



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1977

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APPEAL TO PREVENT WATER WASTAGE

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THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. DAVID McDONALD, SAID TODAY THE GOVERNMENT WAS ENLISTING THE AID OF A WIDE RANGE OF CIVIC AND GOVERNMENT BODIES IN A +GRASS-ROOTS+ APPEAL TO PREVENT WATER WASTAGE, AS THE THREAT OF RESTRICTIONS GREW MORE IMMINENT.

HE SAID SUCH BODIES COULD MAKE AN IMMENSE CONTRIBUTION TO THE WATER CONSERVATION EFFORT BY DIRECT CONTACTS WITH A WIDE RANGE OF PEOPLE.

MR. McDONALD EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THESE BODIES IN THE +SAVE WATER+ EFFORT WHILE REPLYING TO QUESTIONS BY THE HON. LEUNG TAT-SHING DURING THIS AFTERNOON'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

MR. LEUNG HAD ASKED IF THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THE EXISTING CONTROLS OVER WATER WASTAGE TO BE ADEQUATE, AND IF NOT, IF IT WOULD CONSIDER INTRODUCING MORE EFFECTIVE MEASURES.

MR. McDONALD SAID THE CONTROL OF WASTE IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM ITSELF WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE P.W.D.'S WATERWORKS WASTE DETECTION UNIT, WHICH CONDUCTED PROGRAMMED TESTS THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE SYSTEM TO DETECT LEAKAGE. HE SAID THESE MEASURES WERE CONSIDERED TO BE ADEQUATE.

HOWEVER, THE CONTROL OF WASTAGE ARISING FROM CARELESS USE OR MISUSE OF WATER BY THE PUBLIC WAS PRIMARILY A MATTER OF EDUCATION.

+AS SUCH, WASTAGE IS VERY MUCH IN THE CONSUMERS' HANDS,+ HE SAID.

LAST WEEK THE P.W.D.'S DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES HAD SOUGHT THE HELP OF THE NEWS MEDIA IN URGING THE PUBLIC TO CONSERVE WATER, AND IN INDICATING EVERYDAY MEANS BY WHICH CONSUMPTION COULD BE REDUCED.

A FURTHER EFFORT WAS NOW BEING MADE TO ATTACK THE PROBLEM AT THE GRASS-ROOTS LEVEL WITH THE HELP OF VARIOUS CIVIC AND GOVERNMENT BODIES.

+APPROACHES HAVE BEEN MADE TO KAIFONGS, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES, AS WELL AS GOVERNMENT BODIES SUCH AS THE HOUSING AND HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENTS, ENLISTING THEIR AID TO OBTAIN VOLUNTARY CO-OPERATION IN AVOIDING WASTAGE,+ HE SAID.

+AS FAR AS ENFORCEMENT IS CONCERNED, ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST OFFENDERS UNDER THE PROVISION OF THE WATERWORKS ORDINANCE.

/+THE STAFF

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+THE STAFF OF THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ALERTED TO THE NEED FOR VIGILANCE, AND THE PUBLIC'S ASSISTANCE HAS ALSO BEEN REQUESTED IN BRINGING TO THE DEPARTMENT'S NOTICE ANY INSTANCES OF WASTAGE.+

MR. MCDONALD SAID THE PROSECUTION UNIT'S ACTIVITIES HAD INCREASED LATELY AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT SECONDMENT TO IT OF ADDITIONAL STAFF.

+FOR THE PRESENT,+ HE SAID, +THESE CONTROLS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE ADEQUATE -- ALTHOUGH THEY ARE KEPT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW.+

REPLYING TO A QUESTION ASKED BY DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG ON BEHALF OF HIS UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUE THE HON. LYDIA DUNN, MR. MCDONALD TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE OPERATIONS OF THE LOK ON PAI DESALTER WOULD HALVE THE SEVERITY OF POSSIBLE WATER RESTRICTIONS DURING THE NEXT DRY SEASON.

HE SAID THAT IF RAINFALL DURING THE SUMMER WAS NINE PER CENT BELOW AVERAGE -- AS FORECAST BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY -- SUPPLY WOULD BE LIMITED TO ABOUT 16 HOURS A DAY THROUGHOUT THE DRY SEASON.

