



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1978

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LEGCO APPROVES PROPOSAL TO ADJUST TELEPHONE TARIFFS

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED THE PROPOSAL TO ADJUST THE TELEPHONE TARIFFS FROM JULY 1 THIS YEAR.

MOVING THE MOTION TO AMEND THE TELEPHONE ORDINANCE TO GIVE LEGISLATIVE EFFECT TO THE PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON OUTLINED FOUR MAIN POINTS CONCERNING THE REVISION AS FOLLOWS:

- * THE OVERALL INCREASE OF ABOUT SEVEN PER CENT IS LESS THAN HALF THE INCREASE THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE AFFAIRS OF TELEPHONE COMPANY THOUGHT WOULD ~~HAVE BEEN~~ NECESSARY 18 MONTHS AGO=
- * THE LAST INCREASE WAS ALMOST THREE AND A HALF YEARS AGO=
- * THE INCREASES ARE MODEST IN DOLLAR TERMS - \$2 A MONTH FOR SUBSCRIBERS OF RESIDENTIAL LINES WHICH ACCOUNT FOR 77 PER CENT OF THE TELEPHONE NETWORK AND \$4 A MONTH FOR SUBSCRIBERS OF COMMERCIAL LINES ~~AND=~~
- * NO FURTHER INCREASES ARE EXPECTED BEFORE 1981.

MR. JEAFFRESON ALSO GAVE A RUN DOWN OF THE VARIOUS DEVELOPMENTS OF THE TELEPHONE COMPANY LEADING TO THE PRESENT ADJUSTMENTS.

HE SAID THE COMPANY, BY VIRTUE OF AN ANNUAL GROWTH OF ABOUT NINE PER CENT IN BOTH 1976 AND 1977 IN THE NUMBER OF EXCHANGE LINES CONNECTED, HAS REDUCED CONSIDERABLY THE SPARE CAPACITY THAT HAD ACCUMULATED DURING THE RECESSION.

+IN ADDITION, THE COMPANY HAS IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY PER EMPLOYEE. THESE DEVELOPMENTS HAVE SO FAR RENDERED IT UNNECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE TARIFF INCREASE RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMISSION IN 1975, INSPITE OF THE COMPANY'S EXPENDITURE ON IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF ITS SERVICE AND ON EXPANDING IT INTO RURAL AREAS.+

+BUT, RISING COSTS MEAN THAT AN ADJUSTMENT IN TARRIFS IS NOW NECESSARY. THE COMPANY CALCULATED THAT AN INCREASE OF AT LEAST 10 PER CENT WITH EFFECT FROM JULY 1, 1978 WOULD BE REQUIRED, AND ACCORDINGLY SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION TO THE GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

MR. JEAFFRESON POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT IN THE PROCESS OF EXAMINING THIS APPLICATION, ACCEPTED THE COMPANY'S FORECAST OF OF AN ANNUAL INCREASE AT AROUND SEVEN TO EIGHT PER CENT IN THE NUMBER OF EXCHANGE LINES, UP TO AND INCLUDING 1981.

HE SAID USING THIS FORECAST AS A BASIS FOR A PROJECTION OF THE COMPANY'S FINANCES UP TO 1981 SHOWED CLEARLY THAT THE COMPANY WOULD BE UNABLE TO ACHIEVE IN 1978 AND THEREAFTER THE 16 PER CENT RETURN ON SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS PERMITTED UNDER THE PROFIT CONTROL SCHEME.

/HE SAID THE

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAVING REGARD TO THE GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF LINES, CONCLUDED THAT TO ACHIEVE A RETURN APPROACHING THE ONE ALLOWED UNDER THE PROFIT CONTROL SCHEME, AN OVERALL INCREASE OF ABOUT SEVEN PER CENT IN JULY THIS YEAR WOULD BE ADEQUATE.

THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, THE HON. SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG, WHILE SUPPORTING THE MOTION, THOUGHT THE PRESENT SCHEME OF PROFIT CONTROL WAS INADEQUATE IN TWO ASPECTS.

ONE DEFICIENCY IN THE PRESENT SCHEME, WHICH USES SHAREHOLDERS FUNDS AS THE BASIS FOR THE PERMITTED RETURN, WAS THE LACK OF INCENTIVE FOR THE COMPANY TO MAKE USE OF LOANS FOR FINANCING EXPANSION.

+FOR EVERY DOLLAR INVESTED BY THE SHAREHOLDERS, TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERS HAVE TO PAY THEM 16 CENTS OR 16 PER CENT EVERY YEAR WHEREAS, IN RESPECT OF LOAN FINANCING, TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERS ONLY HAVE TO PAY ABOUT 6 PER CENT AT PRESENT, OR NORMALLY A RANGE OF 5 TO 9 PER CENT, OR AT WORST, AS IN THE YEAR 1974, 12 PER CENT.

+IT IS THEREFORE DESIRABLE IN THE INTERESTS OF CONSUMERS TO MAINTAIN A PROPER BALANCE BETWEEN FINANCING FROM SHAREHOLDERS FUNDS AND LOAN FINANCING,+ HE SAID.

WITHOUT A FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE FINANCIAL PLANS OF THE COMPANY, HE COULD ONLY SAY THAT BY MAKING GREATER USE OF LOAN FINANCING, THE PRESENT INCREASE IN TARIFFS COULD LIKELY HAVE BEEN DEFERRED SOMEWHAT AND THE NEXT ANTICIPATED INCREASE POSTPONED BEYOND 1981.

ANOTHER INADEQUACY SIR SZE-YUEN OBSERVED WAS THAT THE PRESENT SCHEME MERELY CONTROLLED THE MAXIMUM AND GUARANTEED PROFIT. +THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE LEVEL OF SALARIES, WAGES AND FRINGE BENEFITS OF EMPLOYEES OF THE COMPANY,+ HE SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THERE WERE TWO WAYS TO INCREASE PROFIT MARGINS, BY RAISING CHARGES AND BY REDUCING COSTS, AND IN A MONOPOLY ENTERPRISE SUCH AS THE TELEPHONE COMPANY, THE EASIER WAY WAS NATURALLY BY RAISING CHARGES.

+IT IS THEREFORE IMPERATIVE THAT THE COMPANY IS MANAGED EFFICIENTLY AND ECONOMICALLY AND THAT SALARIES, WAGES AND FRINGE BENEFITS OF ITS EMPLOYEES ARE COMPARABLE WITH AND NOT BETTER THAN OTHER NON-MONOPOLY INDUSTRIES,+ HE SAID.

IN NON-MONOPOLY INDUSTRIES SUCH AS EXPORT-ORIENTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, THE LEVELS OF REMUNERATION WERE GOVERNED BY WORLD-WIDE COMPETITION AND THEREFORE REFLECTED THE EFFECTIVENESS, EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIES.

+THIS WAS NOT SO IN A MONOPOLY PUBLIC UTILITY WHOSE INEFFECTIVENESS, INEFFICIENCY AND EVEN MISTAKES WOULD EVENTUALLY BE PAID NOT NECESSARILY BY ITS SHAREHOLDERS, NOR BY ITS MANAGEMENT BUT BY ITS CONSUMERS.

SIR SZE-YUEN RECOGNISED THAT DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS THE TELEPHONE COMPANY HAD MUCH IMPROVED THE QUALITY OF ITS SERVICES AND THAT SINCE ITS LAST INCREASE IN TARIFFS IN JANUARY 1975, THE VARIOUS CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES HAD RISEN BY ABOUT 14 PER CENT.

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THE COMPANY'S ORIGINAL SUBMISSION WAS FOR AN AVERAGE INCREASE IN TARIFFS OF 10 PER CENT FROM JULY 1 THIS YEAR. A FURTHER INCREASE OF A SIMILAR MAGNITUDE WAS ESTIMATED TO BE NECESSARY BY JULY 1980.

+I BELIEVE THAT THE MAJORITY OF TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC WILL APPRECIATE THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN REDUCING THE CURRENT INCREASE TO 7 PER CENT ON AVERAGE AND IN POSTPONING THE NEXT INCREASE TO A DATE BEYOND 1980,+ HE SAID.

IN REPLY TO POINTS RAISED BY SIR SZE-YUEN, MR. JEAFFRESON SAID THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO LOOK AT THE PARTICULAR WEAKNESS IN THE PROFIT CONTROL SCHEME WHICH PROVIDES NO INCENTIVE FOR THE COMPANY TO BORROW TO FINANCE ITS CAPITAL EXPANSION WHEN IT REVIEWS THE SCHEME WITH THE COMPANY LATER THIS YEAR.

HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT AS A PART OF THE MONITORING PROCESS, THE GOVERNMENT DOES HAVE REGARD TO THE LEVELS OF SALARIES, FRINGE BENEFITS OF THE STAFF OF THE VARIOUS UTILITIES AND DOES LOOK FOR INCREASES IN PRODUCTIVITY.

