



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1974.

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLIES OF BASIC
FOOD COMMODITIES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1974

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PROVISIONAL PROFITS TAX EXPLAINED

THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE, MR. VICTOR LADD, TODAY CLARIFIED ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSED PROVISIONAL PROFITS TAX SYSTEM WHICH HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF ADVERSE COMMENT FROM VARIOUS CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

MR. LADD SAID THE MAIN COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1974 HAVE BEEN TO THE EFFECT THAT -

- (I) BUSINESS WILL HAVE TO PAY MORE TAX-
- (II) BUSINESSES WILL HAVE TO PAY TAX A YEAR OR MORE IN ADVANCE-
- (III) THE TIMING OF THE BILL IS BAD BECAUSE HONG KONG IS IN THE THROES OF AN ECONOMIC RECESSION WITH BUSINESS PROFITS GENERALLY LOWER IN 1974/75 THAN THEY WERE IN 1973/74

+TAKING THESE THREE POINTS OF CRITICISM IN ORDER -

BUSINESSES WILL HAVE TO PAY MORE - AS A GENERALISATION THIS IS SIMPLY NOT TRUE. IT IS CERTAINLY TRUE THAT THE PRESENT SYSTEM CAN OPERATE AGAINST MANY TAXPAYERS WHO CAN AND DO PAY CONSIDERABLY MORE PROFITS TAX THAN THEIR ACTUAL PROFITS WARRANT DURING THE LIFE OF THEIR BUSINESS.

+THE NEW SYSTEM ON THE OTHER HAND IS PRECISE, EXACT AND CAN BE RELIED ON TO ENSURE THAT THE TAX PAID BY A BUSINESSMAN DURING THE LIFE OF HIS BUSINESS IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE PROFITS HE MAKES.

+BUSINESSES WILL HAVE TO PAY TAX A YEAR OR MORE IN ADVANCE - THIS, AGAIN, IS SIMPLY NOT TRUE. THE BILL RETAINS THE PRESENT +PAY AS YOU GO+ PRINCIPLE AND THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO QUESTION OF PAYING IN ONE YEAR ON ACCOUNT OF THE NEXT.

+THE EXPRESSION 'PROVISIONAL TAX' HAS, POSSIBLY, CAUSED SOME CONFUSION BUT THERE IS NOTHING SINISTER ABOUT IT - PROVISIONAL TAX IS NO MORE THAN A PAYMENT ON ACCOUNT OF THE CURRENT YEAR'S TAX LIABILITY WITHIN THE CURRENT YEAR, THE PAYMENT ON ACCOUNT BEING CALCULATED BY REFERENCE TO THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S PROFITS.

+IN FACT, IN TIMES OF RISING PROFITS THERE WILL BE A BALANCE OF FINAL TAX TO PAY IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR WHEN THE ACTUAL RESULTS ARE KNOWN, SO THAT THERE IS IN FACT AN ELEMENT OF PAYMENT IN ARREARS UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM.

/+THE TIMING OF

+THE TIMING OF THE BILL IS BAD BECAUSE HONG KONG IS IN THE THROES OF AN ECONOMIC RECESSION, WITH BUSINESS PROFITS GENERALLY LOWER IN 1974/75 THAN THEY WERE IN 1973/74. - THIS IS A CRITICISM THAT HAS BEEN WIDELY VOICED AND APPEARS TO BE RELATED TO THE FIRST MENTIONED CRITICISM THAT BUSINESSES +WILL PAY MORE+.

+THE FACT IS, HOWEVER, THAT IF AS IS GENERALLY ASSERTED, BUSINESS PROFITS ARE DOWN IN 1974/75 COMPARED WITH 1973/74, THEN THE TIMING OF THE BILL FROM THE TAXPAYER'S POINT OF VIEW IS GOOD NOT BAD.