+WITHOUT THE DESALTER CONTRIBUTION, RESTRICTIONS DURING THE DRY SEASON WOULD BE MORE SEVERE, WITH SUPPLY BEING REDUCED TO ABOUT EIGHT HOURS PER DAY,+ HE SAID.

MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT DURING THE 12-MONTH PERIOD ENDING APRIL 30, 1978 THE DESALTER COULD CONTRIBUTE 10,700 MILLION GALLONS TO HONG KONG'S OVERALL WATER RESOURCES.

IN REPLY TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION ABOUT FUTURE PLANS FOR INCREASING THE CAPACITY OF THE DESALTER, MR. MCDONALD SAID: +IN DUE COURSE THE INTENTION WOULD BE TO INCREASE THE PRESENT DESALTER UNIT FROM A 40 MILLION GALLON PER DAY OUTPUT TO A 60 MILLION GALLON PER DAY OUTPUT.+

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WELFARE AGENCIES ENCOURAGED TO
SET UP MORE CHILD CARE CENTRES

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PROGRESS HAS NOT BEEN TOO SATISFACTORY IN THE REGISTRATION OF PRIVATE CHILD CARE CENTRES, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, THE HON. THOMAS LEE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. KO SIU-WAH ABOUT THE PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CHILD CARE CENTRES REGULATIONS, MR. LEE SAID: +OUT OF THE 90 SUCH CENTRES WHICH HAVE APPLIED FOR REGISTRATION, ONLY 30 OF THEM WILL BE ABLE TO COMPLETE REGISTRATION BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH. THIRTY-ONE CENTRES BEING GROSSLY UNSUITABLE AND BASICALLY UNREGISTRABLE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO CLOSE.

+THE OTHERS ARE STILL MAKING IMPROVEMENTS TO THEIR PREMISES TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE.+

MR. LEE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT AS FAR AS CHILD CARE CENTRES RUN BY WELFARE ORGANISATIONS WERE CONCERNED, PROGRESS HAD BEEN SATISFACTORY.

ALL THE 100 CHILD CARE CENTRES IN THIS CATEGORY HAD APPLIED FOR REGISTRATION UNDER THE ORDINANCE, HE SAID. IT WAS EXPECTED THAT ABOUT 81 WOULD HAVE COMPLETED REGISTRATION BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH.

+THE OTHERS ARE ACTIVELY MAKING ALTERATIONS TO THEIR PREMISES WITH FINANCIAL HELP FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF PUBLIC WORKS AND FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENTS,+ HE ADDED.

ANSWERING ANOTHER QUESTION FROM MISS KO CONCERNING THE PROBLEMS OF CHILDREN BEING DISPLACED BY THE CLOSURE OF SUB-STANDARD NURSERIES, THE DIRECTOR ASSURED THAT +WHEN WE TAKE ACTION AGAINST ANY OF THE CENTRES WHICH MUST BE CLOSED DOWN, OUR SOCIAL WORKERS WILL LOOK INTO THE INDIVIDUAL CASES OF CHILDREN INVOLVED AND DISCUSS WITH THE PARENTS ABOUT THE NEED FOR PLACEMENT OF THEIR CHILDREN.+

+IN CASES WHERE NO SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT CAN BE MADE BY THEIR PARENTS AND WHERE A CHILD IS IN NEED OF CARE OR PROTECTION, TEMPORARY INSTITUTIONAL CARE WILL BE PROVIDED,+ HE SAID.

MR. LEE DISCLOSED THAT DURING THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR WELFARE AGENCIES WOULD BE SETTING UP NEW NURSERIES WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE LOTTERIES FUND AND GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION TO PROVIDE 1,100 NEW PLACES, MAKING A TOTAL OF 11,000 PLACES PROVIDING CHILD CARE SERVICE.

IN ADDITION, WELFARE AGENCIES WERE BEING ENCOURAGED TO SET UP MORE CENTRES AS PREMISES IN NEW HOUSING ESTATES BECOME AVAILABLE, HE SAID.