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UNOFFICIALS EXPRESS CONCERN OVER OPERATIONS OF CONTAINER TRUCKS * * *

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE LACK OF PARKING SPACES AND WORKING AREAS FOR LOADING AND UNLOADING CONTAINERS IN HONG KONG.

SPEAKING BEFORE THE COUNCIL WAS ADJOURNED THIS AFTERNOON, SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG, SAID HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WOULD LIKE THE GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT A CRITICAL EXAMINATION OF CONTAINER OPERATIONS.

DESPITE OUR SUCCESS, WHICH PUT THE KWAI CHUNG TERMINAL AMONG THE TOP FOUR CONTAINER PORTS IN THE WORLD, THERE WERE STILL SOME PROBLEMS, HE SAID.

FIRST THERE WAS THE EXTREME ROAD CONGESTION WITHIN SUCH INDUSTRIAL AREAS AS KWUN TONG, SAN PO KONG, KWAI CHUNG, TSUEN WAN AND ABERDEEN, CAUSED BY THE LOADING AND UNLOADING OF CONTAINERS ON PUBLIC ROADS.

THERE WAS NO REQUIREMENT UNTIL A FEW YEARS AGO FOR FACTORIES TO PROVIDE SPACE WITHIN THEIR PREMISES FOR THIS PURPOSE AND AS A RESULT, IT COULD ONLY BE CARRIED OUT EITHER AT THE CONTAINER TERMINAL OR ON PUBLIC ROADS.

FACILITIES AT THE TERMINAL, BECAUSE OF THE CHARGES LEVIED, WERE UNFORTUNATELY VERY MUCH UNDER-UTILISED BY HAULAGE OPERATORS WHO PREFERRED TO USE PUBLIC ROADS FOR WHICH THERE WAS, OF COURSE, NO CHARGE, HE SAID.

/THE SECOND PROBLEM

THE SECOND PROBLEM WAS THE EXTREME TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN THE CONTAINER PORT AREA ITSELF AND PARTICULARLY ALONG THE CARRIAGEWAY OFF KWAI CHUNG ROAD WHICH PROVIDED THE ONLY ROAD ACCESS TO THE PORT.

THERE WERE THREE MAJOR REASONS FOR THIS CONGESTION:

- * THE LONG QUEUE OF VEHICLES, AT TIMES EXTENDING 300 METRES, ALONG THE APPROACH ROAD WAITING FOR THEIR TURN TO ENTER THE INDIVIDUAL CONTAINER TERMINALS,
- * THE PRACTICE OF SOME +SMART BUT SELFISH+ HAULAGE OPERATORS TO ARRANGE FOR A PARTIALLY FILLED CONTAINER TO OCCUPY A SPACE IN THE QUEUE AND CONTINUE TO LOAD IT AS IT SLOWLY MOVED ALONG, AND
- * THE USE OF PUBLIC ROADS NEAR THE TERMINAL BY MANY HAULAGE OPERATORS TO STUFF AND DESTUFF CONTAINERS TO AVOID USING THE EXPENSIVE, PROPER TERMINAL FACILITIES.

THE THIRD PROBLEM RAISED BY SIR SZE-YUEN WAS THE GENERAL LACK OF PARKING FACILITIES FOR CONTAINER TRACTORS (PRIME MOVERS) AND CONTAINER TRAILERS (MOBILE CHASSIS).

AS FAR AS HE COULD GATHER, AT LEAST ONE OF THE THREE TERMINAL OPERATORS DID NOT PROVIDE A TRUCKING SERVICE AND THIS HAD LED TO THE PROLIFERATION OF SMALL HAULAGE OPERATORS.

MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF THESE SMALL OPERATORS DID NOT HAVE PROPER PARKING FACILITIES. THEY THEREFORE USUALLY LEFT THEIR TRACTORS AND TRAILERS ON PUBLIC ROADS AND PAVEMENTS.

THE TRAFFIC POLICE HAD NO SUITABLE TOWING VEHICLES TO REMOVE THIS TYPE OF OBSTRUCTION AND WERE UNABLE TO ISSUE PARKING TICKETS, WHEN THE TRAILERS, WHICH HAD NO INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION NUMBERS, WERE DETACHED FROM THE TRACTORS.

SIR SZE-YUEN POINTED OUT THAT WITH THE COMPARATIVELY NARROW ROADS IN HONG KONG, THESE PROBLEMS COULD ONLY BECOME WORSE UNLESS A SOLUTION TO THEM WAS DEVISED QUICKLY.

THE VOLUME OF CONTAINERISATION LAST YEAR ACCOUNTED FOR ALMOST 60 PER CENT OF THE GENERAL CARGO IMPORTED INTO AND EXPORTED FROM HONG KONG AND WOULD NO DOUBT CONTINUE TO INCREASE.

+IT IS THEREFORE IMPERATIVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD EXAMINE CRITICALLY THE PROBLEMS AND INTRODUCE MEASURES TO ERADICATE THEM WITHOUT DELAY.

+FURTHERMORE, IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT IMMEDIATE STEPS ARE TAKEN, IF THEY HAVE NOT ALREADY BEEN TAKEN, TO ENSURE THAT THE SITUATION I HAVE DESCRIBED IS NOT ALLOWED TO DEVELOP IN TUEN MUN, TSING YI, SHA TIN AND THE OTHER NEW TOWNSHIPS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ HE SAID.

DRAWING ON HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN KWUN TONG DISTRICT, THE HON. WONG LAM FULLY AGREED WITH THE POINTS RAISED BY SIR SZE-YUEN.

HE SAID BECAUSE VEHICLES WERE PROHIBITED FROM PARKING OR LOADING AND UNLOADING IN CERTAIN HOURS IN WAI YIP STREET, ALL GOODS VEHICLES HAD TO GO TO OTHER STREETS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

IN THE DAYS WHEN CONTAINER TRUCKS WERE NOT COMMON, TRAFFIC CONDITIONS THOUGH NOT ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY WERE TOLERABLE, SINCE THE SMALLER, ORDINARY LORRIES COULD STILL JUST ALLOW OTHER VEHICLES TO PASS THROUGH.

HOWEVER, WITH THE DAILY INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CONTAINER TRUCKS, OTHER VEHICLES COULD NOW HARDLY PASS AT ALL AND HAD TO WAIT IN LONG QUEUES. THE CHAIN REACTION THAT RESULTED OFTEN LED TO TOTAL CONGESTION IN THE WHOLE DISTRICT.

THIS GAVE RISE TO A LOT OF BLOWING OF HORNS AND EXHAUST FUMES AND INDIRECTLY AFFECTED THE MANUFACTURERS WHO VERY OFTEN HAD TO TAKE BUYERS TO THEIR FACTORIES BUT WERE HAMPERED.

WHAT WAS MORE WORRYING, MR. WONG SAID, WAS THE DANGER OF A FIRE OCCURRING WHEN THE ROADS WERE BLOCKED AND MADE INACCESSIBLE TO FIRE-ENGINES.

ON THE FACE OF IT, THE PROBLEMS SEEMED TO BE CAUSED BY THE PROHIBITIONS IN WAI YIP STREET, THE MAIN ROAD IN KWUN TONG. IN REALITY, WITH SO MANY CONTAINER TRUCKS IN THE AREA, EVEN IF PARKING WERE PERMITTED THERE, TRAFFIC CONGESTION WOULD BE MADE EVEN WORSE.

ALTHOUGH SOME FACTORIES WERE ABLE TO MAKE USE OF LANES BETWEEN THEM FOR LOADING AND UNLOADING CONTAINERS, THERE WERE NOT MANY OF THESE LANES AND MOST OF THEM WERE FREQUENTLY OCCUPIED BY HAWKERS OR FOOD STALLS.

MR. WONG FULLY ENDORSED SIR SZE-YUEN'S APPEAL AND HOPED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SOON WORK OUT SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS.

THE HON. JAMES WU WHO ALSO SPOKE IN THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE SAID THE COST TO INDUSTRY AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL AS A RESULT OF THESE TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND BLOCKAGE MUST BE ENORMOUS AND DESERVES OUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

HE SUGGESTED THAT JOINT MEETINGS BETWEEN INDUSTRIALISTS, THE POLICE AND THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL SHOULD BE CALLED TO EXAMINE THE SITUATION AND TO RECOMMEND SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM.

TO DISCOURAGE PARKING OF CARS AND LORRIES FOR UNNECESSARILY LONG PERIODS, MR. WU ALSO SUGGESTED THAT PARKING METRES SHOULD BE INSTALLED IN INDUSTRIAL AREAS FOR HALF AN HOUR OR ONE HOUR PERIODS AT PUNITIVE RATES OF \$2 FOR HALF AN HOUR FOR PRIVATE CARS AND \$4 FOR LORRIES DURING THE HOURS OF 7 A.M. AND 7 P.M.

HE ALSO FELT THAT MORE POLICE ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN TO HELP TRAFFIC FLOW AND FOR HAWKER CONTROL.

REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED BY THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES SAID HE PROPOSED TO RE-ACTIVATE THE CONTAINER TERMINAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE AND TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF ITS WORK.

ON LOADING AND UNLOADING OF CONTAINERS ON PUBLIC ROADS, MR. JONES SAID HE WILL BE LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF LIMITING THE HOURS IN WHICH THIS CAN TAKE PLACE SO AS TO AVOID PEAK TRAFFIC PERIODS.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES CANNOT BE BANNED OR SEVERELY RESTRICTED IN THE INDUSTRIAL AREAS WITHOUT PRODUCING SERIOUS ECONOMIC EFFECTS AND THAT EVEN IF CONTAINERS WERE FORCIBLY PREVENTED FROM LOADING IN THESE AREAS, OTHER GOODS VEHICLES WOULD BE LOADING IN THEIR PLACE AND THEY WOULD ALSO BE CREATING CONGESTION.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ALL NEW FACTORY BUILDINGS ARE NOW REQUIRED TO PROVIDE FACILITIES WITHIN THEIR LOTS FOR LOADING AND UNLOADING SO THIS PROBLEM SHOULD NOT BE NEARLY AS SEVERE IN SHA TIN, TUEN MUN AND THE OTHER NEW TOWNSHIPS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ON TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN THE CONTAINER PORT AREA IN KWAI CHUNG, MR. JONES SAID THE PROBLEM IS BEING TACKLED WITH THE POSTING OF TRAFFIC POLICE TO CONTROL THE QUEUE OF CONTAINER VEHICLES ALONG THE APPROACH ROAD TO THE PORT AREA AND TO KEEP IT FROM STRETCHING BACK TO OBSTRUCT KWAI CHUNG ROAD.

MR. JONES HAS ALSO ASKED RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO CONSIDER THE FEASIBILITY OF DECLARING THE APPROACH ROAD AND THE IMMEDIATELY SURROUNDING ROADS A +NO LOADING, NO UNLOADING, NO PARKING+ AREA, THUS FACILITATING ITS USE FOR THROUGH TRAFFIC.

CONSIDERATION IS ALSO BEING GIVEN TO ACQUIRING AT LEAST ONE TOWING TRACTOR TO TOW AWAY PARKED TRAILERS CAUSING AN OBSTRUCTION TO VEHICLE POUNDS. THE OWNERS OF THESE TRAILERS WILL HAVE TO PAY A HEFTY FEE FOR THE SERVICE AND THIS WILL HELP TO FINANCE THE COST.

MR. JONES SAID HE HAS ALSO ASKED DEPARTMENTS TO CONSIDER CHANGES IN THE LAW SO THAT THE FIXED PENALTY (TRAFFIC CONTRAVENTIONS) ORDINANCE CAN BE MADE TO APPLY TO TRAILERS.

+ALTHOUGH I CERTAINLY CANNOT PROMISE THAT ALL THE PROBLEMS WILL BE SOLVED AND ALL DIFFICULTIES OVERCOME, I AM CONFIDENT THAT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS CAN AND WILL BE MADE IN THOSE AREAS WHICH ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO IMPROVEMENT,+ HE SAID.

PLANS TO EXPAND INSTITUTIONAL CARE FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED
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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, THE HON. THOMAS LEE, SAID TODAY THE NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONAL PLACES FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED WOULD BE MORE THAN DOUBLE THE EXISTING LEVEL BY 1984.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE REV. THE HON. JOYCE M. BENNETT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THERE WOULD BE 270 EXTRA RESIDENTIAL PLACES FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED NEXT YEAR, AND BY 1984, THE TOTAL CAPACITY WOULD BE INCREASED TO 3,380.

THE PRESENT PROVISION, HE SAID, INCLUDED 440 PLACES FOR THE SEVERE GRADE AND 630 PLACES FOR THE MODERATELY RETARDED.

MR. LEE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE THERE WAS STILL A SHORTAGE OF INSTITUTIONAL PLACES FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED AND EVERY EFFORT WAS BEING MADE BOTH WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND IN THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR TO PUSH AHEAD WITH PLANS TO EXPAND THE SERVICE.

HE SAID PLANS TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY CARE WOULD HELP TO MEET THE COMPLEX PROBLEMS OF SOME OF THE MORE DIFFICULT CASES.

+CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE PROVISION OF A WIDER RANGE OF SPECIALIST SERVICES BOTH INSIDE INSTITUTIONS AND IN OTHER SUPPORTING FACILITIES SO THAT CLIENTS WITH SPECIAL OR MULTIPLE PROBLEMS OR CLIENTS WITH MORE THAN ONE DISABILITY CAN BE MORE SUITABLY LOOKED AFTER IN FUTURE,+ HE SAID.

WITH REGARD TO INSTITUTIONAL FACILITY SPECIALLY FOR THOSE MENTALLY RETARDED PERSONS WHO WERE A THREAT TO OTHERS, MR. LEE SAID THERE WAS NO PROVISION UNDER THE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME PLAN OR THE REHABILITATION WHITE PAPER.

IN THE FIRST PLACE, HE POINTED OUT, THERE ARE RATHER FEW CASES LIKE THIS TO JUSTIFY A SEPARATE FACILITY, AND THERE ARE VARIOUS OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR DEALING WITH THEM.

HE EXPLAINED THAT IF A PERSON'S VIOLENT OR DISORDERLY BEHAVIOUR WAS DUE TO SOME MENTAL ILLNESS, HE COULD BE DETAINED AND TREATED IN A MENTAL HOSPITAL.

IF IT IS MAINLY A BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEM, THEN THE CASE CAN BE DEALT WITH IN A CORRECTIONAL HOME BY MAKING SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT FOR INDIVIDUAL SUPERVISION, HE SAID.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HE ADDED, IF WHAT THE PERSON REQUIRES IS TRAINING IN DISCIPLINE AND SELF-CARE, THEN A CENTRE FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED COULD PROVIDE THE SERVICE NEEDED DEPENDING ON THE DEGREE OF RETARDATION.

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HONG KONG-CANADA TEXTILE AGREEMENT
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FORMAL SIGNATURE OF AN AGREEMENT WITH CANADA IS EXPECTED SHORTLY, FOLLOWING A STATEMENT BY CANADIAN GOVERNMENT MINISTERS IN OTTAWA THIS WEEK CONCERNING 1979 ARRANGEMENTS FOR TEXTILE AND CLOTHING IMPORTS.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, MR. BILL DORWARD, RECALLED THAT TERMS WERE NEGOTIATED WITH A CANADIAN DELEGATION IN HONG KONG LAST MARCH.

FULL DETAILS WILL BE RELEASED WHEN THE AGREEMENT IS FORMALLY SIGNED.

MEANWHILE TO ASSIST THE TRADE TO MAKE FORWARD PLANS THE DEPARTMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THE BROAD PRINCIPLES OF QUOTA ALLOCATION AND THE LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS IT INTENDS TO IMPLEMENT.

COMMENTING ON THE RESTRAINTS, WHICH WILL APPLY TO THE BULK OF HONG KONG CLOTHING EXPORTS TO CANADA, MR. DORWARD SAID: +THE MOST WELCOME FEATURE OF THIS ARRANGEMENT IS THAT IT RESTORES THE PRINCIPLES OF NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT AND EXPORT CONTROL, TWO THINGS BY WHICH HONG KONG PLACES GREAT STORE.+

SINCE NOVEMBER 29, 1976, WHEN CANADA ABRUPTLY TERMINATED THE RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS WHICH THEN EXISTED WITH HONG KONG, CONTROLS HAVE BEEN EXERCISED IN CANADA ON IMPORTS. EXPORTS OF HONG KONG TEXTILES AND CLOTHING TO CANADA DROPPED TO \$601 MILLION IN 1977 FROM THEIR 1976 LEVEL OF \$832 MILLION.

NOTICES TO EXPORTERS SETTING OUT THE BROAD GUIDELINES FOR 1979 ARRANGEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS.

A FURTHER NOTICE WILL SHORTLY BE ISSUED CALLING FOR RETURNS FROM SHIPPERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CALCULATING QUOTA ALLOCATIONS.

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HOUSING AUTHORITY TO SPEND MORE ON BUILDING NEW ESTATES
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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WILL SPEND MORE ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC HOUSING IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON. DONALD LIAO, TOLD LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM DR. THE HON. HENRY HU.

HE SAID THE AUTHORITY IN THE LAST THREE FINANCIAL YEARS SPENT 54, 43, AND 55 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OF ITS TOTAL CAPITAL AND RECURRENT EXPENDITURE ON BUILDING PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE FLATS, INCLUDING PROJECTS UNDER THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS, HE SAID THE PERCENTAGE WAS EXPECTED TO GO UP TO 62 PER CENT IN 1978/79, 70 PER CENT IN 1979/80 AND 69 PER CENT IN 1980/81.

MR. LIAO ADDED THAT THE CORRESPONDING PERCENTAGE FIGURES FOR EXPENDITURE ON ESTATE MANAGEMENT WERE 46, 57 AND 45 PER CENT FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS, AND 38, 30 AND 31 PER CENT FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

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GOVERNOR TO ATTEND CAS ANNUAL DINNER

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL ATTEND THE ANNUAL DINNER PARTY OF THE CIVIL AID SERVICES AT THE CITY HALL RESTAURANT ON FRIDAY (JUNE 23).

OTHER GUESTS INCLUDE SIR YUET-KEUNG KAN, SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL= MR. IAN LIGHTBODY, SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION= MR. LEWIS DAVIES, SECRETARY FOR SECURITY= DR. TONG KA-LEUNG, DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES= MR. MARTIN ROWLANDS, SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE= MR. BRIAN SLEVIN, COMMISSIONER OF POLICE= MR. A.D.A. HONLEY, GROUP CAPTAIN OF R.A.F.= MR. F.M. WATSON, DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES AND MR. TONG KAI-CHUEN, MEDICAL DEFENCE STAFF OFFICER OF THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE.

ABOUT 700 C.A.S. OFFICERS AND MEMBERS WILL BE ATTENDING THE DINNER, STARTING AT 8 P.M.

THE GOVERNOR WILL BE MET ON ARRIVAL AT 7.30 P.M. BY THE C.A.S. COMMISSIONER, THE HON. ROGER LOBO, AND THE CHIEF STAFF OFFICER, MR. JOHN FORTUNE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE EVENT TO BE HELD BY THE CIVIL AID SERVICES AT THE CITY HALL FROM 7 P.M. TO 8 P.M. ON FRIDAY (JUNE 23).

PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE PICTURES ONLY ON THE GROUND FLOOR OR IN THE EXHIBITION HALL WHERE A PRE-DINNER RECEPTION IS HELD. NO PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THE DINNER IN THE DINING HALL AFTER 8 P.M.

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR MAY
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THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR LAST MONTH (MAY) WAS \$3,373 MILLION, IMPORTS WERE WORTH \$5,061 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS \$1,163 MILLION, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES ISSUED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY.

THE FIGURES FOR THE LATEST THREE MONTHS (MARCH TO MAY) SHOWED INCREASES, BY VALUE, OF 17.4 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 21.8 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 36.8 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1977.

COMPARED WITH MAY LAST YEAR, EXPORTS INCREASED, BY VALUE, OF \$415 MILLION OR 14 PER CENT, IMPORTS BY \$885 MILLION OR 21.2 PER CENT AND RE-EXPORTS BY \$341 MILLION OR 41.5 PER CENT.

THE SHORT TERM CHANGES, MAY 1978 COMPARED WITH APRIL 1978, SHOWED INCREASES OF \$330 MILLION OR 10.8 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, \$93 MILLION OR 1.9 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND \$162 MILLION OR 16.2 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS. AS USUAL, EXPORTS CONTINUED TO RISE IN MAY ON A MID-YEAR SEASONAL UPSWING.

THE FIGURES FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD FROM JUNE 1977 TO MAY 1978 COMPARED WITH THOSE OF THE PREVIOUS 12-MONTH PERIOD SHOWED INCREASES, BY VALUE, OF 8.3 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 14.4 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 17.7 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

FOLLOWING ARE COMPARATIVE TRADE FIGURES :-

LATEST 3 MONTHS	MARCH - MAY	MARCH - MAY	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	1978	1977	\$ MN.	%
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	9,275	7,902	+ 1,374	+17.4
IMPORTS	14,911	12,238	+ 2,673	+21.8
RE-EXPORTS	3,152	2,304	+ 848	+36.8
SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	MAY	MAY	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	1978	1977	\$ MN.	%
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	3,373 (74.4%)	2,958 (78.3%)	+ 415	+14.0
IMPORTS	5,061	4,176	+ 885	+21.2
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	1,163 (25.6%)	822 (21.7%)	+ 341	+41.5

/LAST MONTH

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<u>LAST MONTH</u>	MAY 1978	APRIL 1978	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	3,373 (74.4%)	3,043 (75.2%)	+ 330	+10.8
IMPORTS	5,061	4,968	+ 93	+ 1.9
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	1,163 (25.6%)	1,001 (24.8%)	+ 162	+16.2
<u>CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE</u>	JAN.- MAY 1978	JAN.- MAY 1977	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	14,124 (74.6%)	12,846 (77.2%)	+ 1,279	+10.0
IMPORTS	23,125	19,448	+ 3,677	+18.9
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	4,814 (25.4%)	3,804 (22.8%)	+ 1,010	+26.6
<u>LAST 12 MONTHS</u>	JUNE 1977 TO MAY 1978	JUNE 1976 TO MAY 1977	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	36,283	33,505	+ 2,777	+ 8.3
IMPORTS	52,378	45,786	+ 6,592	+14.4
RE-EXPORTS	10,840	9,210	+ 1,630	+17.7

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1978

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DELIBERATE ASSAULTS IN PUBLIC PLACES MUST BE REPORTED
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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, SAID TODAY WOMEN SHOULD REPORT ASSAULT CASES IN WHICH THEY ARE DELIBERATELY ELBOWED OR PINCHED IN PUBLIC PLACES AND TRANSPORT.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. DAVIES SAID: +POLICE OFFICERS, INCLUDING PLAIN CLOTHES PATROLS ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT, RESPOND IMMEDIATELY TO COMPLAINTS OF THIS TYPE OF ASSAULT AND WILL ARREST PERSONS SEEN COMMITTING THIS OFFENCE OR MAKE FOLLOW UP ENQUIRIES.+

MR. DAVIES ADDED THAT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SUCH ACTION DEPENDS ON THE WILLINGNESS OF THE VICTIM TO COMPLAIN, BUT MODESTY AND AN UNDERSTANDABLE RELUCTANCE OF VICTIMS TO DRAW ATTENTION TO SUCH INCIDENTS HAMPERS COUNTER ACTION.

+PUBLICITY WILL CONTINUE TO BE GIVEN TO THE NECESSITY TO REPORT CRIME,+ MR. DAVIES SAID.

+IN ADDITION IF WOMEN WHO ARE ASSAULTED IN THIS WAY COULD BRING THEMSELVES TO RAISE A HUE AND CRY TO ENLIST THE HELP OF PASSERS-BY OR OTHER TRAVELLERS TO DETAIN THE CULPRIT THIS WOULD BE A USEFUL DETERRENT AND COUNTER ACTION,+ HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1978

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NEED FOR CLARITY IN DETERMINING A YOUNG OFFENDER'S AGE
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UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, THE HON. PETER C. WONG, TODAY SUGGESTED THAT AMENDMENTS SHOULD BE MADE IN LEGISLATION FOR THE SAKE OF CLARITY REGARDING THE DETERMINATION OF AN OFFENDER'S AGE IN ORDINANCES DEALING WITH JUVENILE DELINQUENTS.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE DETENTION CENTRES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, HE SAID THE WORD +APPARENTLY+ WAS LOOSE AND IMPRECISE IN THE CONTEXT IN WHICH IT IS USED IN A SECTION OF THE AMENDING LEGISLATION WHICH READS +IN MAKING A DETENTION ORDER AGAINST A PERSON THE COURT SHALL STATE IN SUCH ORDER WHETHER SUCH PERSON IS APPARENTLY UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE OR APPARENTLY OF OR OVER 21 YEARS OF AGE.+

HE ALSO OBJECTED TO THIS SECTION BECAUSE THERE ARE NO GUIDELINES LAID DOWN TO ASSIST THE COURT IN REACHING A DECISION AS TO AN OFFENDER'S AGE.

MR. WONG SAID OTHER ORDINANCES SUFFERING SIMILAR DEFICIENCIES INCLUDE THE CORPORAL PUNISHMENT ORDINANCE, THE JUVENILE OFFENDERS ORDINANCE, THE TRAINING CENTRES ORDINANCE AND THE REFORMATORY SCHOOLS ORDINANCE.

+THE LIST IS BY NO MEANS EXHAUSTIVE BUT IT DOES SERVE TO SHOW THAT THERE IS A CASE FOR A CAREFUL STUDY OF THE PROBLEM.

+ONE SIMPLE AND PAINLESS WAY TO ACHIEVE THE DESIRED RESULT IS TO INCLUDE A DEFINITION OF THE WORD +AGE+ IN THE INTERPRETATION AND THE GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE,+ HE SAID.

MR. WONG ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE NEED TO DTERMINE A PERSON'S AGE CAREFULLY CANNOT BE OVER-EMPHASISED BUT ITS CONSEQUENCES MAY BE GRAVE AND RAMIFICATIONS MANY.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1978

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RECENT FLOODINGS IN NT EXPLAINED

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AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, EXPLAINED THE REASONS FOR THE RECENT FLOODINGS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. PETER C. WONG, MR. MCDONALD SAID FLOODING OCCURRED IN TAI PO ON LOW-LYING AREAS NEAR TAI HANG VILLAGE ON THE NIGHT OF JUNE 6 AND EARLY MORNING OF JUNE 7 WHEN RAINFALL IN EXCESS OF 160 MM WAS RECORDED.

THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR THE FLOODING, HE SAID, WAS THE PARTIAL BLOCKAGE OF CULVERTS IN THE AREA BY DOMESTIC REFUSE WHICH REDUCED THE CARRYING CAPACITY OF THE STREAM COURSES.

+TWO LOW-LYING SECTIONS OF THE OLD TAI PO ROAD THROUGH SHA TIN WERE ALSO FLOODED IN EARLY JUNE,+ MR. MCDONALD SAID.

+HERE THE CAUSE WAS THE RESTRICTION TO STORMWATER FLOW CREATED BY THE HIGHER GROUND LEVEL OF ADJACENT NEW DEVELOPMENT AND THE INADEQUATE DRAINAGE PROVISIONS IN THESE SECTIONS OF THE OLD ROADS.+

HE SAID THAT THE SITUATION WOULD BE RECTIFIED WHEN ALL SECTIONS OF THE NEW ROAD WERE OPENED TO TRAFFIC AND THE OLD ROAD FILLED OVER.

HE ADDED THAT THE FINAL SECTION OF THE NEW ROAD WORKS WOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT MONTH AND IN THE INTERIM TEMPORARY DIVERSION ARRANGEMENTS ALONG THE NEW ROAD WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO EFFECT IF FURTHER HEAVY RAINSTORMS OCCURRED.

REFERRING TO THE FLOODING OF THE OLD CASTLE PEAK ROAD IN TUEN MUN, MR. MCDONALD SAID IT WAS CAUSED BY THE BLOCKAGE OF CROSS-ROAD DRAINAGE BY DEBRIS CARRIED DOWN THE STREAM COURSES AFTER HEAVY RAIN.

HE SAID THE FLOODING ABATED WHEN THE INTAKES WERE CLEARED. WITH THE OPENING OF THE NEW TUEN MUN ROAD TRAFFIC FLOW ON THE OLD ROAD HAD GREATLY REDUCED AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT WORKS WERE BEING CARRIED OUT.

IN THE SAN HUI AREA OF TUEN MUN, MR. MCDONALD SAID, SOME FLOODING WAS CAUSED BY A CONTRACTOR'S TEMPORARY WORKS IN THE MAIN RIVER CHANNEL. THESE TEMPORARY WORKS HAD ALREADY BEEN REMOVED.

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NUMBER OF CHINESE LANGUAGE OFFICERS INCREASED

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THE NUMBER OF CHINESE LANGUAGE OFFICERS IN THE GOVERNMENT HAS INCREASED BY MORE THAN 44 PER CENT IN FOUR YEARS, THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. AUGUSTINE KAM CHUI SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE SAID THE CHINESE LANGUAGE AUTHORITY NOW HAS 228 CHINESE LANGUAGE OFFICERS SERVING IN 31 DEPARTMENTS.

MR. CHUI WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION RAISED BY THE HON. WONG LAM CONCERNING THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE USE OF CHINESE IN COMMUNICATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND WITHIN THE CIVIL SERVICE SINCE CHINESE BECAME AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE.

MR. CHUI ADDED THAT THE QUALITY AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS OF THE RECRUITS HAVE IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY WITH THE OFFER OF BETTER CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AND CAREER PROSPECTS.

OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, MORE THAN 80 PER CENT OF THE INTAKE WERE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES. INTENSIVE IN-SERVICE TRAINING COURSES ARE ARRANGED ANNUALLY.

+AS A RESULT, THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY IMPROVEMENT IN THE STANDARDS AND THE EFFICIENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT'S TRANSLATION SERVICES,+ MR. CHUI SAID.

REFERRING TO OTHER TYPES OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CHINESE LANGUAGE AUTHORITY, MR. CHUI SAID THAT SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION SERVICES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED AT THE OPEN MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE URBAN COUNCIL, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF MAJOR ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES TO WHICH NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING MEMBERS HAVE BEEN APPOINTED.

+INTERPRETATION SERVICES WILL CONTINUE TO EXPAND TO MEET THE INCREASING NEEDS ARISING FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF EXTENDING PUBLIC CONSULTATION AT ALL LEVELS,+ MR. CHUI SAID.

MR. CHUI ADDED: +ALL IMPORTANT PUBLIC DOCUMENTS OF COMMUNITY-WIDE INTEREST ARE NOW PUBLISHED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE. THIS INCLUDES PUBLIC SPEECHES AT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND URBAN COUNCIL, REPORTS OF COMMISSIONS OF ENQUIRY AND PUBLICITY MATERIAL ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES.+

RELATING TO COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC, HE SAID CORRESPONDENCE IN CHINESE HAS GREATLY INCREASED IN VOLUME AS A RESULT OF THE GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTING ITS POLICY OF GIVING ALL LETTERS WRITTEN IN CHINESE A REPLY IN CHINESE, WHICH HAS IN ITSELF ENCOURAGED MORE NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO CORRESPOND IN CHINESE WITH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

/FURTHERMORE,

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FURTHERMORE, A CONTINUOUS AND REGULAR REVIEW IS BEING CARRIED OUT ON FORMS AND NOTICES USED IN GOVERNMENT BUSINESS WITH A VIEW TO PROVIDING A CHINESE TRANSLATION SO THAT APPLICATIONS CAN BE MADE IN CHINESE.

+SENIOR CHINESE LANGUAGE OFFICERS PAY VISITS TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO ADVISE ON PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN EXTENDING THE WIDER USE OF CHINESE IN OFFICIAL BUSINESS,+ MR. CHUI ADDED.

+AS REGARDS THE USE OF CHINESE WITHIN THE CIVIL SERVICE, ALL COMMUNICATIONS WITH OFFICERS WHOSE PRE-REQUISITE FOR APPOINTMENT DOES NOT INCLUDE A WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARE TRANSLATED INTO CHINESE.+

MR. CHUI SAID ALL THESE SERVICE PROGRAMMES ARE KEPT UNDER REVIEW SO THAT IMPROVEMENTS CAN CONTINUE TO BE EFFECTED TO MEET THE INCREASING DEMANDS FOR SUCH SERVICES.

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ALL PLB'S TO BE FITTED WITH
DESTINATION INDICATOR BY AUGUST
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EVERY PUBLIC LIGHT BUS WILL BE FITTED WITH A DESTINATION INDICATOR BY AUGUST 1 THIS YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. S.L. CHEN, MR. JONES SAID THE REGULATION REQUIRING THE DISPLAY ON PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES OF DESTINATIONS AND FARES CAME INTO EFFECT ON AUGUST 1, 1977 AND NO PLB HAS BEEN PERMITTED TO RENEW ITS LICENCE SINCE THAT DATE UNLESS IT HAS BEEN PROVIDED WITH A PROPER DESTINATION INDICATOR.

MR. JONES STATED THAT THE REGULATION FORBIDS A PLB DRIVER TO CHANGE HIS DESTINATION INDICATOR DURING A JOURNEY WITH THE INTENTION OF MAKING PASSENGERS PAY A FARE HIGHER THAN THAT SHOWN ON THE FARE-CARD.

+A DRIVER WHO CONTRAVENES THIS REGULATION IS LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$500,+ MR. JONES SAID.

HOWEVER, MR. JONES SAID, A DRIVER CAN CHANGE HIS FARE INDICATOR BEFORE THE START OF ANY JOURNEY AS LONG AS HE CLEARLY SHOWS A STATED DESTINATION AND A FARE.

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MEMBERSHIP OF TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL TO BE ENLARGED

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THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 WHICH SEEKS TO ENLARGE THE COUNCIL'S MEMBERSHIP WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON POINTED OUT THAT THE SIZE OF THE COUNCIL HAS REMAINED UNCHANGED SINCE IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1966.

+SINCE THEN, THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS AND THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET AND RANGE OF ACTIVITIES HAVE ALL VASTLY INCREASED,+ HE SAID.

MR. JEAFFRESON SAID THE PRESENT COUNCIL COMPRISES THE CHAIRMAN, WHO IS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, SEVEN EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS, THREE MEMBERS NOMINATED BY COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS AND FOUR MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

+THE BILL PROVIDES FOR THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR TO BE INCREASED TO SIX, THUS INCREASING THE SIZE OF THE COUNCIL TO 17,+ MR. JEAFFRESON SAID.

+THIS WILL BE LARGE, BUT NOT SO LARGE AS TO DETRACT FROM EFFICIENCY. AND WE MUST NOT OVERLOOK THAT OTHER COMMITMENTS OFTEN CAUSE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL TO BE ABSENT FROM HONG KONG,+ HE ADDED.

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APPEALS COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER REPRESENTATIONS ARISING FROM PHARMACY AND POISONS REGULATIONS

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THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD IS CONSIDERING THE NEED TO ESTABLISH AN APPEALS COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH ANY REPRESENTATIONS THAT MAY ARISE FROM THE NEW PHARMACY AND POISONS REGULATIONS WHICH WILL BE IMPLEMENTED SHORTLY.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. THE HON. K.L. THONG, WHEN HE MOVED THE MOTIONS IN RESPECT OF THE PHARMACY AND POISONS (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1978 AND THE POISONS LIST (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1978 DURING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY.

THE PRESENT REGULATION IS THAT ANY PERSON AGGRIEVED BY A DECISION OF THE BOARD IS REQUIRED TO APPEAL AGAINST SUCH DECISION DIRECT TO THE SUPREME COURT.

DR. THONG SAID HE WOULD BE CONSULTING THE BOARD ON THIS MATTER AND WOULD SEEK AMENDMENTS TO THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH USUAL PROCEDURES WITH A VIEW TO PROVIDING FOR THE SETTING UP OF SUCH A COMMITTEE.

/HE SAID

HE SAID SINCE THE TWO SETS OF REGULATIONS WERE APPROVED IN JULY 1975 THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD HAD RECEIVED REPRESENTATIONS FROM INTERESTED PARTIES CONCERNING CERTAIN PROVISIONS IN THE REGULATIONS.

THESE REPRESENTATIONS, HE SAID, HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED IN DETAIL BY SPECIAL COMMITTEES SET UP BY THE BOARD AND THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE ALSO BEEN DELIBERATED UPON BY THE BOARD ITSELF, HE SAID.

DR. THONG SAID THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE AMENDMENTS HE NOW PROPOSED WAS TO CLARIFY AND STRENGTHEN THE PRINCIPAL REGULATIONS AND IN CERTAIN CASES TO EASE SOME OF THE MORE STRINGENT PROVISIONS.

ONE OF THE MAJOR AMENDMENTS WAS TO INCREASE THE VALIDITY OF A REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE OF A PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCT OR SUBSTANCE FROM 12 MONTHS TO FIVE YEARS.

ANOTHER AMENDMENT IS TO MAKE PROVISION FOR A PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE VALID FOR FIVE YEARS FOR A PRODUCT MARKETED IN HONG KONG BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE REGULATIONS.

A THIRD AMENDMENT INTRODUCES A SLIDING SCALE OF PENALTIES IN PLACE OF THE EXISTING PENALTY PROVISIONS IN THE PRINCIPAL REGULATIONS.

DR. THONG ALSO PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE SCHEDULES TO THE PRINCIPAL REGULATIONS FOR INTRODUCING CERTAIN NEW SUBSTANCES TO BE CONTROLLED UNDER THE NEW REGULATIONS INCLUDING RODENTICIDES, AND PRESCRIBING FEES FOR PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION, APPLICATION FOR CLINICAL TRIALS OR MEDICINAL TESTS AND CERTIFICATES FOR SUCH TRIALS OR TESTS.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION, DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG WHO IS THE CONVENER OF THE UMELCO'S AD HOC GROUP TO STUDY THE REGULATIONS SAID HE WELCOMED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN APPEALS COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH ANY REPRESENTATIONS THAT MAY ARISE ONCE THE REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED.

HE URGED THAT THE MATTER BE DEALT WITH AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE SO AS TO REMOVE THE PRESENT REQUIREMENT WHEREBY ANY PERSON AGGRIEVED BY A DECISION OF THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD IS REQUIRED TO APPEAL AGAINST SUCH DECISION DIRECT TO THE SUPREME COURT.

DR. FANG HOPED THAT COMMON SENSE WILL PREVAIL IN THE APPLICATION OF REGULATION 36 AND THAT A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME WILL BE GIVEN TO THE TRADE TO COMPLETE ALL THE FORMALITIES OF REGISTRATION BEFORE ANY ACTION IS TAKEN AGAINST DEFAULTERS.

IN REPLY, DR. THONG SAID: +I AM SURE DR. FANG WILL AGREE THAT GENERALLY THERE IS NO DEARTH OF COMMON SENSE WITHIN MY DEPARTMENT AND I SHOULD LIKE TO ASSURE HIM THAT ADEQUATE DOSES OF THIS WILL BE DISPENSED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGULATION CONSISTENT WITH THE PUBLIC INTEREST.+

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ANNOUNCEMENT ON TONG FAI NEXT MONTH

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON. KENNETH TOPLEY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE EARLY NEXT MONTH ON TONG FAI IN FORMS I TO III IN AIDED SCHOOLS.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE REV. THE HON. JOYCE M. BENNETT, MR. TOPLEY SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOW FINALISED ITS PROPOSALS FOR TONG FAI IN FORMS I TO III IN AIDED SCHOOLS AND IT IS INTENDED TO PUT THESE PROPOSALS TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE VERY SHORTLY.

+IF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AGREES, THIS WILL ENABLE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO BE MADE IN EARLY JULY, PROBABLY ON THE 6TH OR 7TH,+ HE ADDED.

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TWO BILLS ON PENSION SCHEMES INTRODUCED INTO LEGCO

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE HON. MARTIN ROWLANDS TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT THE NEW WIDOWS' AND CHILDREN'S PENSIONS SCHEME WHICH WAS INTRODUCED ON JANUARY 1 THIS YEAR, IS PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE WIDOWS' AND CHILDREN'S PENSIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, HE SAID THAT EXPERIENCE GAINED IN IMPLEMENTING THE NEW SCHEME HAS SHOWN THE NEED FOR A MINOR AMENDMENT TO THE LEGISLATION.

HE SAID THE BILL BEFORE THE COUNCIL SEEKS TO PROVIDE THAT OFFICERS WHO LEAVE THE CIVIL SERVICE DURING THE PERIOD TO ELECT THE NEW SCHEME SHALL HAVE THE SAME LENGTH OF TIME AS SERVING OFFICERS TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO JOIN THE SCHEME.

MR. ROWLANDS ALSO INTRODUCED THE WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' PENSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 WHICH SEEKS TO SAFEGUARD THE INTEREST OF A SMALL NUMBER OF UNMARRIED OFFICERS OR WIDOWERS WHO HAVE BEEN CONTRIBUTORS TO THE OLD WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' PENSION SCHEME.

HE SAID THIS BILL SEEKS TO AMEND THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE SO THAT REFUNDS CAN BE MADE TO THESE OFFICERS ~~WITHOUT PENSIONABLE~~ CHILDREN, BUT SERVING ON NON-PENSIONABLE TERMS AND CONTRIBUTING TO THE OLD WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' PENSION SCHEME.

MR. ROWLANDS SAID: +SHOULD THEY BE APPOINTED TO THE PERMANENT AND PENSIONABLE ESTABLISHMENT, SUCH OFFICERS WOULD BE OBLIGED TO JOIN THE NEW WIDOWS' AND CHILDREN'S PENSIONS SCHEME.

+HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THEIR MARITAL STATUS, THEY WOULD NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS UNDER THE WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' PENSION SCHEME.

+IN THIS EVENT IT IS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE TO REFUND THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THE OFFICER UNDER THE OLD SCHEME,+ HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE TWO BILLS WAS ADJOURNED.

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MISCELLANEOUS LICENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL
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A BILL WHICH SEEKS TO ABOLISH THE LICENSING OF MONEY CHANGERS WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE MISCELLANEOUS LICENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR. DAVID JEAFFRESON SAID THE LICENSING OF MONEY CHANGERS WAS CONSIDERED AND PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN ABANDONED DURING AN OVERALL REVIEW OF THE POWER OF COMMISSIONER OF POLICE AS THE LICENSING AUTHORITY IN THE EARLY 1970'S WERE IT NOT FOR THE FACT THAT IT PROVIDED THE MEANS FOR ENSURING THE COLLECTION OF STAMP DUTY ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE DUTIES CONCERNED HAVE NOW BEEN ABOLISHED BY THE STAMP (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) ORDINANCE 1978 AND AS A RESULT IT IS NOW POSSIBLE TO ABOLISH THE LICENSING OF MONEY CHANGERS ALTOGETHER.

MR. JEAFFRESON SAID THE AMENDMENT PROPOSED WOULD RESULT IN A SMALL LOSS OF ABOUT \$230,000 A YEAR IN THE REVENUE.

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FIRE SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL
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THE FIRE SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL, WHICH AIMS TO BRING THE FIRE SERVICES DISCIPLINARY PROVISIONS INTRODUCED IN 1975 INTO LINE WITH THOSE WHICH APPLY TO OTHER DISCIPLINED SERVICES, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, SAID THAT UNDER THE PROPOSED BILL A MEMBER OF THE FIRE SERVICES MAY BE INTERDICTED, ON FULL PAY, IF AN INVESTIGATION IS BEING UNDERTAKEN INTO CONDUCT WHICH MAY AMOUNT TO THE COMMISSION OF A DISCIPLINARY OFFENCE.

+IN THE CASES OF SUBORDINATE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF OTHER RANKS WHO ARE INTERDICTED ON LESS THAN FULL PAY, IF PUNISHMENT LESS THAN DISMISSAL IS IMPOSED, THEN THE WHOLE OR PART OF ANY REMUNERATION WITHHELD SHALL BE PAID. IF NO PUNISHMENT IS IMPOSED, THEN REMUNERATION WITHHELD MUST BE PAID IN FULL,+ HE ADDED.

MR. DAVIES ADDED THAT AN INTERDICTED OFFICER MAY NOT LEAVE THE TERRITORY WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES.

HE SAID A CLAUSE UNDER THE PROPOSED BILL ALSO PROVIDES FOR INTERDICTION OF SUBORDINATE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF OTHER RANKS ON FULL PAY IN CASES WHERE AN INVESTIGATION IS BEING UNDERTAKEN INTO CONDUCT WHICH MAY AMOUNT TO THE COMMISSION OF A CRIMINAL OFFENCE.

+PROVISION IS ALSO MADE FOR THE IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF PAY OF AN OFFICER WHO IS FOUND GUILTY OF A CRIMINAL OFFENCE WHICH, IN THE OPINION OF THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, IS SERIOUS ENOUGH TO WARRANT DISMISSAL,+ HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES
(AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL
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A BILL TO TIGHTEN THE CONTROL ON FOOD BUSINESS WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1978, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. E.P. HO SAID THE BILL SEEKS FOUR CHANGES WHICH HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE URBAN COUNCIL.

+FIRSTLY, IT BRINGS WITHIN FOOD FACTORY LICENSING REQUIREMENTS THOSE FACTORIES WHICH PREPARE VARIOUS WATERS FOR SALE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.+

HOWEVER, MR. HO SAID TO GIVE THE TRADE ADEQUATE TIME THIS REQUIREMENT WOULD NOT BECOME EFFECTIVE UNTIL DECEMBER 1, THIS YEAR.

THE SECOND PURPOSE OF THE BILL IS TO ENABLE REGULATIONS TO BE MADE WHICH GRANT EXEMPTIONS FROM LICENSING AND OTHER RESTRICTIVE PROVISIONS RELATING TO FOOD.

+THIS WILL FACILITATE THE STREAMLINING OF PROCEDURES AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE,+ HE ADDED.

+THIRDLY, THE BILL SEEKS TO EMPOWER THE LICENSING AUTHORITY TO CANCEL ANY REGISTRATION, LICENCE OR PERMIT WHICH IS NOT BEING MADE USE OF.

+FINALLY, THE BILL SEEKS TO PROVIDE FOR HIGHER LIMITS OF FINES WHICH MAY BE PRESCRIBED IN SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION, AND TO RAISE THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR CERTAIN SPECIFIC OFFENCES.

+THESE HIGHER LIMITS ARE CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO GIVE THE COURTS EXTRA LEVERAGE IN TWO CLASSES OF CASES WHERE STAFF RESOURCES PUT INTO INSPECTION AND PROSECUTION WORK HAVE NOT ACHIEVED THE DESIRED RESULTS.+

THE TWO CLASSES OF CASES INVOLVE PERSONS WHO ALLOW MOSQUITOS TO BREED ON CONSTRUCTION SITES AND OPERATORS OF UNLICENSED FOOD BUSINESS.

AS REGARDS MOSQUITO BREEDING OFFENCES, MR. HO SAID IT IS HOPED THAT A FIVE-FOLD INCREASE IN MAXIMUM FINE TO \$5,000 AND THE DAILY PENALTY FOR A CONTINUING OFFENCE TO \$100 WILL HAVE A GREATER DETERRENT EFFECT ON BUILDING CONTRACTORS.

ON THE OFFENCE REGARDING THE OPERATION OF UNLICENSED FOOD BUSINESS, MR. HO SAID IT IS NOW PROPOSED TO INCREASE FIVE-FOLD THE MAXIMUM FINE PERMITTED UNDER SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION TO \$10,000 AND THE DAILY PENALTY TO \$250 FOR A CONTINUOUS OFFENCE, WHILE FOR BREACHES OF COURT ORDERS THE PRESENT FINE OF \$5,000 AND THREE MONTHS IMPRISONMENT PLUS A DAILY PENALTY OF \$100 FOR A CONTINUOUS OFFENCE IS BEING INCREASED TO \$25,000, 12 MONTHS AND \$500 RESPECTIVELY.

/+TO THOSE

+TO THOSE WHO MAY FEEL THAT THESE MEASURES WILL CAUSE GREAT HARDSHIP FOR SOME PEOPLE WHO OPERATE UNLICENSED FOOD BUSINESS, I WOULD POINT OUT THAT THEIR REMEDY IS TO GET THEIR BUSINESSES LICENSED,+ MR. HO SAID.

+I FEAR WE CANNOT AFFORD TO RELAX OUR GUARD IN THE PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN THIS CROWDED CITY,+ HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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JURY (AMENDMENT) BILL
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THE JURY (AMENDMENT) BILL WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE SOLICITOR GENERAL, THE HON. GARTH THORNTON SAID THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE SPECIFIES THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH A COURT MAY ORDER A TRIAL TO CONTINUE IN THE EVENT OF THE DEATH, ILLNESS, DEFAULT OF ATTENDANCE OR DISCHARGE BY THE COURT OF ANY JUROR.

+THE SECTION THEREFORE BY INFERENCE GIVES THE COURT POWER TO DISCHARGE A JUROR,+ MR. THORNTON SAID.

+THE CHIEF JUSTICE CONSIDERS, IN THE LIGHT OF A DECISION OF THE COURT OF APPEAL IN ENGLAND, THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR THE HIGH COURT TO HAVE EXPRESS POWER TO DISCHARGE A JUROR AND ALSO THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WHEN SUCH A POWER SHOULD BE EXERCISED, SHOULD BE SPECIFIED.+

MR. THORNTON ADDED THAT THE CHIEF JUSTICE HAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE EXISTING REQUIREMENT FOR A FORMAL ORDER TO BE MADE ENABLING THE TRIAL TO PROCEED IN THE CASE OF THE DEATH OR DISCHARGE OF A JUROR IS UNNECESSARY.

THE AMENDING LEGISLATION REPEALS AND REPLACES THE RELEVANT SECTION OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE SO AS TO GIVE EFFECT TO THESE SUGGESTIONS, MR. THORNTON SAID.

IN ADDITION, MR. THORNTON SAID THE BILLS ALSO AIMS AT INCREASING THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR TWO OFFENCES.

UNDER THE AMENDING LEGISLATION, THE FINE FOR AN OFFENCE BY A JUROR WHO, WITHOUT REASONABLE EXCUSE, FAILS TO ATTEND OR WITHDRAWS WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE JUDGE WILL BE RAISED FROM \$500 TO \$3,000, MR. THORNTON SAID.

SECONDLY, THE FINE TO BE IMPOSED ON EMPLOYERS WHO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST EMPLOYEES CALLED TO SERVE AS JURORS WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$3,000 TO \$5,000, HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1978

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MEDICAL FACILITIES ON LAMMA ISLAND ADEQUATE
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MEDICAL FACILITIES ON LAMMA ISLAND ARE CONSIDERED ADEQUATE TO MEET THE PRESENT NEED, BUT PLANS ARE IN HAND TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE EXISTING SERVICES BY EXTENDING AND RE-ARRANGING CLINIC SESSIONS FOR RESIDENTS ON THE ISLAND.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. K.L. THONG, IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION BY AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY.

DR. FANG HAS ASKED IF THE GOVERNMENT HAD PLANS TO IMPROVE THE MEDICAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES ON LAMMA ISLAND WHERE THE POPULATION HAD INCREASED FROM 2,416 IN 1976 TO OVER 5,000.

IN REPLY, DR. THONG SAID JUDGING FROM THE CLINIC ATTENDANCE FIGURES IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR CLINIC FACILITIES RECENTLY WAS NOT SIGNIFICANT.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THE NEEDS FOR MEDICAL FACILITIES IN OUTLYING ISLANDS, IT WAS MORE USEFUL TO EXAMINE THE ACTUAL CLINIC ATTENDANCES IN RECENT YEARS RATHER THAN TO RELY ON ESTIMATION OF THE POPULATION.

ACCORDING TO RECORDS IN THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT THE AVERAGE CLINIC ATTENDANCES WERE 839 CASES SEEN PER MONTH IN 1976, 820 CASES IN 1977 AND 880 CASES THIS YEAR.

THESE FIGURES SHOWED AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF ONLY ABOUT TWO CASES PER CLINIC SESSION PER MONTH SINCE 1976, DR. THONG ADDED.

REFERRING TO THE EXISTING FACILITIES, THE DIRECTOR SAID THEY CONSISTED OF OUT-PATIENT SERVICES AND MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES WHICH ARE PROVIDED ON A SESSIONAL BASIS.

ALTOGETHER 23 CLINIC SESSIONS ARE PROVIDED IN A MONTH FOR THE RESIDENTS.

THERE ARE, IN ADDITION, EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACUTE CASES WHICH ARE TRANSPORTED EITHER BY HELICOPTERS OR POLICE LAUNCHES FROM THE ISLAND TO MAJOR REGIONAL HOSPITALS, USUALLY THE QUEEN MARY AND QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITALS.

THESE SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE ON A 24-HOUR BASIS, SAID DR. THONG.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1978

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NO EXTRA STAFF FOR LATE-NIGHT
OFFICE DUTY AT HOUSING ESTATES

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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY DOES NOT AT PRESENT HAVE THE STAFF TO MAN ALL 88 HOUSING ESTATE OFFICES UNTIL 9 P.M. OR 10 P.M., THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON. DONALD LIAO, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY. NOR INDEED, HE INDICATED, WAS THERE A NEED TO DO SO.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, IT IS CONSIDERING EXTENDING THE OFFICE HOURS OF A FEW SELECTED ESTATES UNTIL 7.30 P.M., AFTER WHICH FURTHER ADJUSTMENT WOULD BE MADE IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE GAINED.

MR. LIAO WAS ANSWERING THE HON. KWAN KO SIU-WAH, WHO HAD ASKED WHETHER ESTATE OFFICES COULD BE MANNED UNTIL 9 OR 10 P.M. FOR HAWKER-CONTROL PURPOSES AND TO DEAL WITH INQUIRIES FROM TENANTS, MOST OF WHOM ARE AT WORK DURING THE DAY.

MR. LIAO SAID THAT NORMAL OFFICE HOURS ARE 9 A.M. - 5.30 P.M. ON WEEKDAYS AND 9 A.M. - 1 P.M. ON SATURDAYS, ALTHOUGH WHEN THERE WAS A PARTICULAR NEED, SUCH AS IN ESTATES AFFECTED BY REDEVELOPMENT, NEW INTAKES OF TENANTS OR EXTERNAL TRANSFERS, OFFICES ARE KEPT OPEN, EVEN OVER WEEKENDS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT CARETAKERS (NORMALLY ONE PER BLOCK) ARE ORGANISED IN SHIFTS TO ENSURE A 24-HOUR SERVICE TO ALL TENANTS.

+THIS SERVICE IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT SO THAT EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO LIFTS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT CAN BE ARRANGED THROUGH THE MAINTENANCE NETWORK,+ HE SAID.

ON HAWKERS, HE SAID THAT THE PROBLEM AROSE ONLY ON A SMALL NUMBER OF ESTATES, AND WHERE FEASIBLE ACTION HAD ALREADY BEEN TAKEN BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE POLICE AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS TO CONTROL OR CLEAR THEM.

+THE COMPLEXITIES OF HAWKER OPERATIONS ARE SUCH THAT AN EXTENSION OF OFFICE HOURS BY ESTATE STAFF WITHOUT OTHER RESOURCES WOULD NOT BE OF MUCH AVAIL,+ HE SAID.

CONCERNING ENQUIRIES FROM TENANTS, HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO INDICATION OF ANY NEED TO EXTEND OFFICE HOURS IN THE EVENINGS IN ALL OFFICES, AND MOST TENANTS MADE CONTACT IN PERSON, BY TELEPHONE OR BY LETTER WHEN NECESSARY.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1978

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TRANSPORTATION OF FOOD IN NT
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THE TRANSPORTATION OF FOOD IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IN GENERAL HAS BEEN SATISFACTORY AND NO PROSECUTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN OUT UNDER THE LAW IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE REV. THE HON. JOYCE M. BENNETT.

MISS BENNETT HAS ASKED: +WILL THE GOVERNMENT TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO ENFORCE REGULATION 12 OF THE FOOD BUSINESS (NEW TERRITORIES) REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE TRANSPORTATION OF COOKED AND UNCOOKED FOOD, AND STATE HOW MANY PROSECUTIONS FOR OFFENCES UNDER THIS REGULATION HAVE BEEN TAKEN OUT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS?+

MR. JONES REPLIED THAT UNDER THIS REGULATION COOKED FOOD BAKERY PRODUCTS AND MEAT, WHETHER FRESH, FROZEN OR ROASTED, SHOULD NOT BE TRANSPORTED IN THE OPEN AIR WITHOUT ADEQUATE PROTECTION.

+THE OBSERVANCE OF THIS REGULATION IS CLOSELY MONITORED THROUGH THE DAY TO DAY WORK OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT= AND HEALTH INSPECTORS PROVIDE ADVICE TO OPERATORS OF FOOD FACTORIES AND RESTAURANTS AND TO MEAT MERCHANTS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF OBSERVING PROPER HEALTH MEASURES TO GUARD AGAINST THE POSSIBLE CONTAMINATION OF FOOD TRANSPORTED IN THE OPEN AIR,+ MR. JONES SAID.

+IF, HOWEVER, MISS BENNETT HAS EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT THE REGULATION IS NOT BEING ENFORCED AT CERTAIN PLACES AND TIMES I WILL CERTAINLY LOOK INTO THE MATTER IF SHE CAN LET ME HAVE DETAILS.+

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 1978

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PROBLEM OF STRAY DOGS UNDER CONTROL
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THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THE STRAY DOG PROBLEM TO BE UNDER CONTROL, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, THE HON. TED NICHOLS, STATED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. NICHOLS ADDED, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. LEUNG TAT-SHING, THAT DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS SOME 5,000 STRAY DOGS WERE ELIMINATED FROM THE URBAN AREAS AND MORE THAN 2,500 FROM THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+IN ADDITION,+ HE SAID, +OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS, A FURTHER 9,000 UNWANTED DOGS HAVE BEEN DISPOSED OF THROUGH THE R.S.P.C.A.= AND SOME 1,700 UNWANTED DOGS HAVE BEEN SURRENDERED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES FOR DISPOSAL. THUS SOME 11,000 POTENTIAL STRAY DOGS HAVE ALSO BEEN ELIMINATED.+

HOWEVER THE ANNUAL AVERAGE FIGURE OF SOME 18,000 TO 20,000 DOGS ELIMINATED SHOULD BE SEEN IN PERSPECTIVE OF THE KNOWN LICENSED DOG POPULATION OF SOME 50,000 ANIMALS -- THE NUMBER OF DOGS INOCULATED AGAINST RABIES DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS.

MR. NICHOLS ADDED THAT DUE TO THEIR WAY OF LIFE, CATS DID NOT APPEAR TO PRESENT THE SAME SOCIAL NUISANCE AS STRAY DOGS.

+ADEQUATE FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE DISPOSAL OF UNWANTED CATS AND DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS SOME 20,000 SUCH ANIMALS WERE DEALT WITH BY THE R.S.P.C.A.,+ SAID MR. NICHOLS.

HE ADDED THAT WHILST GOVERNMENT HAS NO IMMEDIATE PROPOSALS TO SEEK AN INCREASE IN RESOURCES TO CONTROL STRAY DOGS, THE MATTER REMAINS UNDER CONTINUAL REVIEW.

+IT IS RECOGNISED THAT WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TOWNS AND CENTRES OF POPULATION, THERE WILL BE A NEED FOR A RE-DEPLOYMENT OF CURRENT RESOURCES AND A POSSIBLE NEED FOR A FUTURE INCREASE IN THOSE RESOURCES,+ HE SAID.

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DIRECTION SIGNS IN COUNTRY PARKS
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DIRECTION SIGNS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN HONG KONG'S COUNTRY PARKS TO ASSIST HIKERS IN THE WOODLANDS, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, THE HON. TED NICHOLS SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. PETER C. WONG.

HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT, AS THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY, HAS ERECTED DIRECTION SIGNS IN THE SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK. DIRECTION SIGNS WITHIN OTHER COUNTRY PARKS, SUCH AS SHING MUN, KAM SHAN AND TAI PO KAU, TAKE THE FORM OF COLOURED WALKS MARKED ON POSTS IN THE GROUND. THEY ARE FURTHER EXPLAINED IN THE RELEVANT COUNTRY PARKS PAMPHLETS.

HE ADDED THAT FURTHER DIRECTION SIGNS WOULD BE PROVIDED AS COUNTRY PARK PLANS WERE PROGRESSIVELY IMPLEMENTED.

+IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, LANTAU AND THE PAT SIN RANGE WILL BE GIVEN FIRST PRIORITY AND SIGNS SHOULD BE ERECTED THERE THIS YEAR,+ HE SAID.

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TWO BILLS PASSED
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TWO BILLS WERE PASSED INTO LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THEY WERE THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 AND THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1978.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

DHA TO VISIT PO LEUNG KUK SCHOOL
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THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR. AUGUSTINE KAM CHUI, WILL PAY AN INSPECTION VISIT TO THE PO LEUNG KUK WU CHUNG COLLEGE AT WILLOW STREET, TAI KOK TSUI AT 2.30 P.M. TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE SCHOOL, OPENED IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, IS SUBVENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT. THERE ARE 18 CLASSROOMS, THREE LABORATORIES, FIVE SPECIAL ROOMS, AN ASSEMBLY HALL AND A BASKETBALL COURT.

DURING THE VISIT, MR. CHUI WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE KUK, MR. MERVYN SHIU-CHUN LAW= VICE-CHAIRMEN MR. C.B. CHUI AND MR. LI SZE-KING AND OTHER DIRECTORS OF THE KUK.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE VISIT.

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