WHICH PROHIBITS THEM FROM BEING CARRIED ON IN AN ORDINARY MULTI-STOREY INDUSTRIAL BUILDING; AND
- (B) MUST NOT BE DECLARED TO BE OFFENSIVE TRADES UNDER THE OFFENSIVE TRADES (NEW TERRITORIES) REGULATIONS.

IT WAS ALSO INTENDED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO REQUIREMENT FOR PRIOR COMMITMENT IN RESPECT OF MACHINERY INVESTMENT AND ANNUAL PRODUCTION.

HE SAID THE CORPORATION WOULD CONTINUE TO KEEP THE LETTING POLICIES UNDER OBJECTIVE REVIEW.

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CONTRACTORS BOUND BY NOISE LAWS * * *

ALL CONTRACTORS WORKING ON CONSTRUCTION SITES ARE BOUND BY THE EXISTING LAWS GOVERNING NOISE AND DUST NUISANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON CHAN NAI-KEONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

ANSWERING A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HENRY HU, MR CHAN SAID THAT IN THE CASE OF CONTRACTORS EMPLOYED ON GOVERNMENT PROJECTS, THE NEED TO COMPLY WITH THE LAW WAS REITERATED AS A CONDITION OF CONTRACT.

+IN ADDITION, GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS INCLUDE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CONTRACTOR TO MUFFLE PLANT AND EQUIPMENT WHICH MIGHT CREATE A NOISE NUISANCE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND IN RESPECT OF DUST NUISANCE, TO TAKE MEASURES SUCH AS WATERING AND WHEEL WASHING, AND FOR DEMOLITION WORKS, THE ERECTION OF DUST SCREENS,+ HE SAID.

IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, CONTRACTORS ARE BOUND ONLY BY EXISTING LAWS AND BY SUCH CONDITIONS AS RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPERS MIGHT IMPOSE UPON THEM OR WHICH RESPONSIBLE CONTRACTORS MIGHT VOLUNTARILY ADOPT.

+THE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, IS GIVING THE UTMOST ENCOURAGEMENT TO A WELCOME INITIATIVE TAKEN BY THE BUILDING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION IN PRODUCING A PROGRAMME OF SELF-RESTRAINT AIMED AT TIGHTENING UP ITS MEMBERS' COMPLIANCE WITH THE EXISTING LAW, AND AT INTRODUCING A VOLUNTARY CODE OF PRACTICE TO DEAL WITH CONSTRUCTION NOISE WHICH IS AT PRESENT LEGAL BUT NONETHELESS ANNOYING,+ MR CHAN SAID.

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INCREASE IN PAID SICK LEAVE PROPOSED

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A BILL, WHICH SEEKS TO INCREASE THE RATE OF PAID SICK LEAVE FOR ALL MANUAL WORKERS AND NON-MANUAL WORKERS EARNING NOT MORE THAN \$7 500 A MONTH, WAS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

MOVING THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON, POINTED OUT THAT THE AMENDMENT LEGISLATION WAS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSAL TO EXTEND SICKNESS BENEFITS FOR THOSE EMPLOYEES WHO MAY BE SICK FOR QUITE A LONG PERIOD.

UNDER THE EXISTING PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, HE ADDED, AN EMPLOYEE IS ENTITLED TO ONE DAY'S PAID SICK LEAVE FOR EVERY COMPLETED MONTH OF SERVICE AND THE LEAVE CAN BE ACCUMULATED TO A MAXIMUM OF 36 DAYS.

THE BILL NOW PROPOSES THAT THE LEAVE MAY BE EARNED AT THE RATE OF TWO DAYS A MONTH IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF CONTINUOUS EMPLOYMENT AND FOUR DAYS A MONTH THEREAFTER, AND THAT IT MAY BE ACCUMULATED TO A MAXIMUM OF 120 DAYS.

HOWEVER, AN EMPLOYEE MAY ONLY TAKE UP TO 90 DAYS OF PAID SICK LEAVE DURING ANY ONE SICKNESS IF HE DOES NOT REQUIRE HOSPITALISATION, AND UP TO 120 DAYS IF HOSPITALISATION IS NECESSARY.

THE BILL ALSO PROPOSES TO PROHIBIT THE TERMINATION OF THE SERVICE OF AN EMPLOYEE DURING ANY PERIOD OF PAID SICK LEAVE UNLESS HIS EMPLOYER PAYS HIM WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE, AN ADDITIONAL SUM EQUAL TO SEVEN DAYS' WAGES AND THE FULL SICKNESS ALLOWANCE TO WHICH HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ENTITLED DURING HIS SICKNESS.

