



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

E Wednesday, July 4, 1973

CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Six-month standstill imposed on the approval of new building plans for the Mid-Levels and Pokfulam areas pending result of detailed traffic study	1
Mr. J.W.D. Hobley is to be appointed Attorney General and Mr. G.C. Thornton as Solicitor General later this year	3
New measures being considered by government to improve bus services	5
Improvement plans, including elevated roads and alternative routes, are being investigated to help ease traffic congestion along Nathan Road	8
White paper containing specific proposals of an overall transport policy planned to be tabled in Legislative Council	10
Decision on the procedures for tender of the mass transit system is expected within the next few weeks	11
Settlement reached in Gilda Factory labour dispute	13
Procedures for ex-gratia increases to pensioners being examined	14
Draft legislation for the issue of special car numbers for two Urbco official cars will shortly be submitted to the Executive Council	15
New safety regulations will soon be introduced to provide adequate safety standards in the construction industry	16
Unauthorised disclosures of confidential matters could be a criminal offence	17

/2

	<u>Page No.</u>
Facilities at passenger ferry piers on outlying island routes are adequate	18
Star Ferry to merge with Hong Kong and Kowloon Wharf	20
Consultations on the retiring age of civil servants being held between government and staff associations	21
Vegetable Marketing Organisation will continue to handle locally produced vegetables	22
Consultants engaged to help expedite approval of building plans	23
A good teacher and a broadcaster must never "show off"	24
Entries for the Water Safety poster design competition will be on display at the City Hall	25
Four Scottish teachers of Integrated Science have arrived in Hong Kong	26
Legislative Council pays tribute to Mr. R.J. Frampton, Clerk of the Council	28

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 1 -

SIX-MONTH RESTRICTION ON NEW BUILDING PLANS

FOR MID LEVELS AND POK FU LAM

The government is to impose, from today, a six-month standstill on the approval of new building plans for the Mid-Levels and Pok Fu Lam areas pending the outcome of a detailed traffic study.

The restrictions will apply to the area of Pok Fu Lam from Mount Davis to Wah Fu Estate and in the Mid-Levels between Caine Road-Bonham Road and the 700-foot contour bounded on the east by Glenealy and extending to the west as far as Kotewall Road and the University of Hong Kong.

The acting Director of Public Works, the Hon. A.S. Robertson, told the Legislative Council today that it was proposed to introduce legislation at the next sitting of the council which would require the Building Authority to refuse to approve new building plans submitted after today in these two areas for six months.

Modifications of leases where they were required to permit redevelopment would also not be granted.

Mr. Robertson said the measures were being taken "in view of the serious traffic problems which would result if building continues to be unrestricted in these areas."

"During this six-month period, traffic engineers will carry out a thorough study of all aspects of the traffic problem to permit the government to make a decision as to the proper extent and duration of the restrictions," he said.

/The traffic

The traffic study will include consideration of improvements to present routes; construction of new routes; the possibilities of restriction on different types of vehicle at certain times of the day; and the use of marine transport.

Mr. Robertson added: "These measures have become necessary because of the unusually high rate of building taking place along the length of a very restricted road system, and every effort will be made to minimise their duration."

The Director said the legislation was necessary because the Buildings Ordinance, under which it had been hoped to implement the restrictions, did not adequately provide for this.

A spokesman for the Public Works Department pointed out that the six-month standstill would not affect the construction of a large number of new flats in the areas, for which plans had already been approved. These would inevitably generate more private car traffic highlighting the severity of the still increasing pressure on the roads in the two areas.

A total of 5,000 new flats is likely to be completed in the two areas within the next two to three years. Of these, 3,000 are already under construction, while plans for a further 2,000 have either been approved by the Buildings Ordinance Office or are now being processed.

The 3,000 flats already being built are expected to involve the provision of some 2,000 private car parking spaces. And a further 1,300 parking spaces will be provided when the flats now at the planning stage are in due course constructed.

In addition to these extra 3,300 private cars which will be using the existing road network, the new buildings will lead to further use by other vehicles such as taxis and delivery vehicles.

.....

Note to Editors: Photographs of maps outlining the areas included in the restrictions are boxed this evening.

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 3 -

MR. HOBLEY NAMED ATTORNEY GENERAL

It was officially announced today that Mr. J.W.D. Hobley will become the new Attorney General when Mr. D.T.E. Roberts takes up his position as Colonial Secretary later this year.

Mr. Hobley, who is 44, graduated from the University of Liverpool with a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1949. He was called to the Bar in 1950 and was in private practice in Liverpool until his appointment to Hong Kong as a Crown Counsel in 1953.

