



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1975

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THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1975

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BUDGET PROPOSALS APPROVED

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VARIOUS INCREASES IN FEES AND CHARGES PROPOSED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH LAST MONTH HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL AND WILL COME INTO EFFECT FROM NEXT TUESDAY (APRIL 1).

AMENDED REGULATIONS GIVING LEGISLATIVE EFFECT TO THE REVISED CHARGES AND FEES ARE PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE.

THESE COVER :-

- * WATER - DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION NOT EXCEEDING THE RATE OF 3,500 GALLONS A MONTH WILL COST \$3 PER UNIT OF ONE THOUSAND GALLONS (LESS THE EXISTING FREE ALLOWANCE) WHILE CONSUMPTION EXCEEDING THAT MONTHLY AVERAGE DURING THE BILLING PERIOD WILL COST \$6 PER UNIT OF ONE THOUSAND GALLONS.
- * POSTAGE - THE REGISTRATION FEE IN BOTH THE INLAND AND OVERSEAS POSTAL SERVICE GOES UP FROM \$1 TO \$2. AT THE SAME TIME, LOCAL LETTERS GO UP TO 20 CENTS FOR THE FIRST OUNCE WITH GRADUAL INCREASES FOR HEAVIER LETTERS, WHILE SURFACE LETTERS TO CHINA, MACAU AND TAIWAN WILL COST 30 CENTS FOR THE FIRST OUNCE. INLAND POSTCARDS WILL COST 15 CENTS AND THOSE MAILED TO CHINA, MACAU AND TAIWAN 20 CENTS.
- * TEXTILES EXPORT LICENCE - A FEE OF \$15 IS INTRODUCED FOR AN APPLICATION FOR AN EXPORT LICENCE IN RESPECT OF TEXTILES EXPORTED TO ALL COUNTRIES. THIS TYPE OF LICENCE WAS PREVIOUSLY ISSUED FREE OF CHARGE.
- * BANK LICENCES - THE ANNUAL FEE FOR A BANK LICENCE IS RAISED FROM \$40,000 TO \$200,000. BANK BRANCH FEES ARE UP FROM \$1,000 TO \$10,000.
- * ANCHORAGE DUES - THE NEW ANCHORAGE DUES ARE \$12 PER 100 TONS A DAY INSIDE HARBOUR LIMITS, AND \$3.20 PER 100 TONS ELSEWHERE IN HONG KONG WATERS. THE NEW DUES FOR AN 'A' BUOY IS \$600 A DAY AND \$400 A DAY FOR A 'B' BUOY.

/THE GOVERNOR

THE GOVERNOR HAS ALSO MADE ORDERS UNDER THE PUBLIC REVENUE PROTECTION ORDINANCE TO GIVE EFFECT FROM APRIL 1 TO A NUMBER OF OTHER BUDGET PROPOSALS WHICH WILL BE TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL EITHER IN THE FORM OF BILLS OR RESOLUTIONS.

ONE RELATES TO A PROPOSED INCREASE IN BETTING DUTY WHICH IS TO GO UP FROM 7-1/2 PER CENT TO 11 PER CENT IN RESPECT OF ALL FORMS OF BETTING -- EXCEPT WIN, PLACE, DOUBLE, QUINELLA AND FORECAST BETS, WHICH WILL ATTRACT THE SAME 7-1/2 PER CENT DUTY AS AT PRESENT. THE RATE OF BETTING DUTY IN RESPECT OF CASH SWEEPS ALSO REMAINS UNCHANGED AT 25 PER CENT.

ANOTHER ORDER IN THE GAZETTE IMPLEMENTS THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL TO IMPOSE ENTERTAINMENTS TAX ON CINEMATOGRAPH EXHIBITIONS, EXCEPT ON ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OR THE URBAN COUNCIL, OR A CHARITABLE INSTITUTION OR PUBLIC TRUST.

THE RATE OF DUTY ON ADMISSION TICKETS TO CINEMATOGRAPH EXHIBITIONS WILL BE 10 CENTS FOR TICKETS UNDER \$2= 20 CENTS FOR TICKETS BETWEEN \$2 AND BELOW \$4= AND 40 CENTS FOR \$4 TICKETS.

IN THE CASE OF RACE MEETINGS, DUTY ON ADMISSION TICKETS WILL BE 40 CENTS FOR TICKETS BELOW \$2= 50 CENTS FOR TICKETS OVER \$2 BUT BELOW \$3= 70 CENTS FOR TICKETS OVER \$3 BUT BELOW \$4= AND \$1 FOR TICKETS OVER \$4 BUT BELOW \$5.

THE PROPOSED TWO PER CENT INCREASE FROM NINE PER CENT TO 11 PER CENT IN THE GENERAL RATE FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, KOWLOON PENINSULA, AND NEW KOWLOON ALSO COMES INTO EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, AS DOES THE NEW 17 PER CENT RATE FOR TSUEN WAN.