+THIS IS BECAUSE, ALTHOUGH THE BILL PROPOSES A TRANSITIONAL ADJUSTMENT IN THE YEAR OF ASSESSMENT 1974/75 (AN ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT FOR 1974/75 IF ACTUAL PROFITS FOR THAT YEAR EXCEED THE ACTUAL PROFITS FOR 1973/74) IF THE MAJORITY OF BUSINESSES HAVE MADE SMALLER PROFITS IN 1974/75 THERE WILL BE, IN GENERAL, NO ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT TO BE MADE AND THE TRANSITION FROM THE OLD SYSTEM TO THE NEW WILL HAVE A COMPLETELY NEUTRAL EFFECT.+

MR. LADD SAID : +THE DISADVANTAGES OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM ARE - THAT IT IS COMPLICATED, INEXACT AND CAN OPERATE TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF BOTH THE TAXPAYER AND THE REVENUE. THE ADVANTAGES OF THE PROPOSED NEW SYSTEM ARE THAT IT IS SIMPLE AND EXACT AND THE FINAL TAX PAYABLE IN RESPECT OF A YEAR OF ASSESSMENT REFLECTS PRECISELY THE PROFITS FOR THAT YEAR OF ASSESSMENT. IN SHORT - THE PRESENT SYSTEM IS A POOR ONE AND THE PROPOSED SYSTEM A DISTINCT IMPROVEMENT.+

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FESTIVAL OF HONG KONG 1975 POSTPONED

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THE NEXT FESTIVAL OF HONG KONG, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 1975, HAS BEEN POSTPONED.

ANNOUNCING THIS DECISION TODAY, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE TIMING OF THE NEXT FESTIVAL WILL BE CONSIDERED LATER NEXT YEAR.

PROGRAMMES FOR THE 1975 FESTIVAL WERE TO BE PLANNED ON THE BASIS OF GREATER INVOLVEMENT BY LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE AND GREATER PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC.

AS A RESULT, MANY MORE VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS WOULD BE CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS THE COST OF THE FESTIVAL THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

IN ADDITION, MANY INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL ORGANISATIONS WOULD HAVE BEEN SPONSORING THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES.

+IT IS THOUGHT THAT, IN THE PRESENT ECONOMIC CLIMATE, IT MAY NOT BE TIMELY TO EXPEND A SIZEABLE AMOUNT OF PUBLIC MONEY AND TO ASK FOR LARGE SCALE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY.+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT THE FESTIVAL, PLANNED ON A BIGGER SCALE THAN THE PREVIOUS THREE FESTIVALS, WOULD COST ABOUT SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS, WITH GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTING FIVE MILLION DOLLARS AND THE COMMUNITY THE REMAINDER.

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NEW RATE PARKING METERS FOR HUNG HOM

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ABOUT 700 NEW RATE PARKING METERS WILL BE INSTALLED IN HUNG HOM AREA, KOWLOON, FROM SUNDAY (DECEMBER 22) TO PROVIDE A BETTER TURNOVER OF PARKING FACILITIES FOR SHORT-TERM PARKERS.

THE INSTALLATION PROGRAMME, TO BE COMPLETED IN FIVE WORKING DAYS, WILL START IN WHAMPOA STREET AND PROGRESS UP TO CHI KIANG STREET.

MOST OF THE METERS WILL BE INSTALLED IN UNMETERED PARKING SPACES, WHILE ABOUT 50 METERS WHICH NOW CHARGE THE OLD RATE IN THE AREA WILL BE CONVERTED INTO THE NEW RATE TYPE.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY ADVISED MOTORISTS THAT, DURING AND AFTER THE INSTALLATION, THEY SHOULD READ CAREFULLY THE INFORMATION PRINTED ON THE METAL PLATE ATTACHED TO THE PARKING METER TO ENSURE THAT THE CORRECT COINS WERE INSERTED.

HE SAID ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE TO CANCEL PARKING TICKETS ISSUED TO A MOTORIST WHO MIGHT HAVE PARKED HIS CAR AT AN UNMETERED PARKING SPACE WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY METERED.

THE NEW RATE METERS ACCEPT ONLY 50 CENT OR ONE DOLLAR COINS DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF METER. UNDER THE NEW RATE SYSTEM, THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF TWO-HOUR METERS - ONE WHICH ACCEPTS 50 CENT COINS FOR 30 MINUTES, AND THE OTHER WHICH TAKES 50 CENT COINS FOR ONE HOUR. AT THE NEW RATE HALF-HOUR METERS, THE CHARGE IS A FLAT \$1.

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EXTRA FIRE PRECAUTIONS NEEDED DURING X'MAS

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A FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT EXTRA FIRE PRECAUTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN DURING THE COMING HOLIDAY PERIOD.