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+THIS WILL TO SOME EXTENT MEET THE DEMAND FOR SERVICE CREATED BY THE CLOSURE OF THE UNREGISTRABLE CENTRES, WHICH ARE USUALLY RATHER SMALL CENTRES, EACH CATERING FOR AN AVERAGE OF 10 CHILDREN,+ MR. LEE SAID.

+I FURTHER UNDERSTAND FROM THE CHILD CARE CENTRE INSPECTORATE THAT MANY PARENTS, INSTEAD OF SENDING THEIR CHILDREN TO SUB-STANDARD NURSERIES, ARE NOW USING KINDERGARTENS OR THE SERVICES OF CHILD-MINDERS AND BABY-SITTERS. ALL THESE DEVELOPMENTS WILL HELP TO EASE THE DEMAND CREATED BY THE CLOSURE OF THE UNREGISTRABLE CHILD CARE CENTRES.+

IN THE MEANTIME, MR. LEE SAID HE HAD DISCUSSION WITH THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE ON A PROPOSAL TO INVITE VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS TO ESTABLISH NON-PROFIT MAKING AND SELF-SUPPORTING NURSERIES IN BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS TO CATER FOR CHILDREN OF WORKING MOTHERS WHO ARE ABLE AND WILLING TO PAY AN ECONOMIC FEE FOR THE SERVICE.

+ALTHOUGH NO SUBVENTION SHOULD BE REQUIRED FOR SUCH NURSERIES, CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO ASSIST THESE PROJECTS WITH GRANTS FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND TOWARDS THEIR INITIAL CAPITAL OUTLAY ON THE GROUND THAT WHILE NO SUBSIDY ON RECURRENT EXPENDITURE IS JUSTIFIED, THERE IS A SOCIAL REASON FOR US TO ASSIST IN THE SETTING UP OF A GOOD CHILD CARE SERVICE FOR WORKING MOTHERS,+ HE SAID.

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REGULATIONS TO PROTECT WORKERS' EYES

EMPLOYERS IN FUTURE WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE SUITABLE PROTECTION FOR THE EYES OF WORKERS IN CERTAIN INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES UNDER NEW REGULATIONS APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE NEW LAW, WHICH CARRIES WITH IT A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5,000 FOR AN EMPLOYER AND \$2,000 FOR AN EMPLOYEE FOR ANY BREACHES, REQUIRES EMPLOYERS TO KEEP PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT IN GOOD CONDITION AND WORKERS TO REPORT ANY LOSS, DAMAGE OR DEFECT OF THE EQUIPMENT.

BOTH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THAT THE EQUIPMENT PROVIDED IS PROPERLY AND FULLY USED.

IN MOVING THE MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE NEW LEGISLATION — THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (PROTECTION OF EYES) REGULATIONS 1977 — THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON. IAN PRICE SAID THAT ACCIDENTS TO EYES WERE ALL TOO FREQUENT, AND IN RECENT YEARS THE NUMBER OF WORKERS WHO HAD RECEIVED EYE INJURIES IN THE COURSE OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT HAD RISEN ANNUALLY BY ABOUT 12 PER CENT FROM 600 IN 1973 TO 836 IN 1976.

SAID MR. PRICE: +FORTUNATELY NONE OF THESE WERE FATAL.

+HOWEVER, ANY EYE INJURY, EVEN A TRIVIAL ONE, IS HIGHLY UNPLEASANT, AND SEVERE INJURY TO BOTH EYES CAN RESULT IN A 100 PER CENT LOSS OF EARNING CAPACITY.

+IT WAS WITH THESE FACTORS IN MIND THAT I DECIDED TO MAKE THESE REGULATIONS TO REQUIRE EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE SUITABLE PROTECTION FOR THE EYES OF WORKERS IN CERTAIN INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES KNOWN TO BE PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS TO THE EYES,+ HE SAID.

MR. PRICE ADDED THAT APPROVED SPECIFICATIONS FOR EYE PROTECTORS, EYE SHIELDS AND FIXED SHIELDS WILL SOON BE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE. THESE SPECIFICATIONS WILL COME INTO EFFECT 90 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION.

IN SUPPORTING THE MOTION, THE HON. JAMES WU FELT THAT THE MESSAGE OF THE REGULATIONS SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE SHOP-FLOOR FOR THE CONSTANT ATTENTION AND REMINDER OF BOTH THE MANAGEMENT AND IN PARTICULAR, THE WORKERS, BY THE USE OF COLOURFUL POSTERS.