ANOTHER ORDER IMPLEMENTS THE BUDGET PROPOSALS TO TRIPLE BUSINESS REGISTRATION FEES TO \$150 AND BRING CERTAIN CLUBS WITHIN THE AMBIT OF THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE. IN THIS CONNECTION, A CLUB IS DEFINED AS ANY CORPORATION OR ASSOCIATION OF PERSONS FORMED FOR THE PURPOSE OF AFFORDING ITS MEMBERS FACILITIES FOR SOCIAL INTERCOURSE OR RECREATION, AND WHICH PROVIDES SERVICES FOR ITS MEMBERS (WHETHER OR NOT FOR THE PURPOSES OF GAIN), AND HAS CLUB PREMISES OF WHICH ITS MEMBERS HAVE A RIGHT OF EXCLUSIVE USE.

THE GOVERNOR HAS ALSO MADE AN ORDER GIVING EFFECT TO THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN STAMP DUTY AND AD VALOREM DUTY ON CERTAIN DOCUMENTS, SUCH AS TRAVELLER'S CHEQUES, CASHIER ORDERS, CONVEYANCES ON SALE, AND VESTING ORDERS AMONG OTHERS.

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TOUGHER FINES PROPOSED FOR TAX EVADERS

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INLAND REVENUE OFFICERS WILL BE GIVEN WIDER POWERS TO PIN DOWN TAX EVADERS AND REQUIRE THEM TO PAY BY WAY OF PENALTY OR ADDITIONAL TAX THREE TIMES THE TAX EVADED, IF PROPOSED NEW LEGISLATION IS ACCEPTED.

AT PRESENT THE COMMISSIONER OR AN AUTHORISED OFFICER ISSUED WITH A WARRANT BY A MAGISTRATE, CAN SEARCH A TAX EVADER'S PLACE WHERE IT IS SUSPECTED THERE ARE DOCUMENTS OF ASSISTANCE IN DETERMINING HIS TAX LIABILITY.

UNDER THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL PUBLISHED TODAY, THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN A WARRANT TO CARRY OUT THE SEARCH AT A PLACE NOT NECESSARILY BELONGING TO THE PERSON WHOSE TAX LIABILITY IS BEING QUESTIONED.

IN ADDITION, AN EXISTING POWER PREVIOUSLY CONFINED TO THE COMMISSIONER PERSONALLY, MAY IN FUTURE BE DELEGATED TO AN OFFICER NOT BELOW THE RANK OF CHIEF ASSESSOR.

THIS POWER IS TO REQUIRE A PERSON WHO IS SUSPECTED OF HAVING MADE A FALSE TAX RETURN TO DISCLOSE FULL DETAILS OF HIS ASSETS, LIABILITIES, EXPENDITURE AND INCOME, IF NECESSARY BACKDATING UP TO A PERIOD OF SEVEN YEARS.

ANY PERSON WHO IS THUS ASKED TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF HIS FINANCIAL STATE MUST FURNISH THE INFORMATION WITHIN THIRTY DAYS.

THE PENALTIES PROVIDED IN THE BILL ARE IN ADDITION TO THE AMOUNT OF TAX UNDERCHARGED.

FOR A NUMBER OF OFFENCES, THE PENALTY HAS BEEN INCREASED TO THREE TIMES THE TAX UNDERCHARGED. THIS IS IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING FINE OF \$2,000. EVEN IF NO PROSECUTION IS TAKEN OUT, THIS AMOUNT COULD STILL BE IMPOSED ON THE EVADER AS ADDITIONAL TAX.

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NEW TOLL FOR LION ROCK TUNNEL

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LION ROCK TUNNEL TOLL CHARGES WILL BE REVISED FROM NEXT TUESDAY (APRIL 1) SO AS TO BRING THEM IN LINE WITH RISING OPERATING COSTS.

THE NEW CHARGES ARE SET OUT IN THE LION ROCK TUNNEL (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1975 PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE FOR GENERAL INFORMATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID THERE WOULD BE THREE CHARGE RATES, INSTEAD OF THE EXISTING TWO, FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF VEHICLES USING THE TUNNEL.

THE NEW CHARGES WILL BE \$1 FOR PRIVATE CARS, PUBLIC CARS, TAXIS AND MOTORCYCLES AND \$1.50 FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIGHT BUSES, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SINGLE-DECK OMNIBUSES AND GOODS VEHICLES OF AN UNLADEN WEIGHT NOT EXCEEDING 40 CWT.

FOR LARGE VEHICLES SUCH AS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DOUBLE-DECK OMNIBUSES AND GOODS VEHICLES OF AN UNLADEN WEIGHT EXCEEDING 40 CWT, THE CHARGE WILL BE \$2.