HE WARNED : +CHRISTMAS TREES, COLOURED LIGHTS AND DECORATIONS WILL ADD TO FIRE HAZARDS IN THE HOME. SOMETIMES, A COMBINATION OF ACTIVE CHILDREN AND PREOCCUPIED PARENTS ALLOW THE ONE MOMENT OF CARELESSNESS WHICH IS ALL THAT FIRE NEEDS.+

HE ADVISED THE USE OF NON-COMBUSTIBLE DECORATING MATERIALS, WHERE POSSIBLE, TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE AND ALSO POINTED OUT THAT USING WAX CANDLES TO DECORATE A CHRISTMAS TREE WAS HIGHLY DANGEROUS.

+CHECK TREE LIGHTING SETS, ELECTRIC CANDLES AND SIMILAR HOLIDAY LIGHTING EQUIPMENT, AS WELL AS EXTENSION CORDS, FOR FRAYED WIRES, LOOSE CONNECTIONS AND BROKEN SOCKETS,+ HE URGED. +A FEW PRECAUTIONS TAKEN NOW COULD PREVENT TRAGEDY STRIKING DURING THE HOLIDAY,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID ALL TREE AND OTHER HOLIDAY ILLUMINATIONS SHOULD BE TURNED OFF BEFORE GOING OUT OR TO BED.

+DON'T ALLOW SMOKING NEAR THE TREE AMIDST DECORATIONS AND WRAPPINGS,+ HE STATED. +HAVE PLENTY OF LARGE, SAFE ASHTRAYS AROUND - AND USE THEM.+

SMALL CHILDREN PLAYING NEAR THE TREE SHOULD BE SUPERVISED AND MATCHES, LIGHTERS AND CANDLES KEPT WELL OUT OF THEIR REACH. THEY SHOULD NEVER BE LEFT UNATTENDED AT ANY TIME.

+THE BEST FORM OF PROTECTION AGAINST FIRE IS PREVENTION,+ HE DECLARED. +NOBODY SHOULD ASSUME THAT FIRE CAN NEVER HAPPEN TO THEM. IT CAN STRIKE ANYWHERE AT ANY TIME, ESPECIALLY DURING HOLIDAYS WHEN PEOPLE ARE LIKELY TO BE CARELESS.+

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APPOINTMENT OF TWO NEW CITY DISTRICT OFFICERS

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THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS TODAY ANNOUNCED A NUMBER OF STAFF CHANGES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.

MRS. O. RAHMIN CHEUNG LOOK-PING, CITY DISTRICT OFFICER (WANCHAI AND CENTRAL) HAS BEEN APPOINTED ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL. SHE WILL REPLACE MR. P.J. WILLIAMSON WHO IN TURN WILL BE POSTED TO THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AS AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR TO REPLACE MR. T.H. BARMA ON HIS TRANSFER TO THE COLONIAL SECRETARIAT IN EARLY JANUARY.

MR. FUNG KWOK-KEUNG HAS BEEN APPOINTED CITY DISTRICT OFFICER (WANCHAI) AND MR. ANGUS MUI WAH-ON CITY DISTRICT OFFICER (CENTRAL).

MR. FUNG GRADUATED FROM THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND HAS HAD OVER SEVEN YEARS' SERVICE IN GOVERNMENT. HE SERVED FOR SOME TIME IN THE COLONIAL SECRETARIAT AND IN THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, BEFORE JOINING IN MAY 1973 THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT AS AIRPORT MANAGER, WHICH POST HE HELD UP TO THE PRESENT.

MR. MUI, AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, SERVED IN THE COLONIAL SECRETARIAT BEFORE HIS TRANSFER TO THE PRESENT POST. HE GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

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TEMPORARY WATER CUT

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN KOWLOON CITY WILL BE TEMPORARILY TURNED OFF FROM 1 A.M. TO 6 A.M. ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 21) TO ALLOW LEAKAGE TESTS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE AREA.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY NGA TSIN WAI ROAD, NGA TSIN LONG ROAD, CARPENTER ROAD AND KAI TAK ROAD.

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CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CAMP

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THE CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE WONG TAI SIN COMMUNITY CENTRE IS TAKING 210 CHILDREN ON A CAMPING TRIP THIS WEEKEND TO GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO GET AWAY FROM THEIR CROWDED LIVING CONDITIONS.

THE CAMP, WHICH WILL BE FOR THREE DAYS AND TWO NIGHTS FROM DECEMBER 21 TO DECEMBER 23, WILL BE HELD AT WU KWAI SHA YOUTH VILLAGE.