IT ALSO PROPOSES THAT THESE PAYMENTS SHOULD BE MADE WITHIN SEVEN DAYS OF THE TERMINATION OF HIS SERVICE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TILL JULY 27.

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COMPUTERS FOR IMMIGRATION STUDIED

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THE FEASIBILITY OF COMPUTERISING CHECKING PROCEDURES AT IMMIGRATION CONTROL POINTS WAS BEING STUDIED, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON PATRICK WILLIAMSON, SAID TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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TAXI REGISTRATION PERIODS EXTENDED
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THE PERIODS LIMITING THE NUMBER OF MOTOR VEHICLES WHICH MAY BE REGISTERED AS URBAN TAXIS AND AS NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS HAVE BEEN EXTENDED.

THE PERIOD FOR URBAN TAXIS HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO FEBRUARY 1, 1984 AND FOR NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS TO JANUARY 31, 1984.

MOVING THE MOTION AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT, SAID THIS WOULD PERMIT URBAN TAXI LICENCES TO CONTINUE TO BE ISSUED AT THE RATE OF 100 PER MONTH AND NEW TERRITORIES TAXI LICENCES AT THE RATE OF 50 PER MONTH.

THE PRESENT LIMIT ON URBAN TAXIS IS 15 000, AND ON NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS IS 3 000.

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TEN BILLS PASSED
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TEN BILLS WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY ARE: THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1983, THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE CHILD CARE CENTRES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE LAND ACQUISITION (POSSESSORY TITLE) BILL 1983, THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1983, THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) (NO 2) BILL 1983 AND THE PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983.

ONE BILL -- THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 -- WAS INTRODUCED AND READ A SECOND TIME. DEBATE ON THIS WAS ADJOURNED TILL JULY 27.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

- 21 -

GOVERNOR RETURNS FROM PEKING TOMORROW
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, RETURNS FROM PEKING TOMORROW (THURSDAY) ON FLIGHT CA 101 ETA 11.45 AM AFTER ATTENDING TWO DAYS OF TALKS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

A PRESS PHOTOGRAPHIC FACILITY WILL BE ARRANGED AT KAI TAK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

PLEASE ADVISE THOSE ASSIGNED TO COVER THE ARRIVAL OF THE GOVERNOR TO ASSEMBLE AT THE PRESS ROOM ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE ARRIVAL HALL NOT LATER THAN 10.30 AM. GIS OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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OVER 83 000 GET SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES
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ALL 83 638 PUPILS PARTICIPATING IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION SYSTEM HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED FORM I OR MIDDLE I PLACES IN GOVERNMENT, AIDED OR PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

+ALL PLACES ALLOCATED ARE THREE-YEAR PLACES FOR WHICH NO TUITION FEES WILL BE CHARGED,+ HE ADDED.

RESULTS OF ALLOCATION WILL BE RELEASED TO ALL PARTICIPATING PRIMARY SCHOOLS ON FRIDAY (JULY 15).

WHEN INQUIRING ABOUT THEIR RESULTS OF ALLOCATION, PUPILS SHOULD FOLLOW THE ARRANGEMENTS SET DOWN BY THEIR RESPECTIVE PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

THEY SHOULD ALSO TAKE ALONG WITH THEM THEIR PRIMARY 6 IDENTIFICATION FORMS SO THAT THEIR INDIVIDUAL ALLOCATION SLIPS MAY BE ATTACHED TO THE FORMS.

+ALL PUPILS SHOULD REPORT DURING THE FIRST REGISTRATION PERIOD TO THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DATES AND TIMES SPECIFIED,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN SUPPLIED TO ALL PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS,+ HE ADDED.

WHEN REPORTING TO THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR INTERVIEW AND REGISTRATION, PUPILS MUST BRING THE FOLLOWING:-

- (A) PRIMARY 6 IDENTIFICATION FORMS, TO WHICH THEIR INDIVIDUAL ALLOCATION SLIPS HAVE BEEN STAPLED OR GLUED,
- (B) THE ADMISSION SLIPS,
- (C) BIRTH CERTIFICATES OR OTHER DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OF THEIR DATE OF BIRTH AND THEIR STATUS AS PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG,
- (D) LATEST SCHOOL REPORTS, IF ANY, AND
- (E) TWO RECENT PASSPORT-SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS.

/+PUPILS WHO

+PUPILS WHO FAIL TO REPORT TO THEIR SECONDARY SCHOOLS ALLOCATED DURING THE FIRST REGISTRATION PERIOD WHICH FALLS ON JULY 19 AND 20 ARE DEEMED TO HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO TAKE UP THE PLACES ALLOCATED,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THEREFORE THOSE PUPILS OR THEIR PARENTS WHO HAVE GENUINE DIFFICULTY IN REPORTING TO THEIR ALLOCATED SECONDARY SCHOOLS DURING THE FIRST REGISTRATION PERIOD ARE URGED TO CONTACT THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION SECTION BEFORE JULY 19 SO THAT OTHER ARRANGEMENTS MAY BE MADE.

+THE SECOND REGISTRATION DAY (JULY 27) IS MAINLY FOR PUPILS WHO HAVE TO SEEK TRANSFER DUE TO HOME-MOVING OR REASONS OF ACCESSIBILITY,+ THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

+THEY, OR THEIR PARENTS, SHOULD CONTACT THE DISTRICT COUNCIL SECRETARY OR HIS ASSISTANT, OR THE DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICER OF THE NET/AREA TO WHICH THEY WISH TO TRANSFER.

+THE SECRETARY OR HIS ASSISTANT, UPON BEING SATISFIED WITH THE GENUINE NATURE OF THE CASE, MAY THEN GRANT APPROVAL FOR TRANSFER AND ASSIST THEM IN SECURING PLACES IN THE NETS CONCERNED,+ HE ADDED.

ALTERNATIVELY, THE PUPILS OR THEIR PARENTS MAY CONTACT A SECONDARY SCHOOL OF THEIR CHOICE IN THE NET TO WHICH THEY WISH TO TRANSFER, AND THE PRINCIPAL OF THE SCHOOL SHOULD THEN SEEK APPROVAL FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCIL SECRETARY OF HIS NET ON BEHALF OF THE PUPILS BEFORE ADMITTING THE PUPILS.

+IN CASES OF A TYPHOON AFFECTING HONG KONG DURING THE REGISTRATION PERIODS, HEADS OF SCHOOLS AND PARENTS ARE ADVISED TO WATCH OUT FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE MEDIA FOR ANY NECESSARY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ANY ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE ALLOCATION RESULTS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT TELEPHONE 5-8912200.

THE NAMES, OFFICE ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL SECRETARIES ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

(A) DISTRICT COUNCIL SECRETARIES

<u>SCHOOL NET/AREA</u>	<u>SECRETARY</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>TEL. NO.</u>	<u>EXT</u>
<u>HONG KONG</u>				
1 CENTRAL, WESTERN AND SOUTHERN	MR W.K. SIU	LEE GARDENS, HYSAN AVENUE, 3/F, HK	5-8392356	
2 WAN CHAI	MR K.K. TSANG		5-8392345	
3 EASTERN	MS S.C. MEE		5-8392334	
4 CENTRAL, WESTERN AND SOUTHERN	MS K.F. LAM		5-8392353	

/KOWLOON

KOWLOON

1	YAU MA TEI	MS Y.C. LAM	KOWLOON GOVT. OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD, 6/F 3-884111 AND 7/F, KOWLOON	264
2	MONG KOK	MR T.T. LIU		263
3	KOWLOON CITY	MS C.M. KWAN		275
4	SHAM SHUI PO	MR S.K. HO		262
5	SHAM SHUI PO	MS K.L. LI		236
6	KOWLOON CITY	MR P.K. CHIU		288
7	WONG TAI SIN	MR P.W. TAM		252
8	WONG TAI SIN	MS W.F. MAK		256
9	KWUN TONG	MS Y.S. CHOW		298
10	KWUN TONG	MS C.Y. YIH		297
11	KWUN TONG	MR W.Y. CHENG		253

NEW TERRITORIES

1	TSUEN WAN	MS Y.H. WONG	MA TAU KOK GOVT. OFFICES, 1 MA TAU KOK ROAD	3-7152420
2	TSUEN WAN	MS F.P. LAM		3-7150444
3	TSUEN WAN	MR C.C. TAI		3-7132794
4	TUEN MUN	MR M.Y. CHENG		3-7158274
5	YUEN LONG	MS W.Y. YEUNG		3-7130851
6	TAI PO	MR S.L. LEE		3-7112824
7	SHA TIN	MR T.K. AU		3-7133795
8	SAI KUNG	MR T.S. HA		3-7139949
9	ISLANDS	MR S.N. LAU		3-7125015
10	NORTH	MR W.M. CHOI		3-7127848

(B) SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION SECTION

LUI KEE EDUCATION SERVICES CENTRE
269 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, 5/F,
WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

5-8912200

+HARD-WORKING PEOPLE BEHIND HK'S SUCCESS+
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THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR JOHN YAXLEY TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID THAT HONG KONG'S STRENGTH AND SUCCESS AS A LEADING INDUSTRIAL AND TRADING ENTITY, WAS DUE VERY MUCH TO ITS HARD-WORKING ENTREPRENEURS WITH THEIR FLAIR, IMAGINATION AND INNOVATIVE AND FLEXIBLE OUTLOOK, MATCHED BY AN INTELLIGENT AND EQUALLY HARD WORKING LABOUR FORCE.