He was promoted to Senior Crown Counsel in 1962, Principal Crown Counsel in 1965 and to Solicitor General in May this year.

Mr. Hobley was seconded to the government of Bermuda as Attorney General from April 1972 until May this year. He is married with two children.

At present he is acting Attorney General.

At the same time, it was announced that Mr. G.C. Thornton would succeed Mr. Hobley as Solicitor General.

Mr. Thornton, 43, gained his M.A. (Hons.) in English from the Victoria University College in 1952 and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the same university in 1954.

He was admitted as a barrister and solicitor in New Zealand the same year and was in private practice there until early in 1958 when he was appointed Crown Counsel in Tanganyika (now Tanzania).

/Mr. Thornton

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 4 -

Mr. Thornton transferred as a Senior Assistant Legal Secretary in the East African Common Services Organisation in 1961 and to Hong Kong as a Crown Counsel in 1965. He was promoted to Senior Crown Counsel later the same year and to Principal Crown Counsel in 1970.

He was seconded to Tanzania as Chief Parliamentary Draftsman from February 1966 to March 1968. He has acted as Solicitor General on several occasions.

Mr. Thornton is married with two children.

The promotions of both Mr. Hobley and Mr. Thornton have been approved by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

.....

Note to Editors: Photographs of the two men are boxed this evening.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 5 -

MEASURES TO IMPROVE BUS SERVICES

The government is considering a number of measures to improve bus services, including the establishment of "bus only lanes" and confining some roads entirely to public transport at certain hours of the day.

Announcing this in the Legislative Council today, the Financial Secretary, the Hon. C.P. Haddon-Cave, said a team of consultants and government officials were now examining the necessary measures to match road and public transport capacity with future demands under the general guidance of a steering group.

"It is expected that these studies will provide, in the course of the next year or so, data on which comprehensive and detailed transport plans to implement agreed policies can be based," he told council.

He was replying to a question from the Hon. Hilton Cheong-Leen who wanted to know what measures were being planned over the next two to five years to expand and improve bus services in Hong Kong in view of growing road congestion.

The Financial Secretary said the improvement of bus services had been a continuing concern of the government for a number of years and was determined that efficient bus services would be provided.

Even though the mass transit system would meet a considerable part of Hong Kong's public transport needs in the 1980s, the bus would remain the "key to the problem of movement in the Seventies," he said.

Plans were being made, he said, to clear the way on some of the major routes to enable buses to move with less encumbrances from other traffic.

/"Consideration

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 6 -

"Consideration is being given, for instance, to the creation of bus only lanes and even some roads which will be confined entirely to public transport, at least at certain hours of the day."

Where this was not feasible, he went on, other measures were being looked at to ban the loading and unloading of goods vehicles at certain times of the day when congestion was at its worst.

The government was also examining plans submitted recently by the two bus companies for expanding their existing fleets.

Kowloon Motor Bus had already taken action in this regard with its expansion of services in the New Territories, including an increase in the number of routes from 36 to 48 and the provision of nearly 100 additional double deck buses on these routes as well as two experimental long distance express services with no standing passengers.

In addition, proposals were being studied to improve the standard and comfort of buses in order to induce those who would otherwise use private cars or public light buses to make more use of buses.

The two bus companies were also considering introducing a higher standard of buses on certain routes at somewhat higher fares for those who wished to travel in greater comfort, he said.

The Financial Secretary emphasised that these were only examples and other possibilities to improve bus services were being considered.

"The main point is that, to the extent that buses are able to move more quickly and smoothly, not only are passengers able to cut down their journey times but, by making more journeys, the buses can carry more passengers thus cutting down the queueing time at bus stops and speeding up journey times still further," he said.

/Replying to

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 7 -

Replying to another question by Mr. Cheong-Leen, the Financial Secretary said the two franchised bus companies and the public light buses between them carried well over three million passengers a day and managed to keep an extremely mobile population on the move.

But the government was concerned, he said, with the quality of existing services.

On many routes waiting times were unacceptably long, too many buses broke down on the roads and so contributed to congestion and a great number of buses, he said, were "tatty" and prone to overcrowding.

The government was also concerned with the proper role of public light buses in Hong Kong's evolving transport system "for their present role is not one which ought to be maintained indefinitely."

In far too many instances, he said, public light buses were performing functions which, in terms of road-use, could be performed more efficiently by franchised buses without any loss of convenience to the passenger.

