



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1974

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLIES OF BASIC FOOD
COMMODITIES.

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GOVERNMENT MOVES TO IMPROVE BUS SERVICES

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE GIVEN WIDE-RANGING POWERS TO CONTROL THE OPERATIONS OF BUS COMPANIES UNDER PROPOSED LEGISLATION PUBLISHED TODAY. THE OBJECT IS TO IMPROVE THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES.

THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, KNOWN AS THE PUBLIC OMNIBUS SERVICES BILL 1975, WOULD EMPOWER THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO ISSUE FRANCHISES TO BUS COMPANIES FOR INITIAL PERIODS OF UP TO TEN YEARS.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT NEW 10-YEAR FRANCHISES WILL BE GRANTED TO KOWLOON MOTOR BUS CO. (1933) LTD. AND CHINA MOTOR BUS CO. LTD. AFTER THE BILL BECOMES LAW. THERE IS ALSO PROVISION IN THE BILL EITHER FOR FRANCHISES TO BE EXTENDED FOR A FIXED PERIOD OF UP TO FIVE YEARS, OR FOR AN ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE COMPANIES TO ROLL FORWARD THEIR 10-YEAR FRANCHISES AT TWO-YEARLY INTERVALS.

THIS ROLLING FRANCHISE CONCEPT WOULD EXTEND THE FRANCHISE PERIOD, ON EACH OCCASION, FOR UP TO TWO YEARS, PROVIDED THE PERFORMANCE OF THE COMPANY CONCERNED HAD BEEN SATISFACTORY.

EXPLAINING THE PURPOSE OF THE ROLLING FRANCHISE, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT, IN VIEW OF THE VERY LARGE CAPITAL INVESTMENT THAT CMB AND KMB WILL HAVE TO MAKE IF THEY ARE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE BUS SERVICES IN THE FUTURE, A ROLLING FRANCHISE WOULD GIVE EACH COMPANY AN ASSURANCE OF CONTINUITY FOR TEN YEARS AHEAD, PROVIDED THEY PERFORMED SATISFACTORILY.

HE ADDED THAT, IF CMB AND KMB WERE GRANTED NEW FRANCHISES UNDER THE BILL AND IF THIS METHOD OF EXTENSION WERE TO BE ADOPTED FOR THESE TWO COMPANIES, CONSIDERATION OF SUCH AN EXTENSION WOULD BE PRECEDED BY A DETAILED BIENNIAL EXAMINATION OF EACH COMPANY'S PERFORMANCE UNDER ITS FRANCHISE AND OF ITS PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL FORWARD PLANNING.

THE BILL STIPULATES THAT FRANCHISES ARE TO BE GRANTED FOR SCHEDULES OF ROUTES AND NOT, AS PREVIOUSLY, FOR GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS. A DETAILED SCHEDULE OF ROUTES HAS BEEN AGREED WITH BOTH KMB AND CMB FOR 1975/76.

IN ADDITION, CMB'S AND KMB'S PROJECTED VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS UP TO 1980, AND THEIR PROGRAMMES FOR ORDERING NEW BUSES, HAVE BEEN AGREED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL WILL BE EMPOWERED TO DIRECT THE COMPANIES TO ALTER EXISTING ROUTES OR TO PROVIDE SERVICES ON NEW ROUTES, WHILE THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT WILL BE ABLE TO REQUIRE THE COMPANIES TEMPORARILY TO ALTER EXISTING ROUTES OR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SERVICES OR NEW ROUTES ON A TEMPORARY BASIS.

/UNDER PROVISIONS

UNDER PROVISIONS IN THE BILL, THE GOVERNOR WOULD BE EMPOWERED TO APPOINT UP TO TWO DIRECTORS TO THE BOARDS OF ALL FRANCHISED COMPANIES. THIS WOULD ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO PARTICIPATE, AT FIRST HAND, IN THE COMPANIES' DECISION-MAKING. THE MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT DIRECTORS WOULD BE TO REPRESENT THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

ON THE QUESTION OF GOVERNMENT SANCTIONS, THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED THAT, UNDER THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE GIVEN THE POWER TO WITHDRAW A SPECIFIC ROUTE ON WHICH A COMPANY HAD FAILED TO PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY SERVICE. AT THE SAME TIME, IT COULD WITHDRAW ADDITIONAL AND MORE LUCRATIVE ROUTES IF THIS WERE NECESSARY TO PORVIDE A VIABLE PACKAGE OF ROUTES TO ANOTHER BUS COMPANY.