THERE WILL BE RECREATIONAL, SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS BALL GAMES, EXPEDITIONS, SHORT TALKS AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS. TWO FILMS TITLED +SECRETS OF THE PLANT WORLD+ AND +SECRETS OF THE UNDERWATER WORLD+ WILL BE SHOWN.

THE CHILDREN ARE FROM 21 MEMBER SCHOOLS OF THE CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL COMMITTEE.

ASSISTING IN THE PLANNING AND RUNNING OF THE CAMP WILL BE 28 POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS FROM BAPTIST AND CHU HOI COLLEGES.

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FUN FAIR IN KOWLOON CITY

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TWO THOUSAND CHILDREN LIVING IN KOWLOON CITY WILL BE ENTERTAINED AT A FUN FAIR THIS SATURDAY (DECEMBER 21). IT WILL BE HELD AT BLOCK H OF THE LOK MAN HOUSING ESTATE IN TOKWAWAN FROM 2 P.M. TO 5 P.M.

JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICE, KOWLOON CITY, AND THE SALVATION ARMY LOK MAN CORPS, THE FUNCTION IS BEING PLANNED AND WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY VOLUNTEERS OF THESE TWO AGENCIES.

APART FROM THE FUN AND GAMES STALLS, THERE WILL ALSO BE AN ANTI-DRUG EXHIBITION. PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR THE BEST DESIGNED STALLS AND GAMES.

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CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE
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THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (THURSDAY) AT SALE UNDER THE RICE CONTROL SCHEME AND AT THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION WHOLESALE MARKET AND THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION WHOLESALE MARKET AT CHEUNG SHA WAN, KOWLOON :

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF RICE

<u>GRADE OF RICE</u>	<u>AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY</u>	<u>WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)</u>
<u>CHINA RICE</u>		
SEE MEW	GOOD	1.80
S.C. JIEN	GOOD	1.69
PO NGAI	GOOD	---
CHU CHO	GOOD	---
<u>THAI RICE</u>		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	1.68
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	---
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	---
A1 SUPER	GOOD	1.33
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.67
<u>U.S. RICE</u>	GOOD	1.77
<u>AUSTRALIAN RICE</u>	GOOD	1.72
<u>PAKISTAN RICE</u>	GOOD	---
<u>TAIWAN RICE</u>	GOOD	---

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(ALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	-----	GOOD
WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORKER (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT)	-----	340

/SUPPLIES AND

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SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF MARINE FISH
 (FMO CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET)

SPECIES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
GOLDEN THREAD	GOOD	4.80	1.70	3.20
BIG-EYES	GOOD	3.00	0.70	1.60
SQUID	LIMITED	6.50	2.80	4.50
HAIR-TAILS	GOOD	2.40	0.90	1.80
LIZARD FISHES	NORMAL	2.60	0.90	1.80
CROAKERS	NORMAL	2.40	0.60	1.40
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	NORMAL	3.00	1.90	2.40
MELON COAT	GOOD	2.40	1.70	2.00
BREAMS	NORMAL	5.50	3.70	4.70
YELLOW BELLY	NORMAL	1.70	0.80	1.20
MACKERELS	LIMITED	4.20	2.50	3.80
RED GOAT FISH	NORMAL	3.10	0.40	1.50
FORK-TAIL	NORMAL	0.90	0.50	0.70
HORSE-HEAD	NORMAL	6.50	1.80	4.50
MELON SEED	NORMAL	3.00	0.90	1.80
POMFRETS	SCARCE	8.50	4.20	7.00
GARROUPAS	LIMITED	9.00	4.00	6.80
YELLOW CROAKER	-	-	-	-

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF LOCALLY PRODUCED VEGETABLES
 (V.M.O. CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET)

TYPE OF VEGETABLES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
FLOWERING CABBAGE	LIMITED	2.00	0.80	1.60
WHITE CABBAGE	NORMAL	0.50	0.15	0.35
CHINESE LETTUCE	LIMITED	1.40	0.50	1.00
WATER SPINACH	--		NO SALE	
CHINESE KALE	LIMITED	1.80	0.80	1.40
STRING BEANS	--		NO SALE	
SPRING ONION	LIMITED	1.80	0.50	1.00
SPINACH	LIMITED	2.20	0.70	1.80
WATER CRESS	NORMAL	1.50	0.40	1.00
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	LIMITED	0.60	0.15	0.30
CHINESE SPINACH	--		NO SALE	
TOMATO	LIMITED	2.50	1.50	2.00