He was referring, in particular to the carriage of large numbers of passengers non-stop over long routes.

"The problem is to take this trade away from public light buses and get them to provide services in areas where the enfranchised buses do not operate and other special services where their flexibility of operation provides an advantage."

Mr. Haddon-Cave said these were difficult problems but not insurmountable.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/8

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 8 -

TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS ALONG NATHAN ROAD

Various measures are in hand to help ease considerably the heavy traffic commitment along Nathan Road -- the thoroughfare on the Kowloon peninsula.

This was disclosed by the Acting Director of Public Works, the Hon. A.S. Robertson, at the Legislative Council today when the Hon. Dr. S.Y. Chung asked whether the government had considered the desirability and feasibility of building a multi-deck road along this route.

The Director agreed that Nathan Road is indeed heavily committed for long periods of the day and he said the government is aware of the need to carry out extensive works to provide relief.

However, he said a multi-deck road is not in the current public works plans, and it would be impossible for many years because of the proposed mass transit railway line likely to be built in Nathan Road.

Incidentally, he pointed out that the mass transit works make the problem of relieving Nathan Road traffic all the more pressing because of the inevitable interference with traffic which will result from the construction of the railway.

Mr. Robertson also outlined the following improvement plans:

- * Two elevated crossings of Nathan Road -- the first one from Prince Edward Road to Lai Chi Kok Road and the other from Cheung Sha Wan Road to Boundary Street. Both should be ready by 1976.

/* Two

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 9 -

- * Two subsidiary routes to Nathan Road. The first is an extension of Tong Mi Road which, when completed early next year, will connect with Jordan Road, Waterloo Road, Argyle Street and Lai Chi Kok Road providing a through route from Ferry Street in Yau Ma Tei to Tai Kok Tsui.

The second one is a route parallel to Canton Road between Salisbury Road and Jordan Road, which is scheduled for completion by early 1975.

- * A computerised traffic control system for the whole of West Kowloon. Tenders are now out and when the system is in operation in 1976 it will enable optimum use of the road system.
- * The West Kowloon Corridor scheme -- the major works envisaged to relieve the Nathan Road artery. It will be in the form of an elevated road running along the waterfront which starts from Gascoigne Road to Lai Chi Kok with the now familiar ramped connections to the principal crossing roads along its length.

The first section of this road, from Gascoigne Road to Tong Mi Road, is now out to tender and works should be finished before the end of 1975. This section will be particularly helpful in relieving traffic in Nathan Road.

Finally, Mr. Robertson mentioned two general points.

"Consultants are already engaged in an updating of previous 'Long Term Road Studies' to ensure that our planning takes full account of the traffic needs of the next two decades.

"Secondly, the need to carry out approved works in the shortest possible time is fully appreciated by the P.W.D., and we are giving this aspect of all our proposals the closest attention," he said.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/10

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 10 -

WHITE PAPER ON TRANSPORT POLICY

The Government plans to table in the Legislative Council a White Paper containing specific proposals of an overall transport policy.

The Financial Secretary, the Hon. C.P. Haddon-Cave, told the Council this afternoon that the proposals in the White Paper, a draft of which is now in an advanced state of preparation, are grouped around the following three essential elements:

- * The provision of as much road capacity as is feasible in the densely populated urban areas;
- * The improvement (and the rationalisation) of the public transport facilities; and
- * The application of measures to make the best use of available road capacity.

The Financial Secretary, who was replying to a question by the Hon. Wilson Wang said that in addition, the government has put in hand a major study to up-date the various transport studies and statistics.

"The purpose of this study is to revise our present predictions of the demands likely to be made on different sectors of the developing transport system over time so that the content of, and the balance between, the three main elements of our overall transport policy can be appropriately determined."

- - - - 0 - - - -

/11

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 11 -

DECISION SOON ON CONTRACT PROCEDURES FOR MASS TRANSIT

The Mass Transit Steering Group is expected to reach a decision within the next few weeks on whether the project should be dealt with on a single-contract or on a multi-contract basis.

Disclosing this to the Legislative Council this afternoon, the Financial Secretary, the Hon. C.P. Haddon-Cave, stressed that whichever decision is taken, it remains the government's firm intention that construction should commence on site during the first half of 1974.

To this end, he said every effort will be made to conclude the contractual procedures, whatever they may be, by the end of this year.

"In the case of the negotiated single-contract approach, this will require a firm decision to be made on which consortium to select, and the issue of a Letter of Intent to that consortium signifying the government's intention to negotiate a contract, well before the end of the year."