HE SAID EXPERIENCE HAD SHOWN THAT ALL TOO OFTEN, WORKERS DID NOT BOTHER TO USE OR WEAR PROTECTIVE GEARS BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT ACCUSTOMED TO THEM, THEREBY RESULTING IN TRAGIC ACCIDENTS THAT COULD NEVER BE REMEDIED.

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USE OF PRIVATE CARS MAY BECOME MORE RESTRICTIVE
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THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR. PETER LEEDS, SAID TODAY THAT THE PRIVATE CAR WOULD REMAIN PART OF THE TRANSPORT SYSTEM, AS IT WAS IN MANY CASES A NECESSARY MEANS OF TRANSPORT.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG EAST IN THE LEE GARDENS HOTEL, MR. LEEDS SAID THAT AT PRESENT PRIVATE CARS TOOK UP ABOUT 60 PER CENT OF THE ROAD SPACE AND THE PROJECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE WERE BASED ON THE PREMISE THAT THIS ALLOCATION WOULD REMAIN ABOUT THE SAME.

HE SAID THAT IN OUR CONGESTED CONDITIONS THIS WAS NOT A BAD SHARE, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO REGULATE THE USE OF THE ROADS MUCH MORE THAN HAD BEEN NECESSARY IN THE PAST.

+IT IS A STRAIGHT FORWARD ECONOMIC QUESTION OF MAKING THE BEST USE OF A COMMODITY WHICH IS IN SHORT SUPPLY,+ HE SAID.

MR. LEEDS POINTED OUT THAT OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES HAD INCREASED BY 93 PER CENT WHILE THE ROAD MILEAGE HAD GONE UP BY ABOUT 15 PER CENT.

HE SAID THAT WITHIN THE MAIN URBAN AREA THE OPPORTUNITY FOR INCREASING THE CAPACITY OF THE ROADS, EXCEPT WHERE RECLAMATION FROM THE SEA WAS POSSIBLE, WAS OBVIOUSLY LIMITED UNLESS THE COMMUNITY WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT WHOLESALE DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY TO MAKE WAY FOR NEW ROADS, AND THIS SEEMED HIGHLY UNLIKELY NOR DESIRABLE.

IMPROVEMENTS WOULD OF COURSE BE MADE, AND HE SAID THAT THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAD AN IMPRESSIVE PROGRAMME BUT THE BASIC FACT REMAINED THAT WITHOUT RESTRAINT THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES WOULD CONTINUE TO INCREASE FASTER THAN THE ROAD CAPACITY.

MR. LEEDS SOUNDED A NOTE OF WARNING SAYING THAT WHILE PRIVATE MOTORING WOULD REMAIN IT WOULD BECOME MORE RESTRICTIVE AS TO WHERE AND WHEN VEHICLES MAY BE USED AND IT WAS LIKELY TO BECOME MORE EXPENSIVE.

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FARES OF PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILITY OF CONTROLLING THE FARES OF PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, BUT IT HAS DECIDED AGAINST DOING SO ON THE ADVICE OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. S.L. CHEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. JONES SAID THAT PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WERE A NON-FRANCHISED FORM OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

+THEY COMPETE WITH EACH OTHER AND I MIGHT ADD ALSO WITH LARGE BUSES, AND ARE PERMITTED TO VARY THEIR ROUTES AND FREQUENCIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR ESTIMATE OF THE DEMAND FOR THEIR SERVICES,+ HE ADDED.

TO CONTROL FARES, MR. JONES SAID, WOULD, IN EFFECT, MEAN DENYING THE COMPETITIVE NATURE OF THIS FORM OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT, WITH ITS FLEXIBLE ROUTES AND WITH PASSENGERS BEING GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY OF BEING PICKED UP OR SET DOWN AT ANY POINT.