HE ADDED THAT THESE SANCTIONS WOULD DISCOURAGE A COMPANY FROM DELIBERATELY NEGLECTING ITS LEAST PROFITABLE ROUTES. MOREOVER, IF IT WERE NECESSARY, THE WHOLE FRANCHISE COULD BE REVOKED.

IF AN EMERGENCY EXISTS AND A FRANCHISE IS SUSPENDED, THE BILL WOULD ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE POSSESSION OF A COMPANY'S BUS PROPERTY, WITH COMPENSATION PAYABLE FOR THE DURATION OF THE EMERGENCY. SIMILAR POSSESSION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF A COMPANY'S BUS PROPERTY MAY ALSO TAKE PLACE IF A COMPANY'S WHOLE FRANCHISE IS REVOKED, AGAIN WITH COMPENSATION BEING PAID.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES FOR FINES OF UP TO \$10,000 FOR A FIRST OFFENCE, UP TO \$20,000 FOR A SECOND OFFENCE AND UP TO \$50,000 FOR ALL SUBSEQUENT OFFENCES. THE FINES COULD ONLY BE APPLIED ON THE ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL. THESE FINES ARE INTENDED, IN PRACTICE, TO BE IMPOSED FOR INFRINGEMENTS OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL, OR OF A FRANCHISE, WHERE THE GREATER PENALTY OF THE REVOCATION OF ONE OR MORE ROUTES WOULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED.

IN VIEW OF THE VARIOUS CONTROLS CONTAINED IN THE BILL, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED NOT TO SEEK TO ACQUIRE ANY EQUITY IN KMB OR CMB, AS HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN INTENDED.

+THE GOVERNMENT FEELS THAT NO PURPOSE WOULD NOW BE SERVED BY THE ACQUISITION OF EQUITY IN VIEW OF THESE BUILT IN CONTROLS+, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE BILL WAS DESIGNED TO CONTROL ANY BUS COMPANY, INCLUDING ANY THAT MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED IN LANTAU, THE NEW TOWNS OR ELSEWHERE.

IN CONCLUSION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +THE OVERALL EFFECT OF THE BILL WILL BE TO PROVIDE POWERS TO ACHIEVE CLOSER GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER THE BUS OPERATIONS OF FRANCHISED COMPANIES WITH THE AIM OF IMPROVING SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC. AT THE SAME TIME, PARTICULARLY WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNMENT DIRECTORS TO THE BOARDS OF EACH COMPANY, A FRAMEWORK FOR CLOSER CO-OPERATION SHOULD BE CREATED BETWEEN THE COMPANIES AND THE GOVERNMENT WHICH CAN ONLY BE TO THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC AS WELL AS THE COMPANIES THEMSELVES.+

IF THE BILL IS ENACTED, NEW FRANCHISES ARE EXPECTED TO COME INTO OPERATION ON FEBRUARY 15, 1975 WHEN THE PRESENT ORDINANCES GOVERNING THE OPERATIONS OF KMB AND CMB WILL BE REPEALED.

MORE PRISONS PLANNED TO BEAT OVERCROWDING

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EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IS BEING DONE TO EASE OVERCROWDING IN HONG KONG'S PENAL INSTITUTIONS WHICH NOW HOLD MORE THAN 8,000 PRISONERS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, SAID TODAY.

TWO NEW INSTITUTIONS WILL BE COMPLETED AT PIK UK WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION FOR 1,000 PRISONERS, HE SAID, AND PROJECTS AIMED AT PROVIDING A FURTHER 3,000 PLACES WERE ALREADY INCLUDED IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

+IN TERMS OF MANPOWER, MORE THAN 500 ADDITIONAL POSTS HAVE BEEN CREATED IN THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT SINCE APRIL 1 THIS YEAR SO AS TO MORE REALISTICALLY MEET THE DEPARTMENT'S REQUIREMENTS,+ HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNOR WAS SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL INSPECTION OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT HELD AT STANLEY. TEN CONTINGENTS, COMPRISING 232 OFFICERS, TOOK PART.

THE COMMUNITY'S EFFORTS TO FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME HAD CONTINUED AND INTENSIFIED DURING THE PAST YEAR, HE SAID. THIS, COUPLED WITH THE LONGER SENTENCES BEING IMPOSED BY THE COURTS ON OFFENDERS, HAD RESULTED IN AN UNPRECEDENTED INCREASE IN THE PRISON POPULATION OVER THIS PERIOD. THE PRESENT PRISON POPULATION, HE NOTED, WAS 25 PER CENT MORE THAN IT WAS A YEAR AGO.

THE GOVERNOR SAID STEPS HAD CONTINUED TO BE TAKEN TO STRENGTHEN THE SENIOR AND MIDDLE MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT. THE INSPECTOR OF PRISONS AND HIS TEAM WERE NOW FIRMLY ESTABLISHED, AND PROPOSALS WERE BEING CONSIDERED TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND INDUSTRIAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING ACTIVITIES IN PRISONS.

+BUT,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID, +IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THE SUCCESS OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL DEPEND LARGELY ON ITS OFFICERS.+

HE IMPRESSED ON THE OFFICERS THAT THEY HAD A KEY ROLE TO PLAY IN THE COMMUNITY'S FIGHT AGAINST CRIME AND THEIR WORK REQUIRED A HIGH DEGREE OF DISCIPLINE, INITIATIVE AND DEDICATION.

AFTER INSPECTING THE PARADE, THE GOVERNOR PRESENTED MEDALS AND CLASPS TO 41 OFFICERS IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR LONG SERVICE.

AMONG THE GUESTS ATTENDING WERE LADY MACLEHOSE AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.

NOTE TO EDITORS: COPIES OF THE FULL TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS ARE BOXED FOR COLLECTION TOGETHER WITH A LIST OF THE NAMES OF THE OFFICERS AWARDED MEDALS AND CLASPS.

SECONDARY CURRICULUM TO BE RE-ARRANGED
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS WORKING ON CHANGES IN SECONDARY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT TO MEET THE NEEDS IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE AS THE WHITE PAPER COMES TO FRUITION, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY, TOLD THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE KOWLOON LIONS CLUB TODAY.

HE ADDED, HOWEVER : +IT IS CLEAR THAT CONSTANT REAPPRAISAL AND RENEWAL WILL BE REQUIRED IN THIS AREA TO PROVIDE THE SUBSTANTIAL RE-ARRANGEMENT AND GREATER LIVELINESS WHICH WE SHALL NEED IN OUR FUTURE CURRICULUM.+

MR. TOPLEY SAID THE INFLUENCES OF PARENTS, CHILDREN, SOCIETY AT LARGE AND TEACHERS +HAVE TENDED TO THROW THE CURRICULUM INTO A PARTICULAR FORM AND HAVE CREATED THE PRESENT DIVISION INTO ACADEMIC SUBJECTS, RECREATION SUBJECTS AND PRACTICAL SUBJECTS.+

ACADEMIC SUBJECTS, HE EXPLAINED, WERE INFLUENCED TO SOME EXTENT BY THE STANDARDS SET BY THE UNIVERSITIES.

RECREATIONAL SUBJECTS LIKE MUSIC, ART AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION HAVE BEEN SEEN AS PROVIDING PUPILS WITH THE KIND OF REST THEY NEEDED FROM THEIR LABOURS IN THE ACADEMIC SUBJECTS IN ORDER TO PREVENT THEM FROM GETTING STALE, BORED AND UNHAPPY. PRACTICAL SUBJECTS - METALWORK, WOODWORK AND DOMESTIC SCIENCE - REFLECTED THE INFLUENCES OF SOCIETY WHICH WANTED THEM ALL TO BE PRACTICAL.

MR. TOPLEY NOTED THAT IN THE PAST SECONDARY EDUCATION WAS FOR THE MINORITY, WITH SECONDARY SCHOOLS ADMITTING ONLY THE TOP HALF OF THE ABILITY RANGE. +IN THE FUTURE OUR SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL ADMIT THE FULL ABILITY AND SOCIAL RANGE AND WE MUST THINK AGAIN THE CLASSICAL DIVISION OF THE CURRICULUM,+ HE SAID.

WHILE HE THOUGHT IT TOO EARLY TO PRODUCE A NEW CLASSIFICATION, HE STRESSED THAT +WE MUST CERTAINLY MAKE MASSIVE CHANGES IN THE CURRICULUM AND THE STYLE OF OUR TEACHING IF WE ARE TO DO WELL BY THE MASS OF NEW ENTRANTS TO OUR SECONDARY EDUCATION.+

THIS MEANT FIRST MAKING THE ACADEMIC SUBJECTS MORE REAL, MORE PRACTICAL THORUGH AN INTRODUCTION OF THE ACTIVITY APPROACH METHOD.

RECREATIONAL SUBJECTS COULD ALSO BE RE-THOUGHT WHILE PRACTICAL SUBJECTS COULD BE BROADENED AND IMPROVED BY MAKING THEM LESS MENIAL AND GIVING THEM MORE OF +A PROBLEM SOLVING SLANT+.

/REFERRING TO

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REFERRING TO THE TENSIONS CREATED BY DIFFERENT GROUPS - PARENTS, CHILDREN, SOCIETY AND TEACHERS - AND THEIR DIFFERENT PURPOSES AND INFLUENCES OF WHAT HAPPENS IN SCHOOLS, MR. TOPLEY SAID : +I BELIEVE THAT WE MUST DO SOMETHING TO RESOLVE THESE TENSIONS SO FAR AS WE ARE ABLE IN THE FUTURE, AND FOR THIS PURPOSE I SEE THAT SCHOOLS MUST BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH IT IS SET.+

MR. TOPLEY LATER ELABORATED ON THE +ACTIVITY APPROACH+ METHOD WHEN HE ADDRESSED THE SPEECH DAY OF ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE.

BY ALLOWING THE PUPILS TO LEARN BY DOING, HE SAID, THEY WOULD GRADUALLY DEVELOP AN INTEREST AND ENJOYMENT IN THE SUBJECT AND A CRITICAL APPROACH IN OBSERVATION.

+IT IS IMPORTANT TO INVOLVE OUR PUPILS IN CARRYING OUT AS MUCH OF THE PRACTICAL WORK AS POSSIBLE. THEY MUST BE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS AND NOT PASSIVE LEARNERS.+

HE SAID THE ESSENCE OF 'LEARNING BY DOING AND INQUIRY' WAS TO DISCOURAGE TEACHERS OR TEXTBOOK-WRITERS FROM DESCRIBING TO THE PUPILS THE RESULTS OF EXPERIMENTS.

THE 'LEARNING BY DOING' METHOD WAS THE ESSENCE OF THE INTEGRATED SCIENCE COURSE WHICH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT INTRODUCED IN 1973, HE NOTED.

+IN THE SAME WAY I CONSIDER THAT THIS PRINCIPLE OF 'LEARNING BY DOING' CAN ALSO BE LARGELY APPLIED TO THE TEACHING OF SUCH SOCIAL SUBJECTS AS GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY AND ECONOMIC AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, AND EQUALLY WELL TO SOCIAL STUDIES IN LOWER SECONDARY FORMS,+ HE SAID.

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MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN LOWER SECONDARY FORMS

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THE USE OF CHINESE OR ENGLISH AS THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN THE LOWER SECONDARY FORMS MUST VARY WITH THE ABILITY OF THE PUPILS, THE SUBJECT TAUGHT AND THE CLASS LEVEL, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (ADMINISTRATION), MR. CHARLES LOWE, SAID TODAY.

+I WOULD EXPECT MORE CHINESE TO BE USED IN FORM I AND POSSIBLY LESS IN FORM III. THERE ARE OTHER PROBLEMS - TEXTBOOKS, WRITTEN WORK, EXAMINATIONS, AND EVEN THE ABILITY OF TEACHERS TO TEACH IN CHINESE.

+THIS INCIDENTALLY DOES NOT MEAN THAT I ADVOCATE THE FULL TRANSLATION METHOD FOR THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH ONLY FOR THE EXPLANATION OF MORE DIFFICULT WORDS, THAT IS THE KEY AS ANY PRACTISING TEACHER WILL KNOW. BASICALLY THE FUNCTION OF A TEACHER IN A CLASSROOM IS TO EXPLAIN SO THAT THE LESSON CAN BE UNDERSTOOD,+ HE SAID.

MR. LOWE FELT THAT IN JUNIOR CLASSES THE EXPLANATION MUST BE GIVEN IN CHINESE.

+IT WILL ALSO BRING THE ADVANTAGE OF SOME SPONTANEITY. I AM SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT WAY FOR THE VAST MAJORITY OF SCHOOLS,+ HE ADDED.

SPEAKING AT THE SPEECH DAY OF THE VICTORIA TECHNICAL SCHOOL, MR. LOWE SAID THE CULTIVATION OF SPONTANEITY IN THE CLASSROOM, OR EVEN AN OCCASIONAL CHANGE IN THE PLAN OF A LESSON, WAS AN ASPECT OF TEACHING IN HONG KONG WHICH HAD NOT BEEN USED TO THE FULL.

THE WHITE PAPER, HE SAID, WOULD CERTAINLY COMPLICATE THE WORK OF THE TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS IN SCHOOLS BECAUSE IT WAS LIKELY THAT SCHOOLS WOULD HAVE A MUCH WIDER ABILITY RANGE AMONG PUPILS. BUT HE STRESSED THAT THE FUNCTION OF A SECONDARY SCHOOL WAS TO EDUCATE THE BRIGHT, THE AVERAGE AND THE DULL.

+THERE WILL ALSO BE CONSIDERABLE SELECTION PROBLEMS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS AFTER THE ABOLITION OF THE S.S.E.E. - WHO IS TO BE GIVEN A THREE-YEAR PLACE AND WHO IS TO BE SELECTED FOR A FIVE-YEAR PLACE.

+I WOULD, HOWEVER, LIKE TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT IN A 24-CLASSROOM SCHOOL THE PULLTHROUGH SHOULD BE MUCH BETTER THAN OVERALL 100 PER CENT PLACES IN FORM III TO 40 PER CENT PLACES IN FORM IV, THERE WILL BE 240 PLACES IN FORM III (160 OLD PLUS 80 NEW) GOING INTO 160 FORM IV PLACES - A PULLTHROUGH OF OVER 66 PER CENT.

+FOR THE REMAINING 34 PER CENT THERE WILL BE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND THE PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS WHICH HAVE A MOST IMPORTANT PART TO PLAY IN THE WHITE PAPER EXPANSION POLICY,+ MR. LOWE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS AND GRAMMAR SCHOOLS WERE PART AND PARCEL OF THE SAME INDIVISIBLE PROCESS OF SECONDARY EDUCATION.

+IT WOULD BE DISASTROUS IF SECONDARY TECHNICAL SCHOOLS WERE TO BE SEPARATED OR HIVED OFF FROM THE GRAMMAR SCHOOLS,+ HE SAID.

PROVISIONAL PROFITS TAX SYSTEM

THE PROPOSED PROVISIONAL PROFITS TAX SYSTEM WILL NOT INVOLVE THE PAYMENT OF A YEAR'S TAX IN ADVANCE AS HAS BEEN FEARED BY SOME PEOPLE.

EXPLAINING THE POSITION, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT IF PROFITS ARE RISING, ALTHOUGH PROVISIONAL TAX IS PAYABLE TWO TO THREE MONTHS BEFORE THE END OF A MARCH ACCOUNTING YEAR, THERE IS EFFECTIVELY LITTLE, IF ANY, ELEMENT OF PAYMENT IN ADVANCE.

THIS IS BECAUSE THE PROVISIONAL TAX PAYMENT DOES NOT REPRESENT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF TAX PAYABLE IN RESPECT OF THE FULL YEAR'S PROFITS, BUT IS SIMPLY A PAYMENT ON ACCOUNT OF THE CURRENT YEAR'S LIABILITIES. IN EACH CASE, THE FINAL ADJUSTMENT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE PAID FOR ANOTHER NINE OR TEN MONTHS.

THE FOLLOWING TABLES GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT THE POSITION IS :-

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH	ACTUAL PROFIT	PROVISIONAL TAX	PROVISIONAL TAX PAYABLE	BALANCE OF FINAL TAX	BALANCE OF FINAL TAX PAYABLE
1975	\$ 80,000	-	-	-	-
1976	\$100,000	\$12,000	JAN. 1976	\$3,000	JAN. 1977
1977	\$140,000	\$15,000	JAN. 1977	\$6,000	JAN. 1978
1978	\$200,000	\$21,000	JAN. 1978	\$9,000	JAN. 1979
1979	\$250,000	\$30,000	JAN. 1979	\$7,500	JAN. 1980

EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE ACTUAL PROFITS FOR EACH YEAR, THE PROVISIONAL TAX PAYABLE IN JANUARY OF EACH YEAR OF ASSESSMENT AND THE BALANCE OF FINAL TAX PAYABLE IN JANUARY OF THE YEAR FOLLOWING IS :-

	ACTUAL PROFIT	PROVISIONAL TAX	FINAL TAX
1976	\$100,000	12 %	3 %
1977	\$140,000	10.7%	4.3%
1978	\$200,000	10.5%	4.5%
1979	\$250,000	12.0%	3.0%

AS ILLUSTRATED BY THESE FIGURES, IN MANY CASES THE PROVISIONAL TAX WILL VARY BETWEEN 10 AND 12 PER CENT. +AND IN EACH CASE THE BALANCE OF THE FINAL TAX, TO BRING IT UP TO THE STANDARD RATE OF 15 PER CENT, IS NOT DUE FOR PAYMENT UNTIL NINE OR 10 MONTHS LATER+, HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT IN A SITUATION OF FALLING PROFITS, THE PROVISIONAL TAX PAYABLE IN JANUARY EACH YEAR WOULD EXCEED THE FINAL TAX PAYABLE FOR THE WHOLE YEAR.

+HOWEVER, THE

+HOWEVER, THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION MAKES ALLOWANCE FOR THIS AND ENABLES BUSINESSMEN TO ASK THAT PROVISIONAL TAX BE STOOD-OVER WHERE THE ACTUAL PROFITS FOR A YEAR OF ASSESSMENT ARE 80 PER CENT OR LESS THAN 80 PER CENT OF THE PROFITS OF THE PRECEDING YEAR. THIS STAND-OVER ALSO APPLIES IN THE CASE WHERE THE ACTUAL PROFITS ARE LIKELY TO BE LESS THAN 80 PER CENT.+

IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, THE FIRM OR BUSINESSMAN WOULD BE ASKED TO PAY ONLY PROVISIONAL TAX ON WHAT HE HAD EARNED UP TO THE TIME THE PROVISIONAL TAX DEMAND NOTE WAS DUE FOR PAYMENT.

THE TABLE BELOW ILLUSTRATES WHAT THE POSITION IS WHEN PROFITS ARE FALLING EACH YEAR :-

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH	ACTUAL PROFIT	PROVISIONAL TAX	PROVISIONAL TAX PAYABLE	BALANCE OF FINAL TAX
1975	\$250,000	-	-	-
1976	\$200,000	\$37,500	JAN. 1976	- \$7,500
1977	\$140,000	\$30,000	JAN. 1977	- \$9,000
1978	\$100,000	\$21,000	JAN. 1978	- \$6,000
1979	\$ 80,000	\$15,000	JAN. 1979	- \$3,000

IN THIS EXAMPLE, THE PROFITS FOR THE YEARS 1976, 1977, 1978 AND 1979 ARE RESPECTIVELY 80 PER CENT, 70 PER CENT, 71.4 PER CENT AND 80 PER CENT OF THOSE FOR THE PRECEDING YEARS AND THE BUSINESSMAN WOULD, THEREFORE, BE ENTITLED TO ASK FOR STAND-OVER OF AN APPROPRIATE PROPORTION OF HIS PROVISIONAL TAX BILLS.

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SPECIAL ACQUISITION AREA ON LANTAU

THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES HAS DESIGNATED AN AREA ON LANTAU ISLAND AS A SPECIAL ACQUISITION AREA.

THIS AREA IS SITUATED BETWEEN THE BEACH AND THE ROAD FROM PUI O TO TONG FUK.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY THAT THIS AREA WAS NOW CLASSIFIED AS A COASTAL PROTECTION AREA IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD THE BEACHES AND THEIR IMMEDIATE HINTERLAND AND TO PROTECT THE CHARACTER OF THE SHORELINE ALONG SOUTHERN LANTAU.

HE SAID IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ALLOW ANY BUILDINGS OR OTHER DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THIS AREA AND SO IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO ALLOW THIS LAND TO BE EXCHANGED FOR OTHER LAND ON LANTAU IN AREAS WHERE DEVELOPMENT MAY BE PERMITTED.

SPECIAL ACQUISITION AREAS WERE INTRODUCED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN FEBRUARY 1973 WHEN A NEW LAND EXCHANGE SCHEME WAS APPROVED TO ALLOW FOR PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT IN CERTAIN AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES NOT COVERED BY OUTLINE ZONING PLANS.

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SEPTEMBER ACCOUNTS SHOW \$226 MILLION DEFICIT

THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1974 SHOW A DEFICIT OF \$226 MILLION COMPARED WITH A \$49 MILLION DEFICIT IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR.

THE RESULT IS AN ACCUMULATED DEFICIT OF \$816 MILLION FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR.

TOTAL REVENUE FOR THE MONTH AT \$349 MILLION WAS \$34 MILLION MORE THAN IN SEPTEMBER 1973.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE AMOUNTED TO \$575 MILLION, AND INCLUDED AN INCREASE OF SOME \$72 MILLION IN PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS ARISING FROM THE SALARIES INCREASES (BACK-DATED TO APRIL 1, 1974) PAID TO MOST CIVIL SERVANTS AS A RESULT OF THE 1974 SALARIES REVISION.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE IN SEPTEMBER 1973 STOOD AT \$364 MILLION.

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\$1 MILLION DONATIONS OF EQUIPMENT ACKNOWLEDGED

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRINTING INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL, MR. ALEX S.C. WU, AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL), MR. ANDREW KINGWELL, TODAY THANKED EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS AND THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER FOR THEIR DONATIONS OF EQUIPMENT TO THE MORRISON HILL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE'S DEPARTMENT OF PRINTING.

THEY WERE BOTH SPEAKING AT THE DEPARTMENT'S OPEN DAY TO MARK ITS OFFICIAL OPENING IN TEMPORARY PREMISES IN CAINE LANE.

MR. WU DISCLOSED THAT DONATIONS TO THE TRAINING WORKSHOP AMOUNTED TO ABOUT \$1 MILLION.

THE SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION WHICH MADE THIS TEMPORARY WORKSHOP POSSIBLE WAS STILL CONTINUING THROUGH THE AGENCY OF THE TRAINING BOARD WHICH, FOR EXAMPLE, HAD JUST ASSISTED THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN DRAWING UP THE LIST OF EQUIPMENT NEEDED WHEN THE INSTITUTE'S PRINTING DEPARTMENT MOVES TO ITS FINAL HOME IN A NEW TECHNICAL INSTITUTE IN KWUN TONG NEXT YEAR, AS WELL AS DESIGNING THE MACHINERY LAYOUTS.

+THIS TASK,+ MR. WU SAID, +NECESSITATED A REDUCTION IN THE COST OF EQUIPMENT ESTIMATED BY AN OVERSEAS EXPERT AT \$6.4 MILLION TO THE GOVERNMENT BUDGETTED FIGURE OF \$3 MILLION, WITHOUT SERIOUSLY IMPAIRING THE TRAINING TO BE GIVEN BY THE NEW DEPARTMENT OF PRINTING.+

HE ASSURED THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE TRAINING BOARD WOULD CONTINUE TO ENSURE THAT THE PRINTING DEPARTMENT IN KWUN TONG WOULD BE ADEQUATELY EQUIPPED SO AS TO PROVIDE THE TRAINING NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE PRINTING INDUSTRY IN WORLD MARKETS.

MR. WU SAID THE PRINTING INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG HAD GROWN AT A RAPID PACE AND KEPT UP WITH TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS.

+THIS PROGRESS WILL CONTINUE AND BECAUSE OF THIS I AM CERTAIN THAT THIS INDUSTRY OFFERS AS GOOD CAREERS PROSPECTS AS ANY OTHER, IF NOT BETTER THAN MOST, TO ANY YOUNG PERSON WHO WANTS AN INTERESTING AND CHALLENGING CAREER, AND TO GET ON IN LIFE.+

IN HIS SPEECH, MR. KINGWELL DESCRIBED THE PRINTING INDUSTRY'S DONATION OF EQUIPMENT AS +A SHINING LIGHT+ WHICH WAS, HE SAID, +TYPICAL OF THE SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE AND SELF-HELP WHICH PERVADES HONG KONG.+

REFERRING TO THE TWO NEW TECHNICAL INSTITUTES NOW IN AN ADVANCED STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION AT KWUN TONG AND KWAI CHUNG, HE SAID THEY WERE SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF CRAFT APPRENTICES AND TECHNICIANS AT SEVERAL LEVELS.

/HE BELIEVED

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HE BELIEVED THAT THESE INSTITUTES WOULD PLAY AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT PART IN THE EDUCATION SCENE IN HONG KONG.

+IT HAS NOW BEEN RECOGNISED THAT CRAFTSMEN AND TECHNICIANS WHO MAKE UP THE BULK OF EMPLOYEES IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, HAVE BEEN SADLY NEGLECTED FROM AN EDUCATION AND TRAINING POINT OF VIEW, AND PRINTING, ALTHOUGH MORE OF A SERVICE INDUSTRY THAN A MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, IS NO EXCEPTION,+ MR. KINGWELL SAID.

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PUMPING STATIONS AT SAI KUNG
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TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO PUMPING STATIONS, PIPELINES AND ACCESS ROADS IN TAI MONG TSAI AND PAK TAM CHUNG IN THE SAI KUNG PENINSULA.

THE PUMPING STATIONS ARE THE FIRST OF EIGHT TO BE BUILT IN CONNECTION WITH THE HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME.

THEY WILL ENABLE FLOOD WATER TO BE PUMPED FROM THE CATCHMENTS TO THE NORTH OF TAI MONG TSAI AND TSAK YUE WU VILLAGES INTO THE HIGH ISLAND RESERVOIR.

WORK ON THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN 15 MONTHS.

AT THE SAME TIME IMPROVEMENT WORKS, INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF WATER CHANNELS AND PIPELINES, WILL BE CARRIED OUT TO IMPROVE THE IRRIGATION SUPPLY OF THE FIELDS AND THE DOMESTIC NEEDS OF VILLAGERS LIVING IN THE AREAS.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1974.

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

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THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (FRIDAY) 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	1.90
S.C. JIEN	GOOD	1.73
PO NGAI	GOOD	---
CHU CHO	GOOD	---
<u>THAI RICE</u>		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	1.72
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	---
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	---
A1 SUPER	GOOD	1.35
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.72
<u>U.S. RICE</u>	GOOD	1.84
<u>AUSTRALIAN RICE</u>	GOOD	1.80
<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 PORK (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT)	-	340 (AVERAGE)

/SUPPLIES AND

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1974

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	NORMAL	4.30	2.10	3.50
BIG-EYES	GOOD	3.00	0.60	2.40
SQUID	LIMITED	5.70	4.20	5.00
HAIR-TAILS	GOOD	2.20	0.50	1.20
LIZARD FISHES	NORMAL	3.00	1.00	2.20
CROAKERS	GOOD	1.80	0.70	1.10
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	NORMAL	2.80	1.80	2.20
MELON COAT	NORMAL	2.30	1.20	1.80
BREAMS	LIMITED	5.00	4.50	4.80
YELLOW BELLY	GOOD	1.80	0.60	1.00
MACKERELS	NORMAL	3.80	2.00	3.00
RED GOAT FISH	LIMITED	3.20	0.50	1.20
FORK-TAIL	NORMAL	1.20	0.60	0.90
HORSE-HEAD	LIMITED	6.80	2.00	5.50
MELON SEED	LIMITED	2.60	1.30	2.00
POMFRETS	LIMITED	8.00	3.50	6.00
GAROPAS	LIMITED	8.50	5.50	7.00
YELLOW CROAKER	SCARCE	7.00	5.50	6.00

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF LOCALLY PRODUCED VEGETABLES

(V.M.O. CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET)

TYPE OF VEGETABLE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
FLOWERING CABBAGE	NORMAL	1.60	0.60	1.20
WHITE CABBAGE	NORMAL	0.80	0.20	0.50
CHINESE LETTUCE	LIMITED	1.40	0.60	1.00
WATER SPINACH	---		NO SALE	
CHINESE KALE	LIMITED	2.00	0.80	1.40
STRING BEANS	SCARCE	2.20	1.60	2.00
SPRING ONION	LIMITED	2.00	0.50	1.20
SPINACH	LIMITED	2.40	0.80	1.80
WATER CRESS	NORMAL	1.80	0.60	1.20
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	NORMAL	0.60	0.15	0.40
CHINESE SPINACH	---		NO SALE	
TOMATO	LIMITED	2.40	1.20	1.80