



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1974

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DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC FOOD
COMMODITIES

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MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE OVERTIME FOR WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS REDUCED
NEW REGULATIONS APPROVED BY LEGCO
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED NEW REGULATIONS MADE BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR REDUCING THE NUMBER OF HOURS OF OVERTIME WHICH WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS MAY WORK EACH YEAR.

MOVING THE RESOLUTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE NEW REGULATIONS, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. IAN PRICE, TOLD THE COUNCIL THE GOVERNMENT HAD A CLEAR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT WOMEN WORKERS BECAUSE OF THE PRESENT STATE OF TRADE UNIONISM IN HONG KONG.

THE NEW REGULATIONS - THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS - REDUCE PERMISSIBLE OVERTIME FOR WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS FROM 300 HOURS TO 250 HOURS A YEAR FROM JANUARY 1, 1975. IN A SECOND STAGE, THEY PROVIDE FOR A FURTHER REDUCTION TO 200 HOURS FROM JANUARY 1, 1976.

IN HIS SPEECH, MR. PRICE REJECTED THE ARGUMENT THAT IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE TO CONTINUE TO REQUIRE SPECIAL PROTECTION FOR WOMEN AT WORK +IN THIS AGE OF MOVEMENT TOWARDS REMOVAL OF DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEX.+

+IN THE PRESENT STATE OF TRADE UNIONISM IN HONG KONG, I CONSIDER THAT FOR SOME YEARS THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE A CLEAR RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTINUE TO PROTECT WOMEN BY LIMITING THE HOURS OF OVERTIME WHICH CAN BE WORKED BY THEM,+ HE SAID.

+IN THE LOCAL CONTEXT IT SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED THAT MANY WORKING WOMEN ALSO NEED TO ATTEND TO DOMESTIC MATTERS AT HOME, AND THIS IS ANOTHER REASON THAT A LIMITATION ON THEIR OVERTIME IS DESIRABLE.

+AND IN THIS CONNECTION I SHOULD ADD THAT ELSEWHERE THE VIEW HAS BEEN TAKEN THAT THE REPEAL OF THIS TYPE OF PROTECTIVE LEGISLATION WOULD PLACE UNDUE PRESSURE ON WORKING WOMEN.+

MR. PRICE SAID THAT A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY LAST YEAR HAD SHOWN THAT THE ECONOMIC EFFECT OF THE NEW REDUCTIONS WOULD BE ONLY MARGINAL.

AND HE POINTED OUT THAT HE WAS NOT PROPOSING ANY CHANGES TO HIS POWERS UNDER REGULATIONS 11(6) AND 11(7) OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS REGULATIONS TO GIVE SPECIAL PERMISSION, IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, FOR A GREATER AMOUNT OF OVERTIME TO BE WORKED.

THESE REGULATIONS ALLOWED FOR A HIGH DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY, HE SAID, AND HE GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER SYMPATHETICALLY AND QUICKLY ANY REQUESTS MADE UNDER THEIR PROVISIONS.

/THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL

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+THEREFORE, OVERTIME MUST BE ALLOWED FLEXIBLY AND WITH MINIMUM OF RED TAPE IF MANUFACTURING IS NOT TO BE UNDULY RESTRICTED AND HONG KONG PRODUCTS ARE TO REMAIN COMPETITIVE ON WORLD MARKETS.+

HE CALLED ON THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR TO FIND OUT WHY BOTH WOMEN AND MEN IN SINGAPORE ARE ALLOWED A MAXIMUM OF 48 HOURS OVERTIME A MONTH DESPITE A STRONG AND WELL-ORGANIZED TRADE UNION MOVEMENT THERE. THE FINDINGS, HE SUGGESTED, SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD.

COMMENTING ON THE REGULATIONS, THE HON. MRS. JOYCE SYMONS SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN THE RIGHT STEP IN INTRODUCING THE LEGISLATION.

WHILE SHE WAS AWARE OF THE CONTROVERSIAL NATURE OF THIS TYPE OF LIMITATION ON OVERTIME, SHE FELT QUITE STRONGLY THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD LEGISLATE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

+FREEDOM OF WORK IS ENJOYED IN OUR COMMUNITY BUT FREEDOM MUST NOT LEAD TO EXCESS.

+THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE MUST ALWAYS BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF GOVERNMENT POLICY AND IN THIS INSTANCE I FEEL GOVERNMENT HAVE TAKEN THE RIGHT STEP,+ SHE STRESSED.

IN REPLY, MR. PRICE POINTED OUT THAT THE DOCUMENT QUOTED BY SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER DR. S.Y. CHUNG IN MAKING SOME CRITICISMS OF NEW REGULATIONS HAD BEEN SUPERSEDED.

MR. PRICE SAID THE MORE UP-TO-DATE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT, KNOWN AS +EQUALITY FOR WOMEN+ AND ISSUED IN SEPTEMBER, 1974 MADE IT CLEAR THAT PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR WOMEN CONTAINED IN THE U.K. FACTORIES ACT SHOULD BE RETAINED FOR THE PRESENT AT LEAST.

+I SHOULD ADD THAT THE CHANGE IN ATTITUDE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WAS BROUGHT ABOUT BECAUSE OF CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM THAT THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL TO LIFT PROTECTIVE MEASURES MIGHT PLACE UNDUE PRESSURE ON WORKING WOMEN,+ HE SAID.

+ALSO, TO PUT THE RECORD STRAIGHT, I SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM OVERTIME FOR WOMEN IS LIMITED TO 100 HOURS A YEAR, AND NOT TO 200 HOURS A YEAR AS PROPOSED FOR HONG KONG. IT IS EVIDENT THAT U.K. LEGISLATION HAS NOT BEEN TRANSPLANTED WHOLESALE TO HONG KONG.+

MR. PRICE ADDED THAT HE HAD PUT IN HAND AN EXAMINATION OF THE PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH APPLICATIONS FOR SPECIAL PERMISSION TO EXCEED THE NEW OVERTIME LIMITS SO THAT THEY COULD BE FLEXIBLY AND QUICKLY APPLIED.

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DIRECT GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION NOT THE ONLY WAY TO SOLVE
FREIGHT RATES ISSUE

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THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON. DAVID JORDAN, SAID TODAY THAT WHILST DIRECT GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN THE ISSUE OF FREIGHT RATE INCREASES DECIDED UPON BY THE CONFERENCE SHIPPING LINES WAS NOT RULED OUT, HE WOULD HOPE THAT IT WOULD NOT PROVE THE ONLY WAY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

HE WAS REPLYING TO THE CALL FOR INTERVENTION BY DR. THE HON. CHUNG SZE-YUEN AND THE HON. TIEN YUAN-HAO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR. JORDAN EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE THAT LEGISLATION TO CONTROL SHIPPING CONFERENCES EXISTED ELSEWHERE.

HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD STUDY THIS LEGISLATION, THE WAY IT OPERATED AND ITS EFFECTS, BUT ADDED : +WE FEEL THAT THE MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION WOULD NEED TO BE GIVEN TO ALL ASPECTS OF THIS MATTER BEFORE WE COULD EMBARK ON SUCH A MAJOR DEPARTURE FROM OUR BASIC ECONOMIC PHILOSOPHY.+

HE RECALLED THAT HE HAD SAID IN LEGCO ONLY RECENTLY THAT WHEN THE GOVERNMENT INTERVENES IN ANY COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IT ALTERS THE NORMAL BALANCE OF COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE AND THAT IT SHOULD THEREFORE DO SO ONLY WHEN AN IMBALANCE NEEDS TO BE CORRECTED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

+I WOULD ADD THAT EVEN THEN WE SHOULD NOT INTERVENE UNTIL WE ARE QUITE SATISFIED THAT THE IMBALANCE WILL NOT OTHERWISE BE CORRECTED,+ HE SAID.

MR. JORDAN POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW THAT A BETTER WAY TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG WAS NOT EXPLOITED AND COULD CONTINUE TO EXPORT ITS PRODUCTS AT COMPETITIVE SHIPPING RATES WOULD BE TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR SHIPPERS' COUNCIL, WHICH HAS BUILT UP CONSIDERABLE EXPERTISE AND HAS THE REPUTATION OF BEING ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE SHIPPERS' COUNCILS IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD, WAS STRENGTHENED AND GIVEN SUCH ASSISTANCE AS THE GOVERNMENT COULD PROVIDE.

MR. JORDAN WENT ON TO SAY THAT STEPS WERE ALREADY BEING TAKEN, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COUNCIL, TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ON THE COSTS AND RATE STRUCTURE OF SHIPPING LINES FOR USE IN ANY FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS.

ON THE INCREASE ITSELF, MR. JORDAN SAID : +THE INCREASE IN RATES HAS, IN FACT, BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY SCALED DOWN COMPARED WITH THE CONFERENCE'S EARLIER PROPOSALS, AS THE RESULT OF THE EFFORTS OF ALL THE SHIPPERS' COUNCILS IN THE REGION, IN WHICH THE HONG KONG SHIPPERS' COUNCIL HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT AND VALUABLE ROLE.

/+THIS IN ITSELF

+THIS IN ITSELF MUST OF COURSE CAST SOME DOUBT ON THE VALIDITY OF THE EARLIER PROPOSALS AND INDEED OF THE PROPOSALS THAT THE CONFERENCE NOW INTENDS TO IMPLEMENT.+

EARLIER ON, BOTH DR. CHUNG AND MR. TIEN POINTED OUT THAT THE 18 PERCENT-INCREASE IN FREIGHT RATES, WHICH WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR, WOULD JEOPARDISE HONG KONG'S OVERSEAS TRADE.

IN MAKING THE PLEA, DR. CHUNG SAID THE INCREASE WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE COMPETITIVE POSITION OF SOME OF HONG KONG'S PRODUCTS IN WESTERN EUROPE.

FOR MANY HONG KONG PRODUCTS SUCH AS PLASTIC TOYS, FREIGHT CONTRIBUTED 30 TO 40 PERCENT OF THE CIF PRICES. THE FREIGHT CONTENT FOR PLASTIC HOUSEWARES WAS EVEN HIGHER, BEING AT TIMES AS HIGH AS 45 TO 55 PERCENT, HE SAID.

DR. CHUNG THEN POINTED TO THE INEQUITIES IN BASIC FREIGHT RATES AND SURCHARGES AS APPLIED TO HONG KONG.

THE BULK OF HONG KONG GOODS, HE SAID, ATTRACTED THE MUCH HIGHER BASIC RATES OF \$250-350 PER TON, WITH THE BUNKER SURCHARGE CALCULATED AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE BASIC RATE AND NOT AS A FLAT RATE ADDITION.

HE EXPLAINED THAT AS THE BULK OF HONG KONG EXPORTS WERE HIGHER RATES CARGOES, +HONG KONG BEARS A DISPROPORTIONATELY LARGE SLICE OF THE EXTRA COST OF FUEL.+

DR. CHUNG STRESSED THAT THE CONFERENCE HAD A VIRTUAL MONOPOLY OF SEA FREIGHT BETWEEN HONG KONG AND EUROPE AND WAS THUS IN A POSITION TO DICTATE TERMS AND RATES TO HONG KONG SHIPPERS.

HE NOTED THAT THE TOTAL FREIGHT RATES PAID BY LOCAL SHIPPERS FOR GOODS SHIPPED TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AND EUROPE AMOUNTED TO SOME \$700 MILLION IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS.

+WHEN MONOPOLIES EXIST AND AFFECT VITAL INTERESTS, I BELIEVE GOVERNMENT HAS AN OBLIGATION TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION WITHIN ITS POWER TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC INTEREST,+ HE SAID, EMPHASISING THAT HONG KONG HAD DEVELOPED AND FLOURISHED MAINLY ON THE PRINCIPLE OF FREE AND FAIR COMPETITION.

CITING JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA AS EXAMPLES WHERE LEGISLATIVE CONTROL IS EXERTED ON SHIPPING CONFERENCES, DR. CHUNG URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER PROVIDING SOME +APPROPRIATE STATUTORY MUSCLE+ TO PROTECT HONG KONG'S INTERESTS SO THAT +SHIPPING MONOPOLIES SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO THREATEN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FABRIC OF OUR COMMUNITY.+

/ECHOING

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ECHOING DR. CHUNG'S CONCERN OVER THE ISSUE, MR. TIEN SAID THE CONFERENCE LINES HAD A DISPROPORTINATE SHARE OF HONG KONG'S OCEAN CARGO AND THEREFORE +HAVE VIRTUAL CONTROL OVER OUR ONLY MEANS OF GETTING OUR GOODS TO OUR MARKETS.+

+THERE IS AN OBVIOUS NEED FOR THE RESTORATION OF SOME DEGREE OF BALANCE BETWEEN CONFERENCE LINES AND SHIPPERS. THE GOVERNMENT CAN, AND SHOULD, TAKE STEPS TO RESTORE THE BALANCE,+ HE STRESSED.

MR. TIEN WARNED THAT HONG KONG WAS NOT IN FOR A GOOD TIME. +INDEED, WE ARE BARELY SURVIVING,+ HE REMARKED.

IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE THOUGHT IT JUSTIFIED FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO DEPART FROM ITS HANDS-OFF POLICY THOUGH HE FELT AS A GENERAL RULE, LAISSEZ FAIRE SUITED HONG KONG'S PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES.

HE NOTED THAT HONG KONG WAS ONLY MARGINALLY MORE COMPETITIVE THAN THE DOMESTIC SUPPLIERS IN ITS MAJOR MARKETS, AND THAT IT SURVIVED BECAUSE OF ITS ABILITY TO PRODUCE QUALITY GOODS, AND TO MEET DEMANDS QUICKLY AND TO THE CUSTOMERS' SATISFACTION.

+OUR COMPETITIVE EDGE, SO PAINSTAKINGLY BUILT OVER THE YEARS, WILL BE BLUNTED BY THE EXTRA AND QUITE UNJUSTIFIED FREIGHT RATES, WHICH, THOUGH NOT VERY SIGNIFICANT BY THEMSELVES IN TERMS OF OUR OVERALL COSTS, COULD WELL BE THE PROVERBIAL STRAW THAT BREAKS THE CAMEL'S BACK,+ HE CAUTIONED.

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PUBLIC OMNIBUS SERVICES BILL 1975

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO ALLOW BUS COMPANIES TO CONDUCT THEIR AFFAIRS IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO MEET ADEQUATELY THEIR RECURRENT COMMITMENTS AS WELL AS PROVIDE AND OBTAIN FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF NEW BUSES AND EQUIPMENT.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY WHEN HE MOVED THE SECOND READING OF THE PUBLIC OMNIBUS SERVICES BILL 1975 WHICH SEEKS TO EMPOWER THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO ISSUE FRANCHISES TO BUS COMPANIES FOR INITIAL PERIODS OF UP TO TEN YEARS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT AIMED TO OBTAIN MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER BUS OPERATIONS UNDER THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, IT WAS ALSO CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED FOR THE OPERATIONS OF BUS COMPANIES TO BE COMMERCIALY VIABLE.

PROVISION HAD BEEN MADE, HE SAID, FOR A LEVY ON PROFITS TO BE IMPOSED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, BUT THIS WOULD ONLY BE INVOKED IF THERE WERE EXCESS PROFITS AFTER DUE PROVISION HAD BEEN MADE FOR THE PURCHASE OF NEW BUSES AND OTHER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE WHICH WAS NECESSARY TO ENSURE EFFICIENT BUS OPERATIONS.

+THE PROVISION FOR A LEVY ON PROFITS IS, THEREFORE, SEEN ESSENTIALLY AS A FURTHER CONTROL MEASURE.+

MR. HOBLEY TOLD COUNCIL THAT FARES WOULD CONTINUE TO BE CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.

+THE FREQUENCY OF BUS SERVICES ON EACH ROUTE, AND THE PASSENGER CAPACITY AND TYPE OF BUSES TO BE USED, WILL BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, WHO MAY VARY HIS REQUIREMENTS AS NEED ARISES AND WITH DUE REGARD TO THE NUMBER OF BUSES AVAILABLE,+ HE SAID.

MR. HOBLEY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT BUS ROUTES NEEDED TO BE CHANGED FROM TIME TO TIME AND THAT THERE WAS A STEADY DEMAND FOR THE PROVISION OF NEW SERVICES.

UNDER THE BILL, TEMPORARY ROUTE ALTERATIONS AND TEMPORARY ADDITIONAL SERVICES, FOR A TOTAL PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING TWO YEARS, WILL HAVE TO BE PROVIDED BY GRANTEES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT.

HOWEVER, PERMANENT CHANGES IN ROUTES AND THE PERMANENT PROVISION OF SERVICES ON ADDITIONAL ROUTES WILL BE IN THE CONTROL OF THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL AS THE AUTHORITY BY WHICH A FRANCHISE WAS FIRST GRANTED.

/THE BILL ALSO

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THE BILL ALSO SEEKS TO EMPOWER THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT UP TO TWO DIRECTORS TO THE BOARDS OF ALL FRANCHISED COMPANIES.

+THEIR FUNCTION WILL BE TO REPRESENT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST,+ MR. HOBLEY EXPLAINED. +IT IS HOPED THAT THE ADDITIONAL DIRECTORS WILL BE ABLE TO PLAY AN EFFECTIVE ROLE IN INFLUENCING COMPANY POLICY WHILST AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDING A READY MEANS WHEREBY THE GOVERNMENT'S TRANSPORT POLICIES AND OTHER MATTERS CAN BE COMMUNICATED TO THE COMPANY.+

THE ULTIMATE SANCTION IS THE RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE POWER TO CANCEL FRANCHISE IN THE EVENT OF FAILURE TO PROVIDE A PROPER AND EFFICIENT BUS SERVICE.

+HOWEVER,+ MR. HOBLEY SAID, +IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS COURSE COULD AND WOULD ONLY BE TAKEN IN EXTREME CASES, THOUGH THE POSSIBILITY OF ITS USE CANNOT BE ENTIRELY RULED OUT.+

IN ADDITION, PROVISION IS ALSO MADE FOR A TEMPORARY TAKE-OVER, IN THE EVENT OF THE REVOCATION OF A FRANCHISE, OF ANY OF A BUS COMPANY'S PROPERTY WHICH WAS USED BY IT FOR THE PURPOSES OF ITS FRANCHISE.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID THE INTENTION THAT FRANCHISES WOULD BE GRANTED ON THE BASIS OF ROUTES, HAD, HOWEVER, OPENED THE WAY TO A NEW AND HOPEFULLY EFFECTIVE SANCTION FOR INEFFICIENCY. THE BILL WOULD ALSO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO WITHDRAW A SPECIFIC ROUTE ON WHICH A COMPANY HAS FAILED TO PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY SERVICE, AND, AT THE SAME TIME, WITHDRAW OTHER MORE LUCRATIVE ROUTES.

MR. HOBLEY HOPED THAT THIS SANCTION WOULD DISCOURAGE THE DELIBERATE NEGLECT OF LESS PROFITABLE ROUTES AND AT THE SAME TIME ENSURE THAT A VIABLE PACKAGE OF ROUTES COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO AN ALTERNATIVE OPERATOR WILLING TO OPERATE SERVICES ON THE ROUTES IN QUESTION.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE IMPOSITION OF FINANCIAL PENALTIES BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL IN THE EVENT OF A BUS COMPANY'S FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE BILL. THE PENALTIES MAY BE UP TO \$10,000 FOR A FIRST OFFENCE, UP TO \$20,000 FOR A SECOND AND UP TO \$50,000 FOR ALL SUBSEQUENT OFFENCES. 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.

DEBATE ON THE MOTION WAS ADJOURNED.

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CLOSURE OF DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL TO PRIVATE VEHICULAR TRAFFIC
TO FREE CENTRAL OF TRAFFIC CONGESTION

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON TODAY DESCRIBED THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL TO PRIVATE VEHICULAR TRAFFIC AS +THE ONLY PRACTICAL SOLUTION+ TO AVOID CONGESTION IN CENTRAL DISTRICT.

DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, HE SAID, WAS A VITAL ARTERY IN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT AND WAS ALREADY CLOGGED WITH TOO MANY VEHICLES. THE RESULT WAS UNACCEPTABLE CONGESTION WHICH +SLOWS EVERYONE DOWN AND ENCOURAGES ACCIDENTS.+

+THE ONLY PRACTICAL SOLUTION IS TO REDUCE THE VOLUME OF VEHICLES BY PRECLUDING, AT CONGESTION-PRONE TIMES, THE LEAST IMPORTANT TRAFFIC AND PARTICULARLY THE PRIVATE CAR, THEREBY FREEING FROM CONGESTION PUBLIC TRANSPORT ON WHICH 90 PER CENT OF OUR POPULATION HAS TO RELY.+

MR. ROBSON WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. T.S. LO IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE SAID THE NEED FOR THE TRAFFIC SCHEME, WHICH WOULD BE ENFORCED IN THREE PHASES FROM JANUARY 5 NEXT YEAR, WAS, PERHAPS, ALREADY APPARENT BUT IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL ONCE WORK STARTED ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY.

BY INTRODUCING THE SCHEME NOW AND MONITORING ITS EFFECTIVENESS, HE CONTINUED, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY MINOR ADJUSTMENTS IN TIME TO ENSURE THAT ONCE THE CAPACITY OF THE ROAD WAS REDUCED DURING THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION PERIOD, THE ESSENTIAL TRAFFIC WHICH MUST USE DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL COULD DO SO.

MR. ROBSON POINTED OUT THAT THE CLOSURE OF DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL TO PRIVATE CARS BETWEEN 7 A.M. AND 7 P.M. ON WEEKDAYS SHOULD NOT CAUSE UNDUE HARDSHIP TO THE MOTORISTS AS THERE WERE ALTERNATIVE ROUTES IN CONNAUGHT ROAD AND QUEEN'S ROAD.

HE NOTED THAT VARIOUS MEASURES WERE TAKEN EARLIER THIS YEAR TO RE-ARRANGE STOPPING PLACES AND ROUTES FOR PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES AND BUSES IN CENTRAL DISTRICT. +THESE MEASURES HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO RELIEVING TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN THIS AREA.+

THE SCHEME PROPOSED FOR DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL REPRESENTED +A FURTHER RATIONALISATION OF TRAFFIC IN THIS EXTREMELY CONGESTION-PRONE AREA,+ HE ADDED.

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PROCESSING OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS

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STAFF HANDLING APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE HAVE STANDING INSTRUCTIONS TO PROVIDE FOR EMERGENCY CASH PAYMENTS WHERE THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT FINANCIAL HARDSHIP WOULD OTHERWISE BE SUFFERED.

THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. LI FOOK-KOW, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THIS WAS DONE USUALLY ON THE DAY OF APPLICATION, OR WITHIN 48 HOURS. +OVER THE LAST FIVE MONTHS ABOUT 200 SUCH PAYMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE EVERY WEEK.+

MR. LI WAS ANSWERING A QUESTION BY THE HON. MISS KO SIU-WAH ON WHETHER AN ASSURANCE COULD BE GIVEN THAT, IN URGENT CASES, INTERIM CASH GRANTS WOULD BE AWARDED TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS, OR DISCRETIONARY POWER AS STATED IN THE SCHEME BE EXERCISED WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

AS FOR DISCRETIONARY POWERS AVAILABLE TO THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, HE SAID THESE WERE EXERCISED WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.

ACCORDING TO RECENT STATISTICS, 15 PER CENT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE HOUSEHOLDS WERE SPECIALLY HELPED ON A REGULAR BASIS WITH SUCH EXPENSES AS SCHOOL FEES AND ESSENTIAL TRAVELLING COSTS- AND ABOUT SEVEN PER CENT RECEIVED EXTRA ASSISTANCE TO HELP WITH MEDICALLY APPROVED DIETS.

HE ADDED THAT LUMP SUM PAYMENTS WERE ALSO MADE TO MEET THE COST OF REMOVALS, AND SUCH EXPENSES AS THOSE CONNECTED WITH OFFICIAL DOCUMENTATION AND MEDICAL TREATMENT WHERE THIS WAS NOT FREE OF CHARGE.

REFERRING TO ANOTHER QUESTION FROM MISS KO, SUGGESTING THAT AN APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BE PROCESSED TWO WEEKS, MR. LI POINTED OUT THAT THE NORMAL TIME REQUIRED TO DO SO WAS THREE WEEKS, ALTHOUGH THIS COULD VARY DEPENDING ON THE COMPLEXITY OF THE CASE.

HE FELT THAT THIS THREE-WEEK PERIOD WAS REASONABLE, PARTICULARLY WHEN A CASH PAYMENT COULD BE MADE WITHIN TWO DAYS IN RESPECT OF THOSE IN URGENT NEED. +I DO NOT THEREFORE CONSIDER IT PRACTICABLE TO REDUCE THE PERIOD TO TWO WEEKS.+

THERE WERE, AT THE END OF OCTOBER, ABOUT 37,000 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND 51,000 DISABILITY AND INFIRMITY ALLOWANCE CASES. THESE FIGURES STOOD AT ABOUT 39,600 AND 52,700 RESPECTIVELY AT THE END OF LAST MONTH.

HE SAID THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE HAD ALREADY APPLIED FOR ADDITIONAL STAFF TO COPE WITH THE SITUATION, BUT IT USUALLY TOOK SEVERAL MONTHS TO PROCESS SUCH REQUESTS AND TO RECRUIT THE STAFF. IN THE MEAN TIME, STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THE NORMAL THREE WEEKS WOULD NOT BE EXCEEDED.

+THESE STEPS INCLUDE REDEPLOYMENT OF STAFF FROM OTHER SECTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT AND SIMPLIFYING THE PROCEDURE TEMPORARILY IN DEALING WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS AND WHOSE PREVIOUS REVIEWS HAVE SHOWN NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES.+

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PUBLIC REVENUE PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974 PASSED
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AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG EXPRESSED UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS' CONCERN OVER THE USE OF THE POWERS GIVEN BY THE PUBLIC REVENUE PROTECTION ORDINANCE EARLIER THIS YEAR.

SPEAKING IN THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE PUBLIC REVENUE PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, HE SAID THE SOLE PURPOSE OF THE ORDINANCE WAS TO PROTECT THE GOVERNMENT FROM LOSS OF REVENUE AND NO OTHER.

+IT WAS NEVER INTENDED THAT IT SHOULD BE USED EITHER FOR PRE-EMPTING THE DECISIONS OF THIS COUNCIL ON PROPOSED CHANGES IN RATES OF TAX, OR FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE AUTHORITIES ENTRUSTED WITH THE DUTIES OF REVENUE COLLECTION.

HE WAS REFERRING TO THE ORDERS MADE LAST FEBRUARY BY THE GOVERNOR UNDER THE ORDINANCE IN RELATION TO CHANGES IN RATES OF DUTY AS REGARDS LIQUOR AND TOBACCO, AND IN THE RATE OF THE FIRST REGISTRATION TAX ON MOTOR VEHICLES.

HE SAID: +THE USE OF THE ORDINANCE FOR INCREASES IN SUCH DUTIES AND TAX WAS, OF COURSE, AMPLY WITHIN THE OBJECT OF THE ORDINANCE.

+BUT DOUBTLESS INSPIRED BY THE HON. THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, HIS EXCELLENCY AT THE SAME TIME MADE ORDERS UNDER THE ORDINANCE IN RESPECT OF THE ANNUAL LICENCE FEE OF VEHICLES, THE ANNUAL RATES ON TENEMENTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THE ANNUAL FEES FOR BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES.+

TAX CHANGES OF THAT KIND, HE SAID, OUGHT NOT TO BE MADE UNTIL PROPOSALS TO CHANGE THEM HAD BEEN DEBATED AND DECIDED UPON IN THIS COUNCIL.

HE SAID THAT UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WOULD NOT FIND IT POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT USE OF THE ORDINANCE IN RELATION TO ANNUAL TAXES OF THIS KIND.

MR. CHEUNG SAID HE WAS ASKED BY THE UNOFFICIALS TO SEEK AN ASSURANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE ORDINANCE WOULD NOT BE USED FOR ANY PURPOSE OTHER THAN FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING THE REVENUE.

THE BILL WENT THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND WAS PASSED.

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EFFORTS MADE TO IMPROVE STAFF RELATIONS IN GOVERNMENT

CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE BY THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH AND HEADS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO DEVELOP AND IMPROVE STAFF RELATIONS, BOTH FORMAL AND INFORMAL.

THE OBJECT IS TO AFFORD INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES FOR JUNIOR AND SENIOR STAFF TO FOSTER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND COMMUNICATION.

SPEAKING IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. JAMES WU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION, THE HON. DENIS BRAY SAID THE MEANS BY WHICH A JUNIOR OFFICER MIGHT BRING GRIEVANCES TO THE ATTENTION OF SENIOR OFFICERS WERE PRESCRIBED IN THE COLONIAL REGULATIONS AND CIVIL SERVICE REGULATIONS.

ANY OFFICER, HE EXPLAINED, MAY ADDRESS HIS HEAD OF DEPARTMENT THROUGH HIS IMMEDIATE SENIOR OFFICER. IF HE DOES NOT GET SATISFACTION, HE MAY IN ASCENDING ORDER ADDRESS THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, THE GOVERNOR, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, AND THE QUEEN, MR. BRAY ADDED.

+JUNIOR OFFICERS, INDEED ALL OFFICERS, ARE ENCOURAGED TO PUT FORWARD TO THEIR SENIOR OFFICERS ANY IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS THEY MAY HAVE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF EFFICIENCY AND SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC,+ HE STRESSED.

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GOOD PROGRESS MADE ON SMALL DEBTS COURT

SATISFACTORY PROGRESS IS BEING MADE IN SETTING UP A SMALL DEBTS COURT IN HONG KONG, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+A DRAFT BILL IS UNDER CONSIDERATION BETWEEN MY OFFICE AND THE JUDICIARY. SOME DIFFERENCES OF VIEW HAVE EMERGED BUT I CAN SAY THAT PROGRESS IS SATISFACTORY,+ HE SAID.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MADE THE STATEMENT IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WILSON WANG.

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IMPROVEMENT OF PEDESTRIAN'S SAFETY AT ZEBRA CROSSINGS

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, SAID TODAY THAT PEDESTRIAN SAFETY HAD TO BE IMPROVED IN HONG KONG WHERE PEDESTRIAN FLOWS ACROSS THE ROADS WERE VOLUMINOUS.

HE WAS MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE FIXED PENALTY (TRAFFIC CONTRAVENTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1975 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE BILL SEEKS TO AMEND THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE SO AS TO PERMIT THE DELINEATION OF +CONTROLLED AREAS+ ON BOTH SIDES OF A ZEBRA CROSSING WHERE, WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, VEHICLES ARE PROHIBITED FROM STOPPING OR OVERTAKING.

IT ALSO ENSURES THAT THE EXPRESSION +ZEBRA CROSSING+ DESCRIBES PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS DELINEATED UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC (ROAD CROSSING) REGULATIONS.

MR. ROBSON POINTED OUT THAT THIS LEGISLATION WAS MODELLED ON THE UNITED KINGDOM LEGISLATION WHICH HAD PROVED SUCCESSFUL IN IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF PEDESTRIANS ON ZEBRA CROSSINGS.

+THE NEED TO IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IN HONG KONG, WHERE PEDESTRIAN FLOWS ACROSS OUR ROADS ARE VOLUMINOUS,+ HE EXPLAINED, +IS EVEN GREATER THAN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IT IS THEREFORE PROPOSED TO FOLLOW THE UNITED KINGDOM'S EXAMPLE AND INTRODUCE CONTROLLED AREAS ON BOTH SIDES OF ZEBRA CROSSINGS IN HONG KONG.+

DEBATE ON THE MOTION WAS ADJOURNED.

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IMPORTATION OF WILD AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS

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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ISSUE OF PERMITS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF WILD AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH (ANIMALS AND BIRDS) ORDINANCE.

REPLYING TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, POINTED OUT THAT AT PRESENT THERE WERE 12 WILD ANIMALS IN HONG KONG, INCLUDING NINE BEARS, ONE JAGUAR, ONE LEOPARD AND ONE ELEPHANT.

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MINOR CHANGES NEEDED IN LANDLORD AND TENANT LEGISLATION

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THE AMENDED PART II OF THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE WHICH WAS ENACTED LAST DECEMBER HAS WORKED SATISFACTORILY AND THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT HAS DISPOSED OF THE MAIN RUSH OF APPLICATIONS FOR RENT INCREASES.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON. IAN LIGHTBODY SAID EVEN SO, A FEW MINOR CHANGES TO THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE WERE NEEDED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE BILL, WHICH CONTAINS THE CHANGES, AIMED AT :

- * ELIMINATING UNNECESSARY DELAYS IN PROCESSING APPLICATIONS FOR RENT INCREASES=
- * REMOVING AN AREA OF DOUBT BY ALLOWING RENT TRIBUNALS AND DISTRICT COURTS TO DECIDE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF ANY INCREASE THEY MAY AWARD=
- * ENABLING LANDLORDS TO OBTAIN FULL DETAILS OF ALL SUB-TENANCIES AND
- * EXEMPTING PARTIES ENTERING INTO SHORT-TERM TENANCY AGREEMENTS EXCLUDED UNDER PART II OF THE ORDINANCE TO MAKE SEPARATE APPLICATION FOR EXCLUSION OF THE AGREEMENT UNDER PART V.

DEBATE ON THE MOTION WAS ADJOURNED.

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DUMPING OF EXPLOSIVES
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THE MASTER OF THE S.S. +JASON II+ WAS ACTING ON THE ADVICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE WHO HAD CONSULTED THE MINES DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE WHEN HE DUMPED EXPLOSIVES ON THE HIGH SEAS.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON IN HIS REPLY TO THE HON. T.S. LO'S QUESTIONS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

RECOUNTING THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO THE DUMPING, MR. ROBSON SAID WHEN THE S.S. +JASON II+ ARRIVED IN HONG KONG, IT HAD A CARGO OF EXPLOSIVES. ON INSPECTION, SOME OF THE CARGO WAS FOUND TO BE DAMAGED BY SEA WATER AND IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION.

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OWNERS OF THE CARGO WAS THEREFORE TOLD BY A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN THAT THE DAMAGED PORTION COULD NOT BE LANDED AND STORED IN AN EXPLOSIVE DEPOT. HE WAS ADVISED THAT THE MATERIALS SHOULD EITHER BE RETURNED TO THE PORT OF LOADING OR DUMPED SAFELY ON THE HIGH SEAS, HE SAID.

+I SHOULD SAY HERE THAT THE HIGH SEAS ARE DEFINED AS BEING OUTSIDE THE TERRITORIAL WATERS OF ANY COUNTRY. PERMISSION TO DUMP IN HONG KONG WATERS WAS REFUSED,+ HE EMPHASISED.

MR. ROBSON DISCLOSED THAT THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WAS CURRENTLY STUDYING A LEGISLATION AIMED AT CONTROLLING THE DUMPING AT SEA OF EXPLOSIVE MATERIALS BY GRANTING A LICENCE WHICH SPECIFIED EXACTLY HOW SUCH MATERIALS WERE TO BE DUMPED. A SIMILAR LEGISLATION WAS ENACTED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM THIS YEAR, HE ADDED.

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''SPEED READING'' DEMONSTRATION FOR STUDENTS
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A TALK AND DEMONSTRATION ON ''SPEED READING'' HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY THE TAI HANG TUNG COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE USING ITS LIBRARY TO HELP THEM IMPROVE THEIR READING.

THIS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE LIBRARY OF THE CENTRE IN TONG YAM STREET TOMORROW(THURSDAY) AT 8 P.M.

A GUEST SPEAKER FROM A ''SPEED READING'' TRAINING INSTITUTE WILL GIVE THE TALK AND DEMONSTRATE SOME FAST READING TECHNIQUES. THOSE ATTENDING THE LECTURE WILL ALSO BE GIVEN A SHORT TEST TO CHECK THEIR READING ABILITY.

IT IS DESIGNED FOR STUDENTS STUDYING IN FORM 3 AND ABOVE, AND APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE LIBRARY COUNTER. NOTES AND READING MATERIALS WILL BE SUPPLIED BUT PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BRING THEIR OWN PENS AND A PIECE OF CARDBOARD ON WHICH TO WRITE.

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RATING AMENDMENT BILL 1975

A BILL DESIGNED TO AMEND CERTAIN CLAUSES IN THE RATING ORDINANCE WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE RATING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1975, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY, SAID SINCE THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED ON APRIL 1, 1973 EXPERIENCE HAD SHOWN THAT SOME MINOR AMENDMENTS WERE DESIRABLE.

AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE BILL SEEKS TO ENSURE THAT RATEABLE VALUES IN NEW RATING AREAS WERE BROADLY IN LINE WITH EXISTING VALUATIONS OF TENEMENTS IN OTHER AREAS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE AMENDMENT WILL AFFORD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN FIXING URBAN AREA RATES.

DEBATE ON THE MOTION WAS ADJOURNED.

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RICE IMPORT QUOTA FOR FIRST QUARTER OF 1975 ANNOUNCED

THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE RICE IMPORT QUOTA FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1975 HAD BEEN FIXED AT 78,390 METRIC TONS.

COMMENTING ON THIS, MR. PAUL WONG, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, SAID THAT RICE STOCKS AT PRESENT AMOUNTED TO ABOUT 80,000 METRIC TONS. THE QUOTA LEVEL TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THESE RELATIVELY LARGE STOCKS AND THE IMPROVED SUPPLY POSITION.

HE SAID THAT REPORTS ON REGIONAL RICE CROPS AND THE U.S. CROPS WERE VERY FAVOURABLE. IT WAS THEREFORE POSSIBLE TO AIM AT SLIGHTLY REDUCING HONG KONG'S STOCKS FROM THE VERY HIGH LEVEL THAT HAD CLEARLY BEEN NECESSARY EARLIER IN THE YEAR. HE RECALLED THAT THE CONSUMER COUNCIL'S REPORT ON THE RICE CONTROL SCHEME HAD RECOMMENDED THAT THE STOCKS LEVEL SHOULD BE REDUCED.

SINCE JANUARY 1 THIS YEAR, HONG KONG HAS IMPORTED A TOTAL OF 278,583 METRIC TONS OF RICE. OF THIS AMOUNT, CHINA HAS SUPPLIED 144,261 METRIC TONS AND THAILAND 105,594 METRIC TONS. THE BALANCE HAS BEEN IMPORTED FROM THE UNITED STATES, AUSTRALIA AND PAKISTAN.

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MARRIAGE BILL INTRODUCED INTO LEGCO

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A BILL WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, SEEKING TO ENABLE THE REGISTRAR OF MARRIAGES TO DISPENSE WITH THE ISSUE OF A CERTIFICATE GIVING NOTICE OF AN INTENDED MARRIAGE IF IT IS TO BE CONTRACTED IN A REGISTRY.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1975, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY, EXPLAINED THAT AT PRESENT THE REGISTRAR WOULD, WHEN A NOTICE OF INTENDED MARRIAGE WAS GIVEN TO HIM, EXHIBIT ONE COPY OF THE NOTICE AT HIS OFFICE.

IN DUE COURSE, HE WOULD ISSUE A CERTIFICATE TO THE EFFECT THAT NOTICES OF THE MARRIAGE WAS DULY ENTERED IN THE MARRIAGE NOTICE BOOK. THE CERTIFICATE ALSO STATES, WHERE THAT IS THE CASE, THAT ITS ISSUE HAS NOT BEEN FORBIDDEN BY ANYONE AUTHORISED TO DO SO UNDER THE LAW.

IF THE MARRIAGE IS TO BE CELEBRATED ELSEWHERE THAN AT A MARRIAGE REGISTRY, THE CERTIFICATE MUST BE GIVEN TO THE MINISTER WHO IS TO CELEBRATE THE MARRIAGE AND THE OBJECT OF THIS IS PLAIN ENOUGH, MR. HOBLEY SAID.

AT PRESENT, THE REGISTRAR IS ALSO REQUIRED TO ISSUE A CERTIFICATE WHERE THE MARRIAGE IS TO BE CONTRACTED IN A MARRIAGE REGISTRY. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FELT THAT THERE IS NO POINT IN THIS SINCE ALL THE MATTERS ARE WITHIN THE REGISTRAR'S KNOWLEDGE.

THE BILL WILL THUS MAKE IT UNNECESSARY FOR A CERTIFICATE TO BE ISSUED IN SUCH A CASE.

IT PROVIDES INSTEAD, MR. HOBLEY ADDED, FOR THE ENDORSEMENT ON THE NOTICE OF INTENDED MARRIAGE OF A STATEMENT THAT THE ISSUE OF A CERTIFICATE HAD NOT BEEN FORBIDDEN. THAT ENDORSEMENT WILL HAVE EFFECT AS IF A CERTIFICATE HAD BEEN ISSUED.

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1973/74 -- A YEAR OF CHALLENGE FOR INDUSTRY

THE FISCAL YEAR 1973/74 WAS ONE OF CHALLENGE FOR INDUSTRY AND, IN MANY WAYS, FOR THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE, DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG SAID TODAY.

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR WHEN THE STOCK MARKET WAS +AT THE HEIGHT OF ITS FEVER+, HE NOTED, A SETBACK WAS EXPERIENCED BY THE CENTRE IN THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS.

+FORTUNATELY, THE DECLINE WAS TEMPORARY AND THINGS BEGAN TO IMPROVE IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF THE FISCAL YEAR.+

DR. CHUNG WAS SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHEN HE TABLED THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1973/74.

HE SAID THAT DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE CONTINUED TO EXPAND THOUGH IT HAD VIRTUALLY THE SAME STAFF STRENGTH AS THAT OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THE CENTRE PROVIDED PRODUCTIVITY TRAINING TO 6,326 PEOPLE AND UNDERTOOK 104 CONSULTANCY AND TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS -- SHOWING AN INCREASE OF 20 PERCENT AND 73 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

IN RESPONSE TO THE OIL CRISIS, DR. CHUNG SAID, THE CENTRE, THROUGH THE AUSPICES OF THE ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANISATION, ARRANGED FOR OVERSEAS EXPERT ASSISTANCE IN THE PROMOTION OF FUEL EFFICIENCY AND CONDUCTED A SERIES OF WELL-ATTENDED SEMINARS AND TRAINING COURSES ON THE EFFECTIVE AND ECONOMIC USE OF ENERGY.

HE POINTED OUT THAT A START WAS MADE DURING THE YEAR TO PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING TRAINING. AT THE SAME TIME, A FURTHER STEP WAS ALSO TAKEN TO ASSIST SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRY THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF A SMALL INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY SERVICE.

FOR A SMALL MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION, THE SERVICE PROVIDES FOR REGULAR VISITS BY THE CENTRE'S CONSULTANTS FOR ON-THE-SPOT ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE, WHICH NORMALLY COVERS THE FULL RANGE OF MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES AND TECHNICAL KNOW-HOWS.

+THIS SERVICE IS OF SPECIAL VALUE TO OWNER-MANAGERS WHO MAY BE FACED WITH BUSINESS PROBLEMS IN A VARIETY OF FIELDS OUTSIDE THEIR OWN KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE,+ DR. CHUNG SAID.

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TRADE UP BY OVER 33 PER CENT IN 1973/74

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HONG KONG'S OVERALL TRADE PERFORMANCE IN 1973/74 EXCEEDED MOST EXPECTATIONS DESPITE SOME APPREHENSION AT THE BEGINNING.

THE TOTAL TRADE FIGURE AT \$55,000 MILLION, THOUGH INFLATED BY PRICE INCREASES, WAS A NEW RECORD, AS WAS THE GROWTH RATE OF 33.6 PER CENT WHICH WAS UNPRECEDENTED SINCE 1950.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN YUAN-HAO WHEN HE TABLED THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1973/74 AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN HIS CAPACITY AS VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.

HE NOTED THAT IN THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL AND STAFF RESOURCES WERE +DEPLOYED TO THEIR LIMIT+ IN CARRYING OUT AN EXPANDED PROGRAMME OF TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL EVENTS.

FORTY-THREE SPECIFIC PROJECTS WERE MOUNTED DURING THE YEAR -- SEVEN MORE THAN IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR. THE MAJOR PROMOTION, HE SAID, WAS THE READY-TO-WEAR FESTIVAL WHICH ATTRACTED 925 OVERSEAS BUYERS REPRESENTING COMPANIES FROM 30 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

+THE FESTIVAL HAS NOW BECOME AN IMPORTANT EVENT TO BUYERS ON THE INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT OF LEADING APPAREL TRADE FAIRS.+

IN TERMS OF PRIORITIES, MR. TIEN POINTED OUT THAT EMPHASIS CONTINUED TO BE PLACED ON MAINTAINING THE LEVEL OF HONG KONG'S PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS IN ALL THE MAJOR MARKETS, BUT +DUE CONSIDERATION WAS ALSO GIVEN TO THE EXPLORATION OF NEW MARKET OPPORTUNITIES AND THE IDENTIFICATION OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF INDUSTRIAL IMPORTS.+

HE ADDED THAT ONE UNFORESEEN FEATURE OF THE COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES THIS YEAR WAS THE CO-ORDINATING ROLE IT PLAYED IN THE WORLDWIDE SUPPLY SHORTAGE OF CERTAIN PLASTIC RAW MATERIALS.

+AT RELATIVELY SHORT NOTICE, IT WAS ABLE TO ACT QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY TO KEEP THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT AND INTERESTED ASSOCIATIONS AND BUSINESSMEN ADVISED OF THE INTERNATIONAL SUPPLY POSITION AS IT DEVELOPED,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE COUNCIL, THROUGH ITS NETWORK OF OVERSEAS OFFICES, CONTINUED ITS ROLE OF PROMOTION OF FOREIGN PARTICIPATION IN HONG KONG INDUSTRY IN CLOSE CO-OPERATION WITH THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

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CODE OF AID FOR SPECIAL SCHOOLS

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON. KENNETH TOPLEY, TODAY TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT WORK ON THE NEW PROPOSED CODE OF AID FOR SPECIAL SCHOOLS WAS PROCEEDING WITH ALL POSSIBLE SPEED.

HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS LIKELY TO BE SOME TIME BEFORE THE DRAFT CODE COULD BE FINALISED AND SUBMITTED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.

IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE SAID HE COULD NOT STATE A PROVISIONAL DATE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. MRS. JOYCE SYMONS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

REFERRING TO ANOTHER QUESTION BY MRS. SYMONS, MR. TOPLEY INDICATED THAT HE COULD NOT GIVE ANY +OUTRIGHT ASSURANCE+ AT THIS STAGE AS TO WHETHER THE NEW CODE SHOULD BE INTRODUCED WITH RETROSPECTIVE EFFECT.

+BUT THE QUESTION OF THE EQUITABILITY OF BACKDATING PAY SCALES TO APRIL 1972 WILL BE MOST CAREFULLY CONSIDERED,+ HE SAID.

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SPECIAL COMPENSATION SCHEME
FOR WORKMEN SUFFERING FROM SILICOSIS

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON. IAN PRICE, SAID TODAY THAT THE CO-OPERATION OF THE ACCIDENT INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG WAS ESSENTIAL IF THE GOVERNMENT WAS TO PROVIDE FOR COMPULSORY WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE FOR SILICOSIS.

HE NOTED THAT ANY SCHEME DEALING WITH COMPENSATION IN RESPECT OF THIS DISEASE - A PROGRESSIVE AND INCURABLE LUNG DISEASE CAUSED BY PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO FREE SILICA DUST - WOULD BE COMPLICATED BY THE DIFFICULTY OF DETERMINING PROPORTIONATE LIABILITY WHERE THE WORKER HAD BEEN EMPLOYED BY A NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS DURING THE PERIOD OF EXPOSURE.

NORMAL WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION, HE ADDED, WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR PROVIDING COMPENSATION FOR SILICOTICS.

MR. PRICE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. JAMES WU WHO HAD ASKED WHEN SILICOSIS WOULD BE INCLUDED AS AN INDUSTRIAL DISEASE UNDER THE WORKMENS COMPENSATION ORDINANCE.

THE GOVERNOR, MR. PRICE POINTED OUT, HAD STATED IN OCTOBER THAT LEGISLATION FOR SPECIAL COMPENSATION SCHEME FOR THOSE SUFFERING FROM SILICOSIS WOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THE CURRENT SESSION.

+THIS REMAINS THE POSITION, AND I AM UNABLE TO BE MORE PRECISE, BECAUSE OF POINTS YET TO BE RESOLVED WITH THE ACCIDENT INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG,+ HE ADDED.

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FIRM ACTION BEING TAKEN BY POLICE
AGAINST TAXI DRIVERS SELECTING PASSENGERS
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THE POLICE ARE TAKING FIRM ACTION AGAINST TAXI DRIVERS WHO UNREASONABLY SELECT PASSENGERS BY PREFERRED DESTINATIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. J.H. BREMIDGE, MR. ROBSON STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THE POLICE COULD ACT ONLY AFTER A COMPLAINT HAD BEEN LODGED.

HE INDICATED THAT THE POLICE HAD RECEIVED SO FAR THIS YEAR 59 COMPLAINTS ABOUT TAXI DRIVERS EITHER REFUSING A FARE OR REFUSING TO GO WHERE THE PASSENGER DIRECTED.

THE POLICE HAVE PROSECUTED 26 OF THESE CASES- 12 ARE CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION WHILE NO FURTHER ACTION HAS BEEN POSSIBLE WITH RESPECT TO THE REMAINING 21 MAINLY BECAUSE COMPLAINANTS WERE EITHER UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO GIVE EVIDENCE IN COURT.

MR. ROBSON REVEALED THAT A SIMPLIFIED REPORTING PROCEDURE, WHICH MERELY REQUIRES THE COMPLETION OF A PRO FORMA, WAS NOW IN OPERATION AT KAI TAK AS MOST COMPLAINTS RELATED TO TAXIS AT THE AIRPORT.

TAXI DRIVERS, HE SAID, COULD USUALLY RECOGNISE TOURISTS AND ASSUME THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THE TOURISTS WOULD LAY A COMPLAINT. EVEN IF THE TOURISTS DID LAY A COMPLAINT, HE ADDED, THEY WERE UNLIKELY TO BE STILL IN HONG KONG WHEN THEY WERE REQUIRED TO GIVE EVIDENCE AT ANY SUBSEQUENT COURT HEARING.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS APPARENT FROM THE COMPLAINTS THAT THERE WAS LITTLE UNDERSTANDING, ESPECIALLY BY VISITORS TO HONG KONG, OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TAXI AND PUBLIC HIRED CAR OPERATIONS.

IN RESPECT OF PUBLIC HIRED CARS, BOTH THE DESTINATION AND FARE WERE SUBJECT TO MUTUAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN DRIVER AND PASSENGER WHICH MEANT THAT PUBLIC HIRED CAR DRIVERS WERE COMPLETELY FREE TO SELECT CUSTOMERS WHO WERE WILLING TO PAY WHAT WAS DEMANDED, MR. ROBSON EXPLAINED.

BUT WHILE THIS WAS NOT THE CASE WITH TAXI DRIVERS, HE SAID, +THERE IS, SOMETIMES, A GOOD REASON FOR A TAXI DRIVER REFUSING TO GO TO A SPECIFIED DESTINATION, IF, FOR EXAMPLE, THE PROSPECTIVE PASSENGER LOOKS LIKE A VILLAIN AND WISHES TO GO TO AN ISOLATED SPOT WHERE ROBBERIES OF TAXI DRIVERS HAVE OCCURRED IN THE PAST.+

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BILLS PASSED

FIVE BILLS PASSED THEIR COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY AND BECAME LAW.

THEY WERE THE PUBLIC REVENUE PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, THE LAW REVISION (MISCELLANEOUS REPEALS) BILL 1974, THE FORESTRY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974 AND THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974.

ANOTHER SIX BILLS WERE INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND READING. THEY WERE THE RATING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1975, THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1975, THE MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1975, THE PUBLIC OMNIBUS SERVICES BILL 1975, THE FIXED PENALTY (TRAFFIC CONTRAVENTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1975 AND THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1975.

AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER'S BILL, THE GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION (HONG KONG BRANCH) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1975, WAS ALSO INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL FOR FIRST AND SECOND READING.

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FIRST JOINT CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS X'MAS PARTY

THE FIVE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS RUN BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD THEIR FIRST JOINT CHRISTMAS PARTY TOMORROW (DECEMBER 19) AT THE O PUI SHAN BOYS HOME IN KAU WA KENG, KOWLOON. IT WILL START AT 1.30 PM.

ALSO ON THE OCCASION, 59 BOYS AND GIRLS OF THESE INSTITUTIONS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE REQUIRED STANDARD FOR THE BRONZE AWARD IN THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME WILL RECEIVE THEIR CERTIFICATES FROM MR. MORGAN, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE.

THE PARTY WILL START OFF WITH AN INDOOR STAGE SHOW BY SOME OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS, FOLLOWED BY AN OUTDOOR FUN FAIR WITH 12 GAMES STALLS, MOST OF THEM SPONSORED BY PUBLIC-SPIRITED AND CIVIC LEADERS.

BEFORE THE START OF THE ENTERTAINMENT, THERE WILL BE A BRIEF CEREMONY AT WHICH MR. MAK WING-HONG, THE HEAD OF THE PROBATIONS AND CORRECTIONS DIVISION WILL MAKE THE OPENING ADDRESS. MR. MORGAN WILL ALSO MAKE A SPEECH BEFORE HE PRESENTS THE CERTIFICATES.

THERE WILL BE A STALL DECORATION COMPETITION, AND THE WINNERS WILL RECEIVE THEIR PRIZES FROM MR. MORGAN'S DAUGHTER, MISS CAROLINE MORGAN.

PARENTS OF THE CHILDREN UNDER CARE IN THESE FIVE INSTITUTIONS TOGETHER WITH MORE THAN 150 GUESTS REPRESENTING VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE JUDICIARY AND INCLUDING SOCIAL WORKERS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS, HAVE ALSO BEEN INVITED.

NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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MEET THE MEDIA TOMORROW

NOTE TO EDITORS:

ANOTHER SESSION OF +MEET THE MEDIA+ HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 3 P.M. IN THE THEATRE OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, BEAONSFIELD HOUSE, FIFTH FLOOR.

THE SPEAKER WILL BE MR. VICTOR LADD, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE. MR. LADD WILL TRY TO CLARIFY THE CRITICISMS ON THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO.3) BILL 1974.

RADIO AND TELEVISION CREWS WISHING TO ATTEND ARE REQUESTED TO SET UP THEIR EQUIPMENT BEFORE THE START OF THE SESSION TO AVOID INCONVENIENCE.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1974.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN TSUEN WAN

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MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED THAT, WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, THE SECTION OF YAU MA HOM ROAD, BETWEEN FU UK ROAD AND CHEUNG WING ROAD IN TSUEN WAN, IS CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS.

THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE IS TO ENABLE EMERGENCY ROAD WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT.

KOWLOON MOTOR BUS ROUTE NO. 36 IS TEMPORARILY DIVERTED TO KWOK SHUI ROAD ON BOTH EAST AND WEST BOUND JOURNEYS. THE BUS STOPS AT YAU MA HOM ROAD ARE RESITED TO KWOK SHUI ROAD AND CHEUNG WING STREET RESPECTIVELY.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1974

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

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

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF RICE

<u>GRADE OF RICE</u>	<u>AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY</u>	<u>WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)</u>
<u>CHINA RICE</u>		
SEE MEW	GOOD	1.80
S.C. JIEN	GOOD	1.69
PO NGAI	GOOD	--
CHU CHO	GOOD	--
<u>THAI RICE</u>		
100% WHOLE	GOOD	1.68
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	1.54
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	--
A1 SUPER	GOOD	1.33
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	1.67
<u>U.S. RICE</u>	GOOD	1.77
<u>AUSTRALIAN RICE</u>	GOOD	1.72
<u>PAKISTAN RICE</u>	GOOD	--
<u>TAIWAN RICE</u>	GOOD	--

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SWINE

(ALL SOURCES)

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

/SUPPLIES AND

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 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	LIMITED	4.80	1.50	3.50
BIG-EYES	GOOD	3.20	1.00	1.50
SQUID	LIMITED	5.00	3.00	4.20
HAIR-TAILS	GOOD	2.60	1.00	1.50
LIZARD FISHES	NORMAL	2.50	0.90	1.80
CROAKERS	GOOD	2.50	1.00	1.60
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	LIMITED	3.00	1.80	2.40
MELON COAT	NORMAL	2.30	1.40	1.80
BREAMS	LIMITED	5.20	4.00	4.80
YELLOW BELLY	GOOD	1.20	0.50	0.80
MACKERELS	NORMAL	5.00	2.50	3.70
RED GOAT FISH	NORMAL	2.60	0.35	1.20
FROK-TAIL	LIMITED	1.00	0.55	0.80
HORSE-HEAD	LIMITED	6.00	2.80	4.60
MELON SEED	LIMITED	2.80	1.00	1.80
POMFRETS	SCARCE	8.30	5.00	7.50
GAROUPAS	SCARCE	8.50	4.00	6.80
YELLOW CROAKER	SCARCE	6.00	4.60	5.80

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	LIMITED	1.80	0.70	1.40
WHITE CABBAGE	NORMAL	0.50	0.10	0.30
CHINESE LETTUCE	LIMITED	1.20	0.40	0.80
WATER SPINACH	---		NO SALE	
CHINESE KALE	LIMITED	1.80	0.80	1.40
STRING BEANS	---		NO SALE	
SPRING ONION	LIMITED	1.60	0.40	1.00
SPINACH	LIMITED	2.20	0.60	1.60
WATER CRESS	NORMAL	1.50	0.40	1.00
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	LIMITED	0.60	0.20	0.40
CHINESE SPINACH	---		NO SALE	
TOMATO	LIMITED	2.20	1.20	1.60