+THE FACT IS THAT COMPETITION AMONG PLB'S IS NORMALLY SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE A REASONABLE UNIFORMITY OF FARES,+ HE SAID. +IT IS ONLY IN PERIODS OF VERY HIGH DEMAND THAT FARE LEVELS CAN BE PUSHED HIGHER.+

MR. JONES EXPLAINED THAT WHAT THIS AMOUNTED TO WAS NO MORE THAN THE OPERATION OF NORMAL MARKET FORCES AND, IN THAT RESPECT, WAS NO DIFFERENT FROM THE FIXING OF THE PRICES OF VEGETABLES OR FISH.

HE FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO DEVISE A SCHEME FOR CONTROLLING THE FARES OF PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WHILE AT THE SAME TIME RETAINING THE FLEXIBLE NATURE OF THEIR OPERATIONS.

+GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE BUSINESS, IT WOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT TO DEVISE MEANS TO CIRCUMVENT ANY CONTROLS AND THEY WOULD THEREFORE NOT BE EASILY ENFORCEABLE,+ HE ADDED.

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HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION IN POLYTECHNIC
UNDER CONSIDERATION

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THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE POLYTECHNIC THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION WITHIN THE POLYTECHNIC TO PROVIDE PARA-MEDICAL TRAINING IN HONG KONG.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. E.P. HO IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. HO SAID WITH THIS IN VIEW THE POLYTECHNIC HAD COMMENCED RECRUITMENT OF A SUITABLE EXPERT TO PLAN THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A NEW HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION.

+THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IS ALSO WORKING ON OUR REQUIREMENT FOR PHARMACISTS OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS.+

HOWEVER, HE ADDED: +GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO SEEK THE VIEWS OF THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AS WELL AS THOSE OF THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE ON THE BEST WAY OF MEETING THIS REQUIREMENT BEFORE COMING TO ANY FINAL DECISION IN THE MATTER.+

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GOVERNOR PAYS TRIBUTE TO MR. PRICE

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, THIS AFTERNOON PAID TRIBUTE TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. IAN PRICE WHO WILL RETIRE SHORTLY AFTER 12 YEARS SERVICE WITH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR MURRAY SAID THAT MR. PRICE'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS ADVANCING LABOUR LEGISLATION AND IMPROVING THE WELFARE OF THE LABOUR FORCE HAD BEEN SO GREAT THAT A SHORT SPEECH COULD NOT POSSIBLY COMPRISE AN ADEQUATE TRIBUTE.

+WHETHER THE FIELD IS INDUSTRIAL TRAINING, INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OR LABOUR RELATIONS, MR. PRICE HAS MADE A DECISIVE PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION, AND WILL LEAVE HONG KONG A BETTER PLACE THAN HE FOUND IT,+ HE SAID.

+THESE WIDE-RANGING AND CAREFULLY THOUGHT-OUT REFORMS THAT HE HAS INTRODUCED COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED WITHOUT HIS EXPERT KNOWLEDGE, QUIET DETERMINATION AND COMPLETE DEDICATION.+

SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF HIS UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES, DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG ALSO PRAISED MR. PRICE FOR THE +VALUABLE+ CONTRIBUTIONS HE HAD GIVEN IN BRINGING ABOUT +SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR ALMOST TWO MILLION WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS OF THIS COMMUNITY.+

DR. CHUNG SAID THAT WHEN MR. PRICE CAME TO HONG KONG FROM MALAYSIA IN 1965, HE BROUGHT WITH HIM A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE IN THE SPECIALIST FIELD OF WORKMEN'S WELFARE AND BENEFITS.

+HIS EXPERTISE IN THIS FIELD WAS PARTICULARLY USEFUL TO US IN HONG KONG DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS WHEN MUCH EMPHASIS HAS BEEN PUT IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF OUR LABOUR LEGISLATION,+ HE SAID.

+DURING THESE MANY YEARS HE HAS HELPED TO FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT WHAT I THINK MAY REASONABLY BE DESCRIBED AS FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES .

+IF SOME OF THESE LEGISLATION MAY NOT HAVE BEEN UNIVERSALLY WELL RECEIVED OUTSIDE THIS COUNCIL, THIS IS UNDERSTANDABLE, AS LABOUR LEGISLATION BY ITS NATURE IS CONTROVERSIAL.+

DR. CHUNG ALSO CREDITED THE COMMISSIONER FOR +A GREAT VOLUME OF SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION, WITH THE LAUDABLE AIM OF ENSURING THAT THE CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT OF OUR WORK FORCE, PARTICULARLY THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS, ARE MADE BOTH ADEQUATE AND REASONABLY SAFE.+

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LANDLORDS OF CLOSED BUILDINGS SHOULD ASSIST TENANTS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS OFFERED VARIOUS KINDS OF ASSISTANCE TO TENANTS AND WORKERS AFFECTED BY THE CLOSURE OF THE CHINA ENGINEERS BUILDING IN KWUN TONG, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR. THE HON. HENRY HU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. JONES SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD QUITE PROPERLY CONFINED ITS ASSISTANCE TO ADVISING ON THE AVAILABILITY OF OTHER INDUSTRIAL PREMISES IN THE EAST KOWLOON AREA, OFFERING MEDIATION BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES AND PROVIDING ADVICE REGARDING ALTERNATIVE JOBS TO THOSE WORKERS WISHING TO SEEK THEM.

HOWEVER, THE SECRETARY SAID THAT WHEN A DANGEROUS INDUSTRIAL BUILDING HAD TO BE CLOSED, THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASSISTING TENANTS MUST LIE WITH THE LANDLORD.

+THIS IS BECAUSE THE BUILDING IS OWNED BY HIM AND HE HAS CONTRACTED TO ACCOMMODATE THE TENANTS IN IT IN RETURN FOR THEIR PAYMENT OF RENT.

+SO, IN THIS SORT OF CASE, THE GOVERNMENT'S CHIEF CONCERN MUST BE TO SEE THAT THE LANDLORD FULFILLS HIS RESPONSIBILITIES TO HIS TENANTS,+ HE SAID.

IT WAS NOT RIGHT, MR. JONES SAID, THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD RELIEVE HIM OF THESE RESPONSIBILITIES, AT THE EXPENSE OF THE TAXPAYERS, AND, BY SO DOING, TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO EVADE SIMILAR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE FUTURE.

HE ADDED THAT IN THE CASE OF THE CLOSURE OF THE CHINA ENGINEERS BUILDING, THE LANDLORD HAD OFFERED ALL THE DISPLACED TENANTS ASSISTANCE IN REMOVING THEIR FACTORY EQUIPMENT AND IN PROVIDING TEMPORARY STORAGE FOR SUCH EQUIPMENT.

+HE HAS ALSO ASSISTED THE TENANTS TO FIND ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION TO ENABLE THEM TO RESTART THEIR OPERATIONS,+ MR. JONES SAID.

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WEATHER BROADCASTING SERVICE

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THE DIRECTOR OF ROYAL OBSERVATORY WILL BE CONDUCTING TEST BROADCASTS TO DETERMINE THE TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY OF A SEPARATE AND CONTINUOUS BROADCAST OF TIME SIGNALS AND WEATHER INFORMATION AIMED AT INTRODUCING AN EXPERIMENTAL WEATHER BROADCASTING SERVICE LATER THIS YEAR.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. F.K. LI, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. CHEUNG HAD ASKED IF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER ESTABLISHING A CONTINUOUS SERVICE BROADCASTING ALL WEATHER CONDITIONS, AS WELL AS LANDSLIDES, FIRES AND OTHER ACTUAL OR IMPENDING DANGERS, ROAD CONDITIONS AND OTHER INFORMATION OF WHICH TIMELY DISSEMINATION IS ESSENTIAL.

MR. LI SAID IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO SAY NOW WHETHER THIS SERVICE SHOULD BECOME PERMANENT OR COVER THE SCOPE ENVISAGED BY MR. CHEUNG UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT HAD HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASSESS WHETHER THIS EXPERIMENTAL SERVICE WOULD ATTRACT SIGNIFICANT AUDIENCES AND WHETHER IT MIGHT DUPLICATE SOME OF THE SERVICES NOW PROVIDED BY RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG.

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CRIME IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED

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ACTION BY THE POLICE AND BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HAS RESULTED IN A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF CRIME COMMITTED IN HOUSING ESTATES AND PLAYGROUNDS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. KO SIU-WAH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THE NUMBER OF CRIMES REPORTED IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR WAS 2,350 COMPARED WITH A QUARTERLY AVERAGE OF 3,190 FOR 1976, A 26 PER CENT DROP.

HE ATTRIBUTED THIS IMPROVEMENT TO THE PROVISION OF 20 NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING UNITS AND 33 REPORTING CENTRES IN ESTATES.

MR. DAVIES ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT CRIME IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AND PLAYGROUNDS IN THOSE AREAS HAD NOT BEEN SUFFICIENTLY CONTAINED.

+CRIME WILL ONLY BE CONSIDERED TO BE SUFFICIENTLY CONTAINED IN AN AREA WHEN IT HAS BEEN ERADICATED,+ HE ADDED.

REPLYING TO ANOTHER QUESTION ABOUT FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE POLICE PRESENCE IN HOUSING ESTATES, MR. DAVIES REITERATED THAT +IT IS NECESSARY TO CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS ON THE AREAS OF GREATEST NEED,+

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GOVT. AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN CONSTANT DIALOGUE

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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, THE HON. THOMAS LEE SAID THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSTANTLY IN DIALOGUE WITH THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN ALL AREAS OF SOCIAL WELFARE, INCLUDING SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. CHEONG-LEEN HAD ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WILL SPONSOR, OR SUPPORT THE SPONSORING OF A SEMINAR ON YOUTH SERVICES DURING 1977-78 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A MORE COHERENT, MORE MEANINGFUL AND MORE COMPREHENSIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WHICH ARE ACTIVE IN PROVIDING DEVELOPMENTAL, REHABILITATION AND PREVENTIVE SOCIAL SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

+THE COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE REGULARLY ORGANISES SEMINARS ON SOCIAL WELFARE MATTERS WHICH ARE OF CONCERN TO THE COMMUNITY,+ MR. LEE SAID.

+THE GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATES IN SUCH SEMINARS BY PROVIDING PAPERS AND SPEAKERS AND BY MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO DISCUSSIONS. IF THE COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICES PROPOSES TO HOLD A SEMINAR ON SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, GOVERNMENT WILL NO DOUBT SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE USUAL MANNER.+

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MARTIAL ARTS -- PART OF GOVT. RECREATIONAL PROGRAMME

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MARTIAL ARTS ALREADY FORM PART OF THE PROGRAMME IN THE GOVERNMENT'S PROMOTION OF RECREATION AND SPORT AND, OF THE YOUTH ACTIVITIES RUN IN COMMUNITY AND YOUTH CENTRES, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. F.K. LI, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+TAI KIK (TAI CHI), WHICH IS THE MOST COMMON AND POPULAR FORM OF MARTIAL ARTS PRACTISED IN HONG KONG, IS AMONG THE MANY ACTIVITIES ORGANISED AND PROMOTED BY THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE,+ HE SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN.

THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBER HAD ASKED: +WILL GOVERNMENT TAKE STEPS TO INCLUDE GENUINE MARTIAL ARTS ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE BROAD FRAMEWORK OF GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO PROMOTE PHYSICAL RECREATION, SPORTS AND CULTURE?+

IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, MR. LI REVEALED, A TOTAL OF 143 TAI CHI CLASSES WERE ORGANISED WITH OVER 25,000 PARTICIPANTS. THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE HAD RECENTLY EXTENDED ITS ACTIVITIES TO OTHER FORMS OF MARTIAL ARTS AND SINCE DECEMBER 1976, 11 COURSES HAVE BEEN ORGANISED WITH OVER 500 PARTICIPANTS.

FURTHERMORE, THERE ARE NOW OVER 27 MARTIAL ARTS CLASSES BEING RUN IN COMMUNITY AND YOUTH CENTRES BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WITH OVER 580 PARTICIPANTS.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1977

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EPCOM SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS
LOOK AT STREAM POLLUTION PROBLEMS IN N.T.
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MEMBERS OF THE WATER AND LAND POLLUTION SUB-COMMITTEE OF EPCOM, LED BY THEIR CHAIRMAN, MR. H.M.G. FORSGATE, WENT TO SHEUNG SHUI AND TA KWU LING THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING TO LOOK AT STREAM POLLUTION PROBLEMS AND SOME OF THE WORK BEING DONE TO ALLEVIATE THEM.

AFTER A SHORT BRIEFING BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MR. CLIVE OXLEY, THE PARTY MADE THEIR FIRST STOP AT THE VACATED TANNERY SITES BY THE RIVER SUTLEJ IN SHEUNG SHUI.

THE TANNERY STRUCTURES THERE HAVE BEEN REMOVED AND THE GROUND HAS BEEN LEVELLED AND COVERED BY A LAYER OF SOIL. THE RIVER ITSELF, PREVIOUSLY HEAVILY POLLUTED BY TANNERY WASTE, HAS BEEN GIVEN A THOROUGH CLEAN-UP BY THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THERE IS HARDLY ANY BAD SMELL, ALTHOUGH IT STILL HAS A PROBLEM FROM PIG WASTE.

PLANS ARE IN HAND TO TURN THE CLEARED LAND, WHICH IS CONVENIENTLY LOCATED NEAR COMMUNITY AND TRANSPORT FACILITIES, INTO PUBLIC HOUSING SITES.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE MOVED ON NEXT TO THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT'S PIG BREEDING CENTRE IN TA KWU LING WHERE THE DEPARTMENT IS TRYING OUT DIFFERENT METHODS OF DISPOSING PIG WASTE AND MAKING USE OF IT AS FERTILISER.

ONE COMMON METHOD IS TO COLLECT THE PIG WASTE IN A BUNKER-LIKE SUMP TO LET IT MATURE AND TURN INTO MANURE.

PIG BREEDERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO ARE ABOUT TO LAY OUT THEIR FARMS, ARE ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE THESE BUNKERS AND NOT TO LET THEIR PIG WASTE DISCHARGE INTO STREAM COURSES.

ANOTHER METHOD BEING TRIED OUT IS A SIMPLE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM CONSTRUCTED INEXPENSIVELY AND MORE SUITABLE FOR BIGGER PIG FARMS.

AFTER LEAVING THE BREEDING CENTRE, THE PARTY MADE A FINAL INSPECTION OF PART OF THE STREAM COURSE OF THE RIVER INDUS WHERE THE WATER IS HEAVILY CONTAMINATED BY ANOTHER POLLUTING SOURCE-- DYEING WORKS SET UP BY THE RIVER'S BANK.

THE USD IS ABOUT TO LAUNCH A TWO TO THREE MONTHS CLEAN-UP PROGRAMME TO RESCUE THE RIVER AND EXPECTS TO REMOVE SOME 40,000 BASKETS OF SOLID WASTE FROM THE RIVER COURSE.

THE EPCOM SUB-COMMITTEE WERE ACCOMPANIED ON THEIR VISIT THIS MORNING BY OFFICIALS FROM THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT'S ENVIRONMENT BRANCH. THEY WERE LATER JOINED BY THE USD DEPUTY DIRECTOR (N.T.), MR. H.S. GREWAL AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, DR. C.T. WONG.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1977-

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BILLS PASSED
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TWO BILLS PASSED THEIR COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON.

THEY WERE THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 AND THE INDUSTRIAL AND REFORMATORY SCHOOLS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977.

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WATER CUT
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WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PARTS OF YUEN LONG WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON FRIDAY (MAY 20) TO ALLOW WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TO CARRY OUT NIGHT LEAKAGE TESTS THERE.

AFFECTED ARE THOSE PREMISES IN TAI TONG ROAD MAIN NULLAH, AND TAI TONG ROAD, INCLUDING TIN LIU TSUEN, MUK KIU TAU TSUEN, SHUI TSUI LO WAI, HUNG TSO TIN TSUEN, SHUI TSUI SAN TSUEN, NAM HANG, TAI TONG TSUEN AND PAK SHA TSUEN.

ALSO AFFECTED WILL BE THOSE PREMISES IN ON NING ROAD, AND MAIN NULLAH, INCLUDING TAI KIU ROAD, WANG CHAU ROAD, YEUNG UK SAN TSUEN, WANG CHAU, YEUNG UK TSUEN, LAM UK TSUEN, TUNG TAU TSUEN AND FUK HING TSUEN.

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