The Financial Secretary described the recommendations to be made by the group as important and difficult decisions because of the need to safeguard Hong Kong's best interests in all respects.

"The group's recommendations must have regard not only to securing the best possible deal for the Mass Transit Railway project itself, but also to safeguarding the government's overall fiscal and economic policies in the future."

He said the group had held two rounds of consultations with each of four consortia during the past four months.

/Their talks

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 12 -

Their talks aimed at eliciting from each of the consortia firm indications (but not firm commitments) as to the credit terms they would offer, the pricing methods and procedures they would adopt, and the overall price they would be likely to charge, for a single contract to construct and equip the first four stages of the Mass Transit Railway.

In reply to a question from the Hon. James Wu on whether there would be a general debate in the Legislative Council on the scheme before the award of contracts, Mr. Haddon-Cave assured him that there would be several opportunities for debate.

He said he had in mind debates on two pieces of legislation now being prepared as a matter of urgency at the request of the steering group.

The first one is designed to empower the government compulsorily to acquire land, including rights and easements in land and buildings, for the purposes of providing work sites, station entrances and other facilities.

The other piece of legislation is intended to provide for the establishment of a Mass Transit Railway Corporation, which would be set up as a statutory corporation with responsibilities for overseeing and co-ordinating the design, financing, construction and equipment of the railway, and for operating and maintaining the system after completion.

Mr. Haddon-Cave hoped to introduce both bills into the council before the end of this year or, preferably, before any contract (or contracts) is awarded for the construction.

If possible, he said it is the government's view that such contract or contracts should be entered into by the new railway corporation rather than the government, so as to avoid any later legal complications involved in the government assigning the contract or contracts to the corporation.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/13

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 13 -

FINAL SETTLEMENT OF GILDA DISPUTE

Severance payments will be made on Friday to some 1200 redundant workers from the Gilda Fashions Ltd. factory at Tsuen Wan.

Workers' representatives and the factory's receiver late last night signed an agreement in the Headquarters of the Labour Relations Service of the Labour Department specifying how the severance pay will be distributed among 95 daily-rated, 992 piece-rated and 119 monthly-paid workers.

The total amount of severance pay - \$390,000 - was agreed to by the workers at a conciliation meeting held last Wednesday (June 27).

The head of the Labour Relations Service, Mr. T.F. Tsui, who chaired last night's meeting, said that daily-rated workers will get 17 days wages at \$15 a day; piece-rated workers will get 17 days at \$18 a day; and monthly workers will get 25.8 days' wages.

The money will be paid to the workers at the Tsuen Wan Office of the Labour Relations Service at noon on Friday.

Back wages owed to the workers were paid at the factory yesterday.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/14

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 14 -

PROCEDURES FOR EX-GRATIA INCREASES TO PENSIONERS

Existing procedures of granting ex-gratia increases to government pensioners are being examined with a view to speeding them up, the Colonial Secretary, the Hon. Sir Hugh Norman-Walker, told the Legislative Council today.

The importance of increases to pensioners, he told council, was fully appreciated but these inevitably took time because of the complexity of the calculations and the large number of pensioners and serving officers.

He said the longstanding practice was to review pensions only after a general salary award to the public service had been made, and to arrange for the payment of any approved ex-gratia increases to pensioners after action on behalf of serving officers had been completed.

At present there are about 100,000 serving officers and 10,000 pensioners.

Sir Hugh was replying to the Hon. G.M. Sayer who had asked what steps could be taken to expedite the procedure for payment of an ex-gratia increase to government pensioners after a salary revision for serving officers.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/15

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 15 -

LICENCE NUMBER FOR URBAN COUNCIL

Draft legislation will shortly be submitted to the Executive Council to enable special car numbers to be issued to the two official cars used by the chairman and members of the Urban Council.

Revealing this in the Legislative Council today, the Colonial Secretary, the Hon. Sir Hugh Norman-Walker, said that the numbers envisaged were UC1 and UC2, but these had not yet been issued.

The AM series, which is used solely for government vehicles, he said, was not thought appropriate for use by the chairman and members of the Urban Council and the UC prefix would clearly denote the connection of the vehicles purchased by the Urban Council with that body.

Sir Hugh was replying to a question from the Hon. Szeto Wai who asked if the government could confirm that UC1 had been issued to an official car of the Urban Council.

----- 0 -----

/16

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 16 -

NEW SAFETY REGULATIONS SOON

Comprehensive new regulations will shortly be introduced to provide adequate safety standards in the construction industry.

The Commