



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1976

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CALL FOR JOINT MATRICULATION EXAM. AND SHORTER COURSES
IN CHINESE UNIVERSITY
* * * * *

THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG, TODAY CALLED FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A COMMON MATRICULATION EXAMINATION FOR THE TWO UNIVERSITIES AND THE REDUCTION FROM FOUR TO THREE YEARS THE DURATION OF THE COURSES IN THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY.

BOTH PROPOSALS WERE SUPPORTED BY REV. THE HON. JOYCE BENNETT AND THE FIRST RECEIVED FURTHER SUPPORT FROM THE HON. MISS KO SIU-WAH.

SPEAKING DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG BILL 1976, DR. CHUNG SAID THERE WAS AN URGENT NEED FOR RATIONALISATION AND UNIFICATION OF THE TWO UNIVERSITIES IN HONG KONG.

HE POINTED OUT THAT AT PRESENT THE STUDENT POPULATION IN EACH OF THE TWO UNIVERSITIES WAS ABOUT 4,000 WHEREAS THERE WERE ABOUT 285,000 PUPILS IN THE ANGLO-CHINESE SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND ONLY ABOUT 64,000 PUPILS IN THE CHINESE SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR THE FIVE FORMS.

HE SAID THERE WERE A NUMBER OF CONSEQUENCES OF THIS IMBALANCE AND THAT +ONE OF THESE IS, OBVIOUSLY, THE EXTREMELY KEEN COMPETITION AMONG THE PUPILS OF ANGLO-CHINESE SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR PLACES IN THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG+.

+ANOTHER CONSEQUENCE IS THE DIVERSION OF A LARGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS FROM ANGLO-CHINESE SECONDARY SCHOOLS INTO THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY WHERE THE COURSES AND LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION HAVE BEEN DESIGNED BASICALLY FOR STUDENTS FROM THE CHINESE SECONDARY SCHOOLS,+ HE ADDED.

DR. CHUNG SAID THAT UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM, +A LARGE PROPORTION OF OUR STUDENTS HAVE TO ATTEND THREE MAJOR PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS IN THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS.

+WE MUST RECTIFY THIS UNDESIRABLE SITUATION WITHOUT DELAY IF WE ARE TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF BOTH OUR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION,+ HE STRESSED.

DR. CHUNG SAID THE UNOFFICIALS SUPPORTED THE GENERAL BASIC PRINCIPLE RECOMMENDED BY THE FULTON COMMISSION.

+WE FEEL THAT THE PRESENT FEDERAL NATURE OF THE UNIVERSITY MUST BE CHANGED SO THAT ALL POWERS AND FUNCTIONS IN THE GOVERNING OF THE UNIVERSITY AND THE COLLEGES ARE VESTED IN THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL AND SENATE.

+WE UNDERSTAND THAT AT ONE TIME MANY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS IN THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY WERE QUADRUPLED,+ HE SAID.

/+IT WAS

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+IT WAS REALLY WASTEFUL AND, AS THE UNIVERSITY IS FINANCED FROM PUBLIC FUNDS, EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO IMPROVE ITS EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS,+ HE ADDED.

DR. CHUNG SAID THAT AFTER SOME LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE AD HOC GROUP OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS AND THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND THE THEOLOGICAL COUNCIL OF CHUNG CHI COLLEGE, A LARGE NUMBER OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS WAS AGREED TO THE BILL.

+WE WERE INFORMED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL THAT AT ITS MEETING ON NOVEMBER 2, THE COUNCIL HAD DISCUSSED THIS BILL AND RESOLVED, WITH TWO ABSTENTIONS, TO ACCEPT THE BILL.

+AS FAR AS UNITED COLLEGE IS CONCERNED, IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT ITS BOARD OF TRUSTEES HAS NO OBJECTION TO THIS BILL IN PRINCIPLE,+ HE SAID.

THE ONLY PARTY STILL STANDING FAST ON ITS OBJECTION, HE ADDED, WAS THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF NEW ASIA COLLEGE.

AMONG THE AMENDMENTS PROPOSED OR SUPPORTED BY THE UNOFFICIALS ARE :

- * A POST OF PRO-CHANCELLOR SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY.
- * THE HEADS OF COLLEGES, THE DEANS OF FACULTIES AND THE DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL SHOULD BE INCLUDED AS OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY, AND THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL SHOULD BE EMPOWERED TO APPOINT, FROM AMONG THE REGULAR STAFF OF THE UNIVERSITY, MORE THAN TWO PRO-VICE-CHANCELLORS AND TO PRESCRIBE THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE PRO-VICE-CHANCELLORS.
- * THE HEAD OF A COLLEGE, OTHER THAN THE FIRST HEAD, SHOULD BE APPOINTED FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS AND SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR RE-APPOINTMENT FOR A MAXIMUM OF TWO FURTHER PERIODS, EACH OF THREE YEARS.
- * THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE SENATE IN RESPECT OF THE ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS TO COLLEGES AND THE CONDUCT OF STUDENT-ORIENTATED TEACHING SHOULD BE ADDED TO THE BILL.

OTHER PROPOSED AMENDMENTS CONCERN THE ELIGIBILITY OF SENIOR LECTURERS FOR ELECTION TO BECOME DEAN OF FACULTY AND THE POWER AND DUTY OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF CHUNG CHI COLLEGE TO APPOINT THE CHAPLAIN OF THE CHAPEL.

SHARING DR. CHUNG'S VIEW THAT THERE SHOULD BE A COMBINED MATRICULATION EXAMINATION FOR THE TWO UNIVERSITIES, REV. JOYCE BENNETT SAID THAT AT PRESENT STUDENTS EXHAUSTED THEMSELVES STUDYING TWO DIFFERENT COURSES AND NOT PERFORMING WELL IN EITHER.

/SHE FELT

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SHE FELT THAT PROVISIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE COMBINED CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION COULD BE INTRODUCED WITHOUT MUCH DIFFICULTY INTO THE SIXTH FORM COURSES.

SHE ALSO SHARED DR. CHUNG'S OPINION THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CUT THE COURSE AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY FROM FOUR TO THREE YEARS.

APART FROM FURTHER REDUCING COSTS AND IMPROVING THE ACADEMIC QUALITY OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY, SHE SAID, SUCH A MOVE WOULD ENABLE SOME 1,000 MORE STUDENTS TO HAVE UNIVERSITY EDUCATION FOR THE SAME COST.

REV. BENNETT POINTED OUT IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT THE CONSTITUENT COLLEGES SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PRESERVE THE AIMS AND SPIRIT OF THEIR FOUNDERS AND THAT OUR TWO UNIVERSITIES SHOULD PROVIDE DIFFERENT SYSTEMS.

+WITH THE STRESS ON STUDENT-ORIENTATED TEACHING IN THE COLLEGES THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY COULD WELL DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF EDUCATION THE ENVY OF THE OLDER UNIVERSITY AND A SYSTEM THAT COULD HAVE GREAT INFLUENCE ON SECONDARY EDUCATION,+ SHE SAID.

ALSO SUPPORTING DR. CHUNG'S PROPOSAL THAT THERE SHOULD BE A JOINT MATRICULATION EXAMINATION, THE HON. MISS KO SIU-WAH SAID THE DISADVANTAGES OF FORM SIX STUDENTS TAKING TWO DIFFERENT MATRICULATION EXAMINATIONS IN THE SAME OR IN TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS WERE OBVIOUS.

+STUDENTS HAVE TO PUT UP WITH INTENSIFIED MENTAL AND PHYSICAL STRESS, AND THE CUMULATIVE EXAMINATION ENTRY FEES ARE A TREMENDOUS FINANCIAL BURDEN TO A GOOD NUMBER OF THEM,+ SHE SAID.

MISS KO SAID THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENT-ORIENTATED TEACHING WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF TEACHING IN THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY.

+IN A BROAD SENSE, STUDENT-ORIENTATED TEACHING IS DESIRABLE AT ANY EDUCATION LEVEL, AND CARRIES A SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE AT UNIVERSITY LEVEL.

+AS WE UNDERSTAND, UNIVERSITY EDUCATION AIMS AT MORE THAN JUST TRANSMISSION OF KNOWLEDGE. IT IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT STAGE IN THE PROCESS OF SELF-DISCOVERY AND IN THE PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OF EACH STUDENT,+ SHE SAID.

SPEAKING ON THE SAME BILL, THE HON. LI FOOK-WO POINTED OUT THAT A PRECISE INDICATION MUST BE INCLUDED TO SPECIFY THAT THE CONDUCT OF STUDENT-ORIENTATED TEACHING WAS THE DUTY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ASSEMBLY OF FELLOWS.

IN THIS CONNECTION, HE FELT THAT AMENDMENTS WERE NECESSARY ON THE ALLOCATION OF TEACHERS AND THE ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS TO THE COLLEGES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THEIR OWN PREFERENCES.

/HE EXPRESSED

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HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT, IN IMPLEMENTING THE REORGANISATION OF THE UNIVERSITY STRUCTURE, EQUAL EMPHASIS AND PRIORITY WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE NEW ROLE OF THE COLLEGES.

+THE INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT-ORIENTATED TEACHING IN THE COLLEGES AND THE UNIVERSITY REORGANISATION MUST BE IMPLEMENTED SIMULTANEOUSLY,+ HE ADDED.

MR. LI SAID IT WAS REGRETTABLE THAT MUCH MISUNDERSTANDING HAS OCCURRED DURING THE PAST BETWEEN THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY AND ITS FOUNDATION COLLEGES.

+IN THE COURSE OF IMPLEMENTING THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS, I STRONGLY URGE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THERE SHOULD BE CLOSER CONSULTATION, BETTER CO-OPERATION AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY AND THE COLLEGES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO FIND THE MOST WORKABLE AND ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS TO THE DETAILS LEFT OUT, PERHAPS DELIBERATELY, IN THE COMMISSION'S REPORT,+ HE SAID.

ALSO SUPPORTING THE BILL WITH ITS PROPOSED AMENDMENTS, THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN SAID THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY SHOULD AT ALL TIMES BE ALLOWED TO FLOURISH AS AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING ON A CHINESE CULTURAL BASIS, WHILE A HIGH DEGREE OF PROFICIENCY IN MASTERING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE SHOULD ALSO BE FOSTERED.

HE FELT THAT THE TERM +STUDENT-ORIENTATED TEACHING+ WAS EXPLICITLY MENTIONED IN THE PREAMBLE TO THE BILL IN ORDER TO EMPHASISE THE INTENTION THAT A TRUE AND CORRECT BALANCE HAD TO BE STRUCK BETWEEN WHAT WAS KNOWN AS +SUBJECT-ORIENTATED+ AND +STUDENT-ORIENTATED+ TEACHING.

+THE ULTIMATE AIMS IS TO ENABLE INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE OF THOUGHT AND JUDGMENT, AND TO BE SELF-GENERATING IN EXERCISING THEIR OWN INITIATIVE,+ HE SAID. +TOWARDS THIS END THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY WILL BE FULFILLING ONE OF ITS PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS : THAT OF PREPARING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BECOME THE FUTURE THINKERS AND LEADERS OF HONG KONG.+

SPEAKING ON THE SAME BILL, THE HON. S.L. CHEN SAID THAT THE FINAL DECISION AND CONSEQUENTLY THE RESPONSIBILITY ON THE ADOPTION OR REJECTION OF THE NEW CONCEPT OF +STUDENT-ORIENTATED TEACHING+ MUST VEST WITH THE UNIVERSITY.

HE POINTED OUT THERE WERE STILL MUCH DOUBT AS TO WHAT EXACTLY +STUDENT-ORIENTATED TEACHING+ MEANT, ITS EFFECT ON THE EDUCATION OF THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS, AND ITS FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS.

THE LAW SHOULD NOT COMMIT THE UNIVERSITY TO A PARTICULAR MODE OR MEANS BY WHICH HIGHER EDUCATION WAS GIVEN, AS THIS WAS AFTER ALL VERY MUCH AN EDUCATIONAL FUNCTION, HE ADDED.

WINDING UP THE DEBATE ON THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. F.K. LI, SAID HE HAD AGREED TO ACCEPT THE VARIOUS AMENDMENTS SUPPORTED BY THE AD HOC GROUP.

/HE MENTIONED

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HE MENTIONED A NUMBER OF OTHER AMENDMENTS THAT WOULD BE MADE TO THE BILL, INCLUDING SOME DESIGNED TO HELP PRESERVE CONTINUITY AND THE TRADITIONAL IDENTITY OF EACH CONSTITUENT COLLEGE.

+THESE AMENDMENTS, TOGETHER WITH THOSE DESCRIBED EARLIER BY DR. CHUNG, WILL MEET MOST OF THE IMPORTANT POINTS OF CONCERN EXPRESSED BY THE VARIOUS GROUPS,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK COULD NOT COVER ALL OF THE PROCEDURES THAT OUGHT TO BE CONDUCTED IF THE UNIVERSITY WAS TO WIN THE CONSENT AND SUPPORT OF ITS MEMBERS. HE AGREED WITH MR. LI FOOK-WO ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSULTATION, CO-OPERATION AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY AND THE COLLEGES IF A SPIRIT OF HARMONY WAS TO PREVAIL.

ON THE APPROPRIATENESS OF THE REFERENCE IN THE PREAMBLE TO THE BILL TO +STUDENT-ORIENTATED TEACHING+, THE SECRETARY SAID HE DID NOT THINK THIS REFERENCE WOULD PROVE TO BE RESTRICTIVE TO FUTURE DEVELOPMENT, AS IT WAS LEFT TO THE UNIVERSITY AND THE COLLEGES TO INTERPRET HOW THIS AIM SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT.

ON THE QUESTION OF A COMMON MATRICULATION EXAMINATION FOR ALL UNIVERSITY ENTRANTS AND THE LENGTH OF THE MAIN UNDERGRADUATE COURSE AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY, HE SAID HE HAS TAKEN NOTE OF THE ADVANTAGES EXPOUNDED.

+THESE ARE PROPOSALS WHICH, IF THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL SO ADVISES, COULD BE PUT TO THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY,+ HE ADDED.

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DORWARD ON CANADIAN TEXTILE ACTION

THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON. BILL DORWARD, SAID TODAY THAT IT WAS THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S VIEW THAT PARTIES TO THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT (MFA) SHOULD EXHAUST ALL ITS POSSIBILITIES FOR SOLVING TRADE PROBLEMS IN TEXTILES BEFORE HAVING RECOURSE TO OTHER PROVISIONS OUTSIDE THE MFA SUCH AS SAFEGUARD PROVISIONS IN THE GATT.

MR. DORWARD WAS REPLYING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. MISS LYDIA DUNN ON RECENT ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AFFECTING TEXTILES.

LAST WEEK CANADA ABROGATED A NUMBER OF BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENTS WITH HONG KONG WHEN SHE IMPOSED GLOBAL RESTRICTIONS ON VIRTUALLY ALL CLOTHING ENTERING CANADA.

MR. DORWARD SAID : +I THINK I SHOULD NOTE THAT IN THE HISTORY OF TEXTILE RESTRAINTS GOING BACK NEARLY 20 YEARS, THIS IS THE ONLY OCCASION ON WHICH A PARTICIPATING COUNTRY HAS CLAIMED THAT THE EXERCISE OF ITS GATT RIGHTS ALLOWS IT UNILATERALLY AND WITHOUT CONSULTATIONS TO SUPERSEDE CURRENT BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENTS.+

HE ADDED : +IT SHOULD THEREFORE, I SUGGEST, BE REGARDED AS AN ISOLATED DEVIATION FROM NORMAL PRACTICE= AND WHILE I UNDERSTAND AND SHARE THE CONCERN IMPLICIT IN MY HONOURABLE FRIEND'S QUESTION OVER THE DANGER OF PRECEDENT, THERE IS LITTLE IN OUR LONG EXPERIENCE OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WHICH WOULD LEAD US TO EXPECT IT TO BE FOLLOWED.+

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION BY MISS DUNN ON WHETHER IT WAS PERMISSIBLE UNDER THE GATT FOR CANADA TO IMPOSE SUCH GLOBAL RESTRICTIONS, MR. DORWARD SAID THAT THERE WAS PROVISION, IN ARTICLE XIX OF THE GATT, FOR SUCH ACTION, BUT HE DID NOT FEEL COMPETENT TO EXPRESS AN OPINION ON WHETHER OR NOT THE CANADIAN ACTION WAS JUSTIFIED WITH THE DATA TO HAND.

HE ADDED HOWEVER THAT IT WAS PREDICTABLE THAT THE CANADIAN ACTION WOULD SHORTLY BE THE SUBJECT OF +CLOSE SCRUTINY BY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE GATT TO EXAMINE ITS APPROPRIATENESS.+

MR. DORWARD ADDED : +IT HAS IN FACT ALREADY BEEN THE SUBJECT OF MUCH DEBATE IN THE GATT TEXTILES COMMITTEE WHICH IS CONCLUDING ITS ANNUAL MEETING THIS WEEK AND, WHILE I CANNOT REVEAL PUBLICLY THE POSITIONS ADOPTED IN THAT CLOSED BODY, I CAN SAY THAT HONG KONG, WITH MUCH STRONG SUPPORT, HAS BEEN HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE PARTICULAR ACTIONS WHICH THE CANADIANS TOOK.+

/REPLYING

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REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY MR. FRANCIS TIEN, MR. DORWARD SAID THAT THE DC AND I HAD HANDED A NOTE TO THE CANADIAN AUTHORITIES ON DECEMBER 2 EXPRESSING HONG KONG'S GRAVE CONCERN AT THE SUGGESTION THAT AGREEMENTS COULD BE UNILATERALLY SET ASIDE DURING THEIR CURRENCY.

+OUR CONCERN,+ SAID MR. DORWARD, +STEMS NOT MERELY FROM THE DAMAGE WHICH COULD BE DONE TO TRADE IN THE ITEMS CONCERNED DUE TO UNCERTAINTIES AND THE POSSIBLE FRUSTRATION OF CONTRACTS ENTERED INTO IN GOOD FAITH AS A RESULT OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. WE ARE ALSO MOST PERTURBED AT THE IMPLICATIONS SUCH ACTION COULD HAVE FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF ANY FUTURE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS.+

MR. DORWARD ADDED : +FOR OUR PART WE STILL FEEL OURSELVES BOUND BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENTS IN QUESTION AND INTEND TO CONTINUE TO ACT ACCORDINGLY. WE HAVE SOUGHT ASSURANCE FROM THE CANADIAN AUTHORITIES THAT THEY SHARE THIS INTENT. AS OF THIS DATE A REPLY IS STILL AWAITED.+

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PROPOSED MTR EXTENSION TO TSUEN WAN
DECISION TO BE MADE NEXT SUMMER
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THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION HAS RECENTLY STARTED TO EXAMINE IN DETAIL THE PRIORITIES FOR MTR EXTENSIONS IN THE TSUEN WAN, KWUN TONG AND HONG KONG ISLAND CORRIDORS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN, HE SAID THE CORPORATION HAD ALSO BEGUN DETAILED INVESTIGATIONS OF A LINE RUNNING FROM PRINCE EDWARD STATION TO TSUEN WAN WEST.

THE INVESTIGATIONS, HE POINTED OUT, WOULD COVER SUCH MATTERS AS ALIGNMENTS, DESIGN PARAMETERS, COSTINGS, REVENUE FORECASTS AND POSSIBLE FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS.

MR. JONES SAID THESE STUDIES WERE BEING CARRIED OUT BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MTR +ARE AGREED THAT, SHOULD THE MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM OF THE MTR BE EXTENDED, THE NEXT EXTENSION IS LIKELY TO BE TOWARDS TSUEN WAN.

+THEY ARE ALSO AGREED THAT, PROVIDED SUCH AN EXTENSION IS FOUND TO BE FEASIBLE AND THE ECONOMIC CLIMATE AT THE TIME IS FAVOURABLE, A DECISION TO GO AHEAD SHOULD BE TAKEN, AND CONTRACTS LET, BEFORE THE HEAVY ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT BEING USED ON THE PRESENT WORKS IS REMOVED FROM HONG KONG,+ HE ADDED.

IN PARALLEL WITH THE STUDIES BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE CORPORATION, THE ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO SET UP A STUDY GROUP TO EXAMINE AND RECOMMEND WHAT ACTION THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NEED TO TAKE TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF PROPOSED EXTENSIONS, SHOULD THEY BE PROCEEDED WITH, AS WELL AS, LATER, TO EVALUATE THE RESULTS OF THE CORPORATION'S INVESTIGATIONS.

+THE CORPORATION HOPES TO COMPLETE ITS STUDIES IN ANOTHER FOUR OR FIVE MONTHS AND A FIRM DECISION, ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, CAN BE EXPECTED SOME TIME IN THE SUMMER OF NEXT YEAR,+ HE ADDED.

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HOUSING AUTHORITY'S WAITING LIST

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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY CONTROLS A VERY WIDE RANGE OF PUBLIC HOUSING AND THIS ALLOWS IT TO RESPOND TO INDIVIDUAL NEEDS ON A FAR MORE FLEXIBLE BASIS THAN EVER BEFORE, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, MR. IAN LIGHTBODY SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR. THE HON. HENRY HU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THOSE WHO FELT THEY COULD NOT AFFORD THE RENTS IN THE NEWEST ESTATES COULD BE OFFERED ACCOMMODATION IN THE OLDER ESTATES AT RENTS WITHIN THE MEANS OF ALL.

+THIS IS MADE POSSIBLE,+ HE WENT ON, +BY THE VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE FROM OLD ESTATES OF OVERCROWDED FAMILIES WHO WANT, AND CAN WELL AFFORD, THE MUCH HIGHER STANDARD OF HOUSING ON OFFER IN THE NEWEST ESTATES.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT A FEW FAMILIES WHO HAD DIFFICULTY IN PAYING EVEN THE LOWEST RENTS WERE, HOWEVER, COVERED BY THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME.

TURNING TO A NUMBER OF RELATED QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE HON. WONG LAM, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING REPLIED THAT ALMOST ABOUT 10,000 OUT OF THE TOTAL OF ABOUT 110,000 FAMILIES ON THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S WAITING LIST HAD BEEN REGISTERED FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS AND WERE STILL WAITING FOR PUBLIC HOUSING.

NOTING THAT NO FAMILIES HAD BEEN REGISTERED FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS, HE SAID THE AVERAGE WAITING TIME FOR AN APPLICANT WAS FIVE YEARS.

+ALL APPLICANTS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING ARE REGISTERED ON A WAITING LIST AND GIVEN A REGISTRATION NUMBER,+ HE SAID.
+AS PUBLIC HOUSING BECOMES AVAILABLE OFFERS ARE MADE STRICTLY IN NUMBER SEQUENCE TO THOSE WHO HAVE EXPRESSED A PREFERENCE FOR THE DISTRICT IN QUESTION.+

HE ADDED: +APPLICANTS WHO CHOOSE NEW ESTATES IN OUTLYING DISTRICTS WILL BE MADE AN OFFER MUCH SOONER THAN THOSE WHO APPLY FOR KOWLOON OR HONG KONG ISLAND WHICH ARE MUCH IN DEMAND.+

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INCREASE IN RENTS OF PRE-WAR BUILDINGS PROPOSED
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IT IS GENERALLY AGREED THAT PART ONE OF THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE, WHICH CONTROLS THE RENTS OF PRE-WAR PREMISES, FAVOURS TENANTS TO AN EXCESSIVE DEGREE AT THE EXPENSE OF OWNERS OF THESE PROPERTIES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON. IAN LIGHTBODY, WHEN HE MOVED THE SECOND READING OF THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1976 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

AS A FIRST STEP IN CORRECTING THIS IMBALANCE, HE SAID, A MODEST INCREASE IN THE RENTS OF PRE-WAR PREMISES WAS ALLOWED IN JANUARY THIS YEAR.

SPEAKING ON THE BILL, WHICH PROPOSES FURTHER INCREASES IN THE PERMITTED RENTS OF PRE-WAR PREMISES, HE SAID: +AVERAGE NON-DOMESTIC RENTS ARE ABOUT \$280 PER FLOOR, AND THE AVERAGE MONTHLY INCREASE PERMITTED WILL BE ABOUT \$78 IN A PRE-WAR TENEMENT BUILDING, AND GENERALLY NO HIGHER THAN \$100.+

MR. LIGHTBODY SAID THAT THE RESULTANT AVERAGE RENT FOR NON-DOMESTIC TENANCIES WOULD THEN BE ONLY 26 PER CENT OF THE FAIR MARKET RENT.

+THERE IS NO REASON WHY PROPERTY OWNERS SHOULD SUBSIDISE COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES,+ HE ADDED.

FOR DOMESTIC PREMISES, HE POINTED OUT, RENTS WOULD BE INCREASED BY ABOUT \$28 A MONTH FOR A TENEMENT FLOOR ON A PRESENT AVERAGE RENT OF \$148, AND GENERALLY INCREASES WERE UNLIKELY TO EXCEED \$40. THE RESULTANT RENT WOULD STILL BE ONLY 30 PER CENT OF FAIR MARKET RENTS.

+THIS VERY SMALL INCREASE SHOULD NOT CAUSE HARDSHIP, PARTICULARLY AS MANY OF THESE TENEMENT FLOORS ARE SHARED BY SEVERAL FAMILIES, SO THAT THE AVERAGE MONTHLY INCREASE IS LIKELY TO BE \$7 PER FAMILY,+ MR. LIGHTBODY STRESSED.

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BOATING ON RESERVOIRS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO LET THE URBAN COUNCIL GET ON WITH PROVIDING BOATING FACILITY ON THE WONG NEI CHUNG RESERVOIR.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. DENIS BRAY, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. JOHN BREMRIDGE, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE RECALLED THAT WHEN HE SAID IN THE COUNCIL IN APRIL THIS YEAR THAT IT WAS GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO EXPERIMENT WITH THE USE OF THE WONG NEI CHUNG RESERVOIR FOR BOATING, HE WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE LAND COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT AS PART OF A RECREATION AREA.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, IT TURNED OUT THAT THE LAND AROUND THIS RESERVOIR, INCLUDING THE WATER AREA, HAD BEEN ALLOCATED TO THE URBAN COUNCIL SINCE 1973.

AS THE URBAN COUNCIL WAS ALSO KEEN TO DEVELOP THE RESERVOIR FOR BOATING, HE ADDED, THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO LET IT GET ON WITH PROVIDING THIS RECREATIONAL FACILITY.

MR. BRAY SAID THAT AN EVALUATION WAS BEING MADE OF THE NECESSARY SAFEGUARDS AND CONTROLS (INCLUDING LEGISLATION, IF APPROPRIATE) WHICH WOULD NEED TO BE INTRODUCED TO COVER SUCH RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

HE SAID THE EVALUATION WOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE LEGAL AND MANAGEMENT ASPECTS AND WOULD INVOLVE OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

+WHILE IT IS NOT YET POSSIBLE TO PERMIT BOATING ON ANY PARTICULAR RESERVOIR - NOR DESIRABLE IN THE ABSENCE OF PROPER CONTROLS - PROGRESS IS BEING MADE WITH A VIEW TO ALLOWING BOATING ON SELECTED RESERVOIRS,+ MR. BRAY SAID.

HE SAID THE INTENTION WAS FOR THE WONG NEI CHUNG RESERVOIR TO BE DISCONNECTED FROM THE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM, TO PERMIT BOATING ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS, PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO THE PROVISION OF SIMILAR FACILITIES AT TAI TAM TUK AND TAI LAM CHUNG RESERVOIRS.

MR. BRAY HOPED THAT SOME EXPERIENCE WOULD ACCRUE FROM THE USE OF THE RESERVOIR, ALTHOUGH THE ABSENCE OF SUCH EXPERIENCE WOULD NOT DELAY CONSIDERATION OF THE PROVISION OF SIMILAR FACILITIES AT TAI TAM TUK AND TAI LAM CHUNG.

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BILLS PASSED

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FOUR BILLS PASSED THROUGH THEIR COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THEY WERE THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1976= THE BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976= THE STAMP (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1976 AND THE ARMY LEGAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976.

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REDUCTION AND EVENTUAL ABOLITION OF
OVERTIME WORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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NEW REGULATIONS TO REDUCE AND EVENTUALLY ABOLISH OVERTIME WORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS WERE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. IAN PRICE, TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) REGULATIONS 1976, MR. PRICE SAID THE PURPOSE OF THESE AMENDMENT REGULATIONS WAS TO REDUCE GRADUALLY OVER THREE YEARS, AND EVENTUALLY ABOLISH, THE MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE HOURS OF OVERTIME FOR YOUNG PERSONS AGED 16 AND 17 EMPLOYED IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS.

HE SAID THE REDUCTIONS WERE TO BEGIN FROM JANUARY 1 FROM THE PRESENT 200 TO 150 HOURS A YEAR AND THEREAFTER AT THE RATE OF 50 HOURS LESS EACH YEAR UNTIL JANUARY 1, 1980, WHEN THOSE YOUNG WORKERS AGED 16 AND 17 WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME OVERTIME RESTRICTIONS AS THOSE AGED 14 AND 15.

MR. PRICE CORRECTED SOME EMPLOYERS WHO HE SAID WRONGLY BELIEVED THAT THE NEW REGULATIONS ALSO AFFECTED ADULT WOMEN OF 18 AND OVER IN INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT. THE NEW REGULATIONS DID NOT APPLY TO THEM.

MR. PRICE EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO ABOLISH OVERTIME FOR YOUNG PERSONS WAS BASED NOT ON ECONOMIC, BUT ON SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH WERE HELD TO BE OVERRIDING IN THIS CASE.

HE SAID : +COMPETITIVENESS, AND CHEAPNESS OF PRODUCTION SHOULD NOT BE ACHIEVED AT THE EXPENSE OF THE WEAR AND TEAR -- SO SELDOM MENTIONED -- ON THE BODIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE.+

+WORKERS AGED 16 AND 17 ARE AT AN IMPORTANT STAGE OF THEIR PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. THEY SHOULD BE PERMITTED ADEQUATE LEISURE TO DEVELOP THEIR PERSONALITIES BY FURTHER STUDIES, SPORT, RECREATION AND OTHER INTERESTS. IN OTHER WORDS THEY NEED LEISURE IN ORDER TO LIVE,+ HE ADDED.

MR. PRICE POINTED OUT THAT EMPLOYERS WHO DENIED THESE ASPIRATIONS OF HONG KONG'S INCREASINGLY SOPHISTICATED YOUNG WORKERS RAN THE RISK OF BEING UNABLE TO RECRUIT SUFFICIENT NUMBERS TO MEET THEIR REQUIREMENTS.

+UNLESS AND UNTIL EMPLOYERS OF BLUE-COLLAR WORKERS OFFER CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT COMPARABLE TO THOSE OF WHITE-COLLAR WORKERS, THEIR INDUSTRIAL VACANCIES WILL NOT BE READILY, OR HAPPILY, FILLED,+ HE SAID.

MR. PRICE ADDED THAT THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE PHASED PROGRAMME FOR THE ABOLITION OF OVERTIME ON THE YOUNG PEOPLE AFFECTED WOULD BE MINIMAL. THE REDUCTION IN EARNINGS WOULD BE ONLY THREE TO FOUR PER CENT OF THE TOTAL ANNUAL TAKE HOME PAY -- AND PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT NORMAL WAGE INCREASES WOULD MORE THAN COMPENSATE FOR THIS SMALL REDUCTION.

MR. PRICE THEN SUGGESTED THE DEBATE ON THE MOTION BE ADJOURNED TO ALLOW UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS MORE TIME TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS.

STRENGTH OF H.K. DOLLAR AND DOMESTIC EXPORTS
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THE VOLUME OF EXPORTS IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WAS 33 PER CENT HIGHER AND EXPORT PRICES IN HONG KONG DOLLARS 11 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG ON THE EFFECT OF GROWING STRENGTH OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR ON DOMESTIC EXPORTS, MR. JEAFFRESON SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO EVIDENCE OF THE SUBSTANTIAL UNDER-UTILISATION OF CAPACITY THAT ONE MIGHT EXPECT WERE THE HONG KONG DOLLAR OVER-VALUED.

HOWEVER, HE SAID : +THE GOVERNMENT APPRECIATES THAT THOSE EXPORTERS WHO NEITHER ALLOWED FOR A POSSIBLE APPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR IN THEIR EXPORT PRICES NOR SOLD THEIR FOREIGN CURRENCY EARNINGS FORWARD, WILL HAVE RECEIVED A RETURN LOWER THAN THEY EXPECTED.+

REPLYING TO ANOTHER QUESTION, HE SAID THAT GIVEN HONG KONG'S DEPENDENCE ON EXTERNAL TRANSACTIONS, THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY WAS NOT TO INTERVENE IN THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET EXCEPT TO OFFSET MOVEMENTS IN THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR JUDGED TO BE WAYWARD OR ERRATIC.

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MORE SHELTERS FOR BUS STOPS
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THE GOVERNMENT, ACTING IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BUS COMPANIES, HAS DRAWN UP A SCHEME TO PROVIDE MORE SHELTERS AT BUS STOPS, PARTICULARLY IN REMOTE AND UNPROTECTED AREAS.

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

THE AIM, HE SAID, WAS ROUGHLY TO TREBLE THE NUMBER OF SHELTERS IN THE RURAL AREAS WHERE, AT THE PRESENT TIME, LESS THAN A TENTH OF THE STOPS WERE PROVIDED WITH THIS AMENITY.

HE NOTED THAT AT PRESENT 33 SHELTERS -- SIX ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 12 IN KOWLOON AND 15 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES -- WERE BEING BUILT.

HE SAID THAT SUGGESTIONS HAD BEEN MADE FOR SOME 117 ADDITIONAL SHELTERS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ALONE AND THESE WERE BEING EVALUATED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT.

ALTHOUGH THE ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE SHELTERS WAS NORMALLY UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT, ON A REIMBURSEMENT BASIS, HE CONTINUED, THE PUBLIC OMNIBUS SERVICES ORDINANCE REQUIRED THE BUS COMPANIES TO PAY FOR THE SHELTERS.

+THE COMPANIES ARE, HOWEVER, NOW ALLOWED TO LET SPACE IN THE SHELTERS FOR COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING AND THIS SHOULD HELP TO DEFRAY THEIR COSTS,+ HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1976

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SALE OF LOWER ALCOHOLIC CONTENT BRANDY

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THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON. BILL DORWARD, MOVED THE SECOND READING OF THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1976 IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS BILL IS TO PERMIT THE SALE IN HONG KONG OF BRANDY HAVING A MINIMUM STRENGTH OF 30 DEGREES UNDER-PROOF WHICH REPRESENTS, IN OTHER WORDS, AN ALCOHOLIC CONTENT OF 40 PER CENT BY VOLUME.

THE PRESENT PRESCRIBED MINIMUM STRENGTH OF ORDINARY BRANDY, LAID DOWN IN SECTION 53 OF THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ORDINANCE, IS 25 DEGREES UNDER-PROOF OR 43 PER CENT ALCOHOL BY VOLUME.

+I REFER TO ORDINARY BRANDY BECAUSE BRANDY WHICH, IN THE OPINION OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, IS VERY OLD LIQUEUR BRANDY MAY BE IMPORTED BELOW THIS STRENGTH. INDEED FOR SUCH BRANDY WHICH IN PRACTICE IS TAKEN AS VSOP OR BETTER, NO MINIMUM IS PRESCRIBED,+ MR. DORWARD SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE EFFECT OF THE LAW AS IT NOW STOOD WAS THAT ANY BRANDY WHICH WAS NOT OF A BETTER QUALITY THAN 'THREE STAR' AND WAS OF A STRENGTH BELOW 25 DEGREES UNDER-PROOF WAS CONSIDERED 'ADULTERATED LIQUOR'. IT WAS THUS AN OFFENCE UNDER SECTION 61(1) OF THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ORDINANCE TO IMPORT, SELL, SUPPLY OR DEAL IN IT.

+THE PRESENT HONG KONG MINIMUM WAS FIRST LAID DOWN IN 1898 UNDER THE LIQUOR LICENSING ORDINANCE, AN ADAPTATION OF AN ENGLISH LAW WHICH WAS MODIFIED MANY YEARS AGO. TODAY MOST, IF NOT ALL, BRANDY IMPORTING COUNTRIES ALLOW IMPORTS AT THE NOW PROPOSED MINIMUM STANDARD STRENGTH OF 40 PER CENT ALCOHOL BY VOLUME. BRANDY PRODUCING COUNTRIES HAVE REQUESTED THAT THE HONG KONG LEGISLATION BE AMENDED TO CONFORM TO GENERAL WORLD STANDARDS. IT IS NOW PROPOSED TO ACCEDE TO THESE REQUESTS,+ MR. DORWARD SAID.

+THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT WOULD MEAN THAT SOME ORDINARY BRANDY SOLD IN HONG KONG MIGHT BE A LITTLE WEAKER. SUCH BRANDY HAS, HOWEVER, A RELATIVELY SMALL SHARE OF THE MARKET: ABOUT 15 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE VERY OLD LIQUEUR BRANDIES WHICH HAVE 85 PER CENT OF THE MARKET.

+IF THIS BILL IS PASSED INTO LAW THERE WOULD BE NO LOSS OF REVENUE, WHICH IS ASSESSED BY VOLUME RATHER THAN ALCOHOLIC STRENGTH, AND THE MAIN EFFECT WOULD BE TO BRING HONG KONG INTO LINE WITH GENERAL INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE AND OPEN THE MARKET TO BRANDIES WHICH HAVE HITHERTO BEEN BARRED,+ HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1976

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GREATER DEMAND FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT FROM PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE

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DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT AS THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG RESPONDED SWIFTLY TO IMPROVED OPPORTUNITIES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE DURING THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, THERE WAS RISING DEMAND FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT FROM THE PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE TO UPGRADE PRODUCT QUALITY, INCREASE PRODUCTION OUTPUT AND REDUCE MANUFACTURING COST.

IN TABLING THE LATEST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL, HE SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF THIS GREATER DEMAND, +THE PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE EXPANDED ITS SCALE OF ACTIVITIES AND, AT THE SAME TIME, CONTINUED WITH ITS POLICY OF GRADUALLY SHIFTING THE EMPHASIS TO TECHNOLOGY IN BOTH AREAS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM SCALE INDUSTRIES.+

HE NOTED THAT DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1975-76, THE PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE CONDUCTED TRAINING COURSES FOR 6,763 PERSONS AS COMPARED TO 6,620 IN 1974-75 AND UNDERTOOK 122 CONSULTANCY AND TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS AS AGAINST 102 A YEAR AGO.

A NUMBER OF THESE PROJECTS, HE ADDED, WERE ASSOCIATED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES IN HONG KONG.

AS PART OF ITS TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, HE CONTINUED, THE CENTRE HELD FIVE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITIONS DURING THE YEAR.

+AMONG THE VARIOUS SURVEY AND RESEARCH PROJECTS COMPLETED AND PUBLISHED DURING THE YEAR, TWO OF THEM DESERVE SPECIFIC MENTION,+ HE SAID.

+THE FIRST IS THE REPORT ON SALARY TRENDS AND FRINGE BENEFITS IN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY PROVIDING UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON REMUNERATION IN RESPECT OF ADMINISTRATIVE, PROFESSIONAL AND OPERATIVE PERSONNEL.

+THE SECOND IS THE DIRECTORY OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES PROVIDING A DETAILED REFERENCE TO MORE THAN 4,000 MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS OF OVER 20 EMPLOYEES CLASSIFIED BY SECTORS OF INDUSTRY.+

DR. CHUNG PAID TRIBUTE TO THE CENTRE'S FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MR. W.H. NEWTON, WHO HAS RETURNED TO AUSTRALIA AFTER NINE YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE, AND WELCOMED HIS SUCCESSOR, MR. J.C. WRIGHT.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1976

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PLB STANDS IN CLEARWAY AREAS

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PUBLIC LIGHT BUS STANDS ARE BEING PROVIDED IN CLEARWAY AREAS TO HELP RELIEVE CONGESTION AND REDUCE ACCIDENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS FROM THE HON. S. L. CHEN, MR. JONES SAID THESE STANDS WERE PROVIDED EITHER ON ADJACENT SIDE STREETS OR, WHERE POSSIBLE, OFF STREET, TO FACILITATE THE PICKING UP AND SETTING DOWN OF PASSENGERS.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT AGREED THAT THE IRREGULAR STOPPING OF PLB'S IN HEAVY TRAFFIC DID CONTRIBUTE TO CONGESTION, AND PROBABLY TO ACCIDENTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE MAIN COMMUTER CORRIDORS DURING PEAK HOURS.

+FOR THIS AND OTHER REASONS, CLEARWAYS ARE BEING INTRODUCED ON SELECTED ROUTES ON WHICH THE STOPPING AND PARKING OF VEHICLES WILL BE LIMITED TO OFF-PEAK PERIODS,+ HE SAID.

MR. JONES POINTED OUT THAT ONE OF THE MAIN ATTRACTIONS OF PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES TO THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC WAS THAT THEY COULD STOP ON DEMAND TO PICK UP OR LET DOWN PASSENGERS.

+TO MAKE IT MANDATORY FOR THEM TO STOP ONLY AT FIXED STOPPING PLACES WOULD NOT ONLY REMOVE THIS ATTRACTION AND REDUCE THE FLEXIBILITY OF THEIR SERVICES, BUT WOULD ALSO BE UNNECESSARY IN MANY AREAS,+ HE ADDED.

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MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOLS

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LEGISLATION IS NOW BEING DRAFTED TO REGULATE MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, HE SAID THAT OFFICIALS CONCERNED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS WERE ALIVE TO THE DESIRABILITY OF ACHIEVING A BALANCE BETWEEN TWO ASPECTS.

+ON THE ONE HAND, THERE IS A NEED TO PREVENT THE RUNNING AND ORGANISATION OF, AND THE TRAINING IN, SUCH SCHOOLS BEING IN THE HANDS OF UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS,+ HE SAID.

+ON THE OTHER WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE THE HEALTHY RECREATIONAL SIDE OF THESE POPULAR AND TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES,+ HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1976

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PROVISION OF MULTI-STOREY LORRY PARKS BEING EXAMINED

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TWO TEMPORARY OPEN AIR LORRY PARKS HAVE BEEN OPENED THIS YEAR AT HO MAN TIN AND AT THE WAN CHAI RECLAMATION, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, HE SAID OPEN AIR PARKS WERE MORE SUITABLE FOR THIS TYPE OF VEHICLES AND THAT SITES FOR OTHER COMMERCIAL VEHICLE PARKS WERE BEING SOUGHT.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT THE IDEA OF PROVIDING MULTI-STOREY LORRY PARKS WAS BEING FURTHER EXAMINED TO SEE WHETHER IT MIGHT PROVE TO BE PRACTICABLE, ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF DIFFICULTIES WERE INVOLVED.

THE ENGINEERING REQUIREMENTS FOR THESE PARKS, HE POINTED OUT, WOULD MAKE THEM VERY EXPENSIVE AND EACH PARKING SPACE IN THEM WOULD COST AS MUCH AS THREE TIMES THE COST OF A SPACE IN A MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK.

+TO COVER COSTS THE CHARGES LEVIED WOULD NEED TO BE CORRESPONDINGLY HIGH AND, AT THAT PRICE, VERY FEW LORRY OWNERS WOULD WANT TO USE SUCH FACILITIES,+ MR. JONES SAID. +TO FORCE THEM TO DO SO WOULD NOT ONLY BE EXTREMELY UNPOPULAR BUT WOULD BE MOST DIFFICULT TO ENFORCE.+

HE ADDED THAT COMMERCIAL VEHICLES OF TWO TONS AND UNDER WERE ALREADY PERMITTED TO USE MULTI-STOREY CAR PARKS, BUT VERY FEW OF THEM DID SO.

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SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1975-76) BILL

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS TODAY ASKED TO GIVE FINAL LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY EXPENDITURE AUTHORISED BY RESOLUTIONS IN THE COUNCIL FOR THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR OF 1975-76.

IN MOVING THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1975-76) BILL, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID THE TOTAL SUPPLEMENTARY EXPENDITURE WHICH REQUIRED THIS LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY WAS NEARLY \$124 MILLION.

HE SAID THAT THIS AMOUNT WAS MORE THAN OFFSET BY SAVINGS OF \$707 MILLION UNDER OTHER HEADS OF EXPENDITURE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1976

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PROCEDURES FOR COLLECTING REGISTERED ITEMS
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ALL THAT IS REQUIRED FOR ADDRESSEES TO COLLECT REGISTERED LETTERS AND PARCELS IS TO PRODUCE NOTIFICATIONS FROM THE POST OFFICE AND THEIR IDENTITY CARDS, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO QUESTIONS FROM THE HON. LEUNG TAT-SHING, HE ADDED THAT IN PLACE OF IDENTITY CARDS, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL WOULD ALSO ACCEPT PASSPORTS, GOVERNMENT PASSCARDS, DRIVING LICENCES OR FORCE'S PAYBOOKS.

+IF ADDRESSEES SEND AGENTS TO COLLECT REGISTERED ITEMS ON THEIR BEHALF, THE AGENTS MUST PRODUCE THE SAME DOCUMENTS PLUS LETTERS OF AUTHORISATION AND THE AGENT'S OWN IDENTITY CARDS,+ HE ADDED.

MR. JEAFFRESON SAID THE PRESENT SYSTEM FOR THE COLLECTION OF REGISTERED POSTAL ITEMS APPEARED TO BE WELL UNDERSTOOD BY THE PUBLIC.

+I DO NOT SEE HOW IT MIGHT BE SIMPLIFIED WHILE STILL ALLOWING THE POSTMASTER GENERAL TO MEET HIS OBLIGATIONS TO THOSE WHO ARE PREPARED TO PAY TO USE THE REGISTERED POST FOR THE EXTRA SECURITY THAT IT PROVIDES,+ HE SAID.

THE ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTIC OF THE SPECIAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, HE CONTINUED, WAS THAT THROUGHOUT THE TIME A REGISTERED ITEM WAS IN THE POSTMASTER GENERAL'S CUSTODY, ITS TRANSFER AT ALL STAGES WAS ONLY DONE AGAINST SIGNATURE.

+SO AS THE FINAL STEP IN THE PROCESS, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL MUST REQUIRE PROOF OF IDENTITY FROM THOSE SEEKING TO COLLECT REGISTERED LETTERS AND PARCELS FROM POST OFFICES,+ HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1976

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WATER CUT
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN MONG KOK AND KENNEDY TOWN WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 1 A.M. TO 6 A.M. ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 10) TO ALLOW THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT NIGHT LEAKAGE TESTS IN THE TWO AREAS.

IN MONG KOK, THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, NATHAN ROAD, MONG KOK ROAD AND TONG MEI ROAD, INCLUDING LAI CHI KOK ROAD, PORTLAND STREET, ARRAN STREET, BUTE STREET, CANTON ROAD AND RECLAMATION STREET.

IN KENNEDY TOWN, PREMISES AFFECTED ARE THOSE BOUNDED BY HOUSE NOS. 1-111 BELCHER'S STREET, NOS. 1-50 PRAYA, NOS. 1-5A NEW PRAYA, COLLINSON STREET, SAI CHEUNG STREET, SAI HING LANE, HOLLAND STREET, SANDS STREET, NORTH STREET, SMITHFIELD ROAD AND ROCK HILL ROAD.

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HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY 香港房屋委員會

PRESS
RELEASE 新聞稿

Wednesday, December 8, 1976

MAJORITY OF TSUEN WAN SQUATTER FIRE VICTIMS OFFERED PUBLIC HOUSING

A total of 673 people from 170 families who lost their homes in the squatter fire in Tsuen Wan on Sunday are to be offered public housing in the locality.

Another 49 families comprising 205 people ineligible for public housing will be offered accommodation at the Shek Lei Licensed Area.

Clearance Staff of the Housing Department have been fully engaged in processing the eligibility of the victims since the day of the fire.

Today, they moved to the branch office of the Tsuen Wan District Office in Hoi Par Street to start detailed registration of the victims for public housing or licensed areas.

To speed up the process, the Applications Section will screen the first batch of completed forms tomorrow and conduct pre-letting interviews from Friday.

The first group of the fire victims will be able to move into their new homes on public housing estates next Wednesday.

Allocation of licensed area sites, for those not eligible for public housing, will begin next Tuesday.

A special effort is being made to install temporary water and electricity supplies to a newly completed block at Kwai Shing Estate where smaller flats are available to meet the individual needs of some fire victims.

荃灣木屋區火災災民
大部將入住公共房屋

本月五日荃灣木屋區火災喪失家園之人士，共有一百七十戶獲得提供入住區內之公共危邨，人數共六百七十三名。

另有四十九戶共二百零五人，無資格入住公共房屋，將獲得提供石籬安置區之居住地點。

房屋署清拆安置組之職員自發生火災之日起，已全力從事甄別災民之資格。

今日他們已轉往海墘街荃灣理民府辦事分處，開始為災民辦理入住公共房屋或安置區之詳細登記工作。

為加速辦理手續，申請組將於明日登記首批填妥之表格，並於星期五總會見將來入住之住客。

第一批火災災民將於下星期三遷入公共危邨之新居。

下星期二將開始編配安置區住址給無資格入住公共房屋之災民。

現正在葵威邨一座新落成之大廈特別進行安裝臨時供水供電設備，該處有較小型之單位可滿足若干火災災民之個別需要。