COMMENTING ON THE TOLL CHARGE REVISION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THIS HAD BECOME NECESSARY IN THE LIGHT OF RISING COSTS TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE TUNNEL, WITH WHICH THE GROWTH IN REVENUE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO KEEP UP.

HE OPINIONED OUT THAT THE EXISTING CHARGE LEVELS OF 50 CENTS FOR SMALL VEHICLES AND \$1 FOR LARGE VEHICLES WERE SET ALMOST EIGHT YEARS AGO WHEN THE TUNNEL OPENED, AND HAD REMAINED UNCHANGED EVER SINCE.

DURING THE YEAR 1974-75, HE SAID, OPERATING COSTS FOR THE LION ROCK TUNNEL INCREASED BY ABOUT 30 PER CENT WHILE ITS REVENUE GROWTH WENT UP BY ONLY ABOUT 10 PER CENT. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE COSTS WOULD CONTINUE TO RISE, WITH ONLY A MARGINAL INCREASE IN REVENUE GROWTH, HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS CONSIDERED THAT THE REVISED TOLL CHARGES WOULD STILL BE RELATIVELY CHEAP COMPARED WITH THOSE FOR TOLL-CHARGING TUNNEL FACILITIES IN ANY OTHER CITIES.

THE NEW CHARGES, HE SAID, ARE UNLIKELY TO HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE TRAFFIC BALANCE BETWEEN THE LION ROCK TUNNEL AND TAI PO ROAD, BEARING IN MIND THAT MOTORISTS USING THE TUNNEL CAN SAVE FUEL COSTS AS WELL AS JOURNEY TIME BY ABOUT 10 MINUTES.

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LARGER CASUALTY WARD FOR Q.E.H.
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THE BUSY CASUALTY WARD AT QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL WILL BE EXTENDED TO MAKE ROOM FOR MORE PATIENTS REQUIRING EMERGENCY DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT.

PART OF AN OPEN COURT NEAR THE WARD WILL BE ENCLOSED FOR THE EXTENSION AND WILL BE DIVIDED INTO FIVE EXTRA TREATMENT CUBICLES AND A WAITING AREA.

THE ALTERATION WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN PHASES TO MINIMISE OBSTRUCTION TO THE EVERYDAY OPERATION OF THE WARD.

LAST YEAR, MORE THAN 225,000 EMERGENCY CASES WERE EXAMINED BY DOCTORS THERE - A 40 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE ATTENDANCE IN 1970 WHEN THERE WERE SOME 157,000 CASES.

PATIENTS BROUGHT TO THE WARD COME FROM VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES AND AT TIMES ARE AIR-LIFTED FROM REMOTE ISLANDS AND AREAS NOT CONVENIENTLY ACCESSIBLE BY ROAD.

THE EXISTING ACCOMMODATION HAS BECOME INADEQUATE OVER THE YEARS AND THE EXTENSION SHOULD GREATLY HELP TOWARDS COPING WITH THE INCREASING NUMBER OF PATIENTS ATTENDING FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT.

CONSTRUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN TOWARDS THE END OF APRIL AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

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CHAI WAN PARK TO HAVE MORE FACILITIES
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A PAVILION WITH ORIENTAL COLOURS WILL BE BUILT AT THE CHAI WAN PARK SITUATED AT THE JUNCTION OF LEE CHUNG STREET AND NING FOO STREET.

THE PAVILION, WHICH FORMS STAGE II OF THE CHAI WAN PARK PROJECT, WILL BE BUILT ON A HILLTOP INSIDE THE PARK OVERLOOKING THE AREA. IT WILL BE SURROUNDED BY BENCHES AND ENCLOSED WITH A BAMBOO-PATTERN ORNAMENTAL RAILING.

ONE MORE BASKETBALL COURT, A COMBINED TOILET-REFRESHMENT STAND, PATHS AND FLOWER BEDS WILL ALSO BE BUILT.

CONSTRUCTION WORK WILL BEGIN IN MAY AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

LIGHTS WILL BE INSTALLED IN THE PARK SO THAT ITS FACILITIES MAY BE USED AFTER DARK BY RESIDENTS OF THE NEARBY HOUSING ESTATE.

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LABOUR DEPARTMENT HELPS SETTLE TWO-MONTH LONG
DISPUTE IN TWO HOURS
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY BECAME OFFICIALLY INVOLVED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE TWO-MONTH OLD METRO-DODWELL SEVERANCE PAY DISPUTE -- AND ARRANGED A SETTLEMENT IN TWO HOURS.

THE SETTLEMENT FOLLOWED A LONG SERIES OF DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MANAGEMENT AND 37 WORKERS WHO WERE RETRENCHED ON JANUARY 31.

THE DEPARTMENT HAD TWICE OFFERED ITS CONCILIATION SERVICES EARLY IN THE DISPUTE BUT THE WORKERS PREFERRED TO PRESS THEIR CLAIMS FOR MORE GENEROUS SETTLEMENT TERMS BY DIRECT NEGOTIATION WITH COMPANY EXECUTIVES.

THE DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BECAME DEAD-LOCKED AND YESTERDAY BOTH WORKERS AND MANAGEMENT ACCEPTED A NEW OFFER FROM THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE TO CONCILIATE IN THE DISPUTE.

THE SERVICE IMMEDIATELY ARRANGED A CONCILIATION MEETING CHAIRED BY LABOUR OFFICER, MR. TO SAU-HONG AT 9.15 A.M. TODAY. THE PARTIES SIGNED AN AGREEMENT AT 11.15 A.M.

THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES EACH WORKER WITH ONE MONTH'S WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE, CHINESE NEW YEAR BONUS, SEVERANCE PAY AT A RATE OF 10 DAYS WAGES FOR EACH YEAR OF SERVICE IRRESPECTIVE OF THE LENGTH OF SERVICE AND 12 DAYS WAGES AS COMPENSATION FOR LEAVE EARNED.

THE DEPARTMENT MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WORKERS TO COLLECT THEIR PAYMENTS THIS AFTERNOON.

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HOUSING AUTHORITY UNOFFICIALS GET EXTRA TERM
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THE GOVERNOR HAS REAPPOINTED 12 UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR A FURTHER PERIOD OF TWO YEARS BEGINNING ON APRIL 1.

THEY ARE MR. BROOK BERNACCHI, MR. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MRS. ELSIE ELLIOTT, MR. H.M.G. FORSGATE, DR. DENNY M.H. HUANG, MR. KENNETH T.C. LO, MR. ROGER LOBO, MR. A. DE O. SALES, MR. CHAN TAK-TAI, MR. CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, MR. Y.K. KAN, AND MR. V.O. ROBERTS.

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H.K. OFFICERS TO STUDY HOUSING MANAGEMENT IN LONDON

TWO SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WILL LEAVE FOR LONDON ON SATURDAY (MARCH 29) TO STUDY THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC HOUSING THERE.

THEY ARE MR. LO CHI-YUEN AND MR. EU CHEN-WAN, BOTH SENIOR HOUSING MANAGERS.

THEY WILL BE ATTACHED TO THE HOUSING MANAGEMENT BRANCH OF THE GREATER LONDON COUNCIL FOR TWO WEEKS AND THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT IN BRISTOL FOR ONE WEEK.

APART FROM HOUSING MANAGEMENT, THEY WILL SEE HOW PUBLIC HOUSING AND NEW TOWNS ARE BEING PLANNED.

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JANUARY ACCOUNTS SHOW \$268 M. SURPLUS

HONG KONG'S ACCOUNTS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1975 SHOW A SURPLUS OF \$268 MILLION COMPARED WITH A SURPLUS OF \$185 MILLION IN JANUARY LAST YEAR.

THIS HAS REDUCED THE ACCUMULATED DEFICIT TO \$405 MILLION FOR THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR COMPARED WITH THE DEFICIT OF \$410 MILLION THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY PREDICTED IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH FOR THE FULL YEAR.

TOTAL REVENUE FOR THE MONTH AT \$846 MILLION WAS \$216 MILLION MORE THAN IN JANUARY 1974. TOTAL EXPENDITURE AT \$578 MILLION WAS \$133 MILLION MORE THAN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

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TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD
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THE NAMES OF MEMBERS OF THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 1975 TO 31ST MARCH, 1976 WERE ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. DAVID JORDAN.

THE MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, ARE TO SERVE ON THE BOARD FOR ONE YEAR.

THE BOARD'S TERMS OF REFERENCE ARE : +TO ADVISE THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ON ANY MATTER, OTHER THAN LABOUR MATTERS, WHICH AFFECTS THE TEXTILE AND GARMENT INDUSTRIES.+

THE MEMBERS ARE :-

DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (CHAIRMAN EX-OFFICIO)
THE HONOURABLE FRANCIS Y.H. TIEN, O.B.E., J.P.
MR. WONG TOONG-YUEN, O.B.E., J.P.
MR. BRYAN IRLAM BARLOW, J.P.
MR. CHAN SUI-KAU
MISS LYDIA DUNN
MR. PHILIP LAI
MR. FRANK HUIPO LIN
MR. SHEN HSI-JUI
MR. JACK CHI-CHIEN TANG
MR. RONALD CHAO
MR. STEPHEN CHEONG
MR. FANG SHAO-CHOW
MR. OLIVER JAMES NICHOLL
MR. TANG HSIANG-CHIEN
MR. STEPHEN LAU MAN-LUNG

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