HE WAS ADDRESSING THE GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE COTTON SPINNERS ASSOCIATION PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL.

HE TOLD THE GRADUATES THAT EVEN THOUGH HONG KONG WAS FACING PROBLEMS, INCLUDING SEVERE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY SOME MAJOR IMPORTING COUNTRIES ON CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF EXPORTS AND INCREASING COMPETITION FROM OTHER EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES, THE FUTURE WAS FAR FROM GLOOMY ESPECIALLY IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

+THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE GRADUATING TODAY AND INDEED ALL STUDENTS WHO ARE ALREADY IN THE SCHOOL OR WHO WILL BE COMING TO IT IN THE YEARS TO COME, CAN LOOK FORWARD TO SOME EXCITING CHANGES WHICH WILL BE THE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEMS WHICH CURRENTLY CONFRONT US,+ SAID MR YAXLEY.

+IN ORDER TO SURVIVE AND PROSPER HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO ADAPT THROUGH THE PROCESS OF DIVERSIFICATION BY PRODUCING A WHOLE NEW RANGE OF UP-MARKET GOODS, IN PARTICULAR IN THE GARMENT, ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS AND TOYS AND PLASTICS INDUSTRIES.

+THESE GOODS WILL BE TECHNICALLY MORE SOPHISTICATED AND YOU WILL FIND, I AM SURE, THAT THE SOLID FOUNDATION OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE WHICH YOU HAVE GAINED HERE AT THIS SCHOOL, COMBINED WITH YOUR INTRODUCTION TO BROAD-BASED TECHNICAL SKILLS, WILL ENABLE YOU TO PROVIDE HONG KONG'S NEEDS FOR WELL TRAINED AND HIGHLY SKILLED MANPOWER,+ MR YAXLEY CONCLUDED.

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PUBLIC HELP SOUGHT IN ANTI-DRUG FIGHT
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HONG KONG PEOPLE WERE URGED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR GORDON MORTIMER, TO JOIN ACTIVELY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTICS.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF HONG KONG NORTH, MR MORTIMER SAID COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT WAS A CORNERSTONE OF THE STRATEGY FOR COMBATING DRUG ABUSE IN HONG KONG THROUGH PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY.

+THE PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN HAD THREE MAIN OBJECTIVES.+ HE SAID.

THE FIRST WAS TO KEEP THE DRUG ABUSE ISSUE CONSTANTLY BEFORE THE PUBLIC. THE SECOND WAS TO PREVENT DRUG ABUSE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE. THE THIRD WAS TO INFORM DRUG ADDICTS OF THE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION FACILITIES AVAILABLE AND TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO COME FORWARD FOR TREATMENT.

+THE PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS ARE MOUNTED ON A DISTRICT BASIS EACH YEAR. IT IS THROUGH THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THESE CAMPAIGNS EITHER AS ORGANISERS, SPONSORS OR SPECTATORS THAT MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY CAN AND DO BECOME ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTICS,+ HE SAID.

THE CAMPAIGNS MAY INCLUDE VARIETY CONCERTS, HIKING AND WALKING FOR HEALTH EVENTS, ESSAY COMPETITIONS, SEMINARS AND SCHOOL TALKS.

A FEATURE OF THE CAMPAIGNS WAS THE GREAT EXTENT TO WHICH VOLUNTARY SERVICE CONTRIBUTED TO THEIR SUCCESS, HE ADDED.

MR MORTIMER SAID THAT THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF THE DISTRICT CAMPAIGN WITH COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT, AND THROUGH THE ON-GOING PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, A HIGH DEGREE OF COMMUNITY AWARENESS TO THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE WAS PROMOTED.

PARENTS WERE NATURALLY IN THE BEST POSITION TO PROVIDE EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AND TO IMPART A SENSE OF SECURITY TO YOUNG PEOPLE, HE SAID. THEY COULD ENCOURAGE THEIR CHILDREN TO ENGAGE IN HEALTHY RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO EXPERIMENTING WITH DRUGS.

HE SUGGESTED THAT VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS, SUCH AS THE LIONS CLUB, MIGHT HELP PARENTS TO DEAL WITH THEIR CHILDREN BY ARRANGING SEMINARS AND TALKS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH INFORMATION, ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE.

MR MORTIMER PRAISED THE WORK OF THE JOINT PROJECT IN DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION SPONSORED BY SOME LIONS CLUBS, IN COLLABORATION WITH SARDA.

+THIS PROJECT COULD DO MUCH TO REACH YOUNG SCHOOL LEAVERS WITH SOCIO-EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS WHO MAY BE ON THE FRINGE OF DRUG ABUSE- TO PERSUADE YOUNG EXPERIMENTAL DRUG USERS TO GIVE UP DRUGS AND TO ARRANGE PROMPT TREATMENT FOR DRUG ABUSING YOUTHS,+ HE SAID.

MR MORTIMER THEN OUTLINED THE VARIOUS PROJECTS ORGANISED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN EDUCATING THE YOUTH OF THE DANGERS AND HARMFUL EFFECTS OF DRUG ABUSE.

GATT ACCEPTS PANEL REPORT

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THE COUNCIL OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) YESTERDAY (TUESDAY) ACCEPTED WITHOUT RESERVATION ITS PANEL'S REPORT ON QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS MAINTAINED BY FRANCE ON QUARTZ WATCHES AND OTHER PRODUCTS EXPORTED BY HONG KONG.

+WE ARE DELIGHTED AT THE OUTCOME,+ THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID. +THE COUNCIL ADOPTED THE FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE PANEL, INCLUDING THE RECOMMENDATION THAT FRANCE TERMINATES THE RESTRICTIONS. WE NOW AWAIT INFORMATION FROM FRANCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION,+ HE SAID.

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TUEN MUN BOARD MEETING ON FRIDAY

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LAYOUT PLANS FOR DEVELOPING THREE SITES IN TUEN MUN, TOTALLING AN AREA OF 38 HECTARES, WILL BE TABLED FOR DISCUSSION AT THE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING ON FRIDAY MORNING (JULY 15).

TWO SITES, LOCATED SOUTH OF SAN HUI, WILL BE FOR A VILLAGE RESITE AREA, WHILE THE OTHER NEAR SAN SHING HUI WILL BE FOR A SITTING-OUT AREA AND A PLAYGROUND.

MEMBERS' VIEW WILL ALSO BE SOUGHT ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PROPOSED NEW ROAD LINKING THE EXISTING ROAD LEADING TO LAM TEI QUARRY WITH THE WESTERN LAM TEI QUARRY EXTENSION AREA.

THE GROWING POPULARITY OF CYCLING ACTIVITIES IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE A BRIEFING ON THE REPORT +A PERSPECTIVE ON EDUCATION IN HONG KONG+ AND PROGRESS REPORTS ON THE BOARD'S COMMITTEES.

SOME SEATS HAVE BEEN RESERVED FOR THE PUBLIC ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS, AND ANYONE WISHING TO ATTEND SHOULD TELEPHONE THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT AT 0-843801.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JULY 15) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE BOARD'S SECRETARIAT ON THE NINTH FLOOR OF FOOK YICK COMMERCIAL BUILDING, SAN ON CIRCUIT.

A GOVERNMENT VEHICLE, AM 5797, WILL LEAVE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AT 8.50 AM FOR TUEN MUN.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 1983

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NEWS TRANSLATION COURSE OFFERED

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THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, AT THE REQUEST OF THE JOURNALISM TRAINING BOARD OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL, WILL OFFER A COURSE IN NEWS TRANSLATION FOR WORKING JOURNALISTS NEXT MONTH.

THE COURSE IS ONE OF A SERIES OF PRACTICAL COURSES AND SEMINARS PLANNED BY THE BOARD TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF JOURNALISM IN HONG KONG.

IT WILL BE HELD FROM AUGUST 22 TO SEPTEMBER 22 WITH TWO THREE-HOUR SESSIONS PER WEEK.

THE COURSE IS SUBSIDISED MAINLY BY THE COUNCIL AND PARTICIPANTS OR THEIR EMPLOYERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY A NOMINAL FEE OF \$100.

ENROLMENT IS LIMITED TO 25 AND THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS AUGUST 8.

ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MR FRANK NG, SECRETARY OF THE JOURNALISM TRAINING BOARD, ON 5-284783 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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YUEN LONG SITE AVAILABLE

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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCY OF A SITE IN YUEN LONG.

THE SITE, SITUATED IN FUNG KAM STREET, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 2 659 SQUARE METRES. IT IS FOR THE OPEN STORAGE OF GOODS EXCLUDING CONTAINERS.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS IS 12 NOON ON JULY 29.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND TENDER PLANS INSPECTED AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE (YUEN LONG), YUEN LONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICE, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, YUEN LONG; LANDS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG, AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON WEST, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 10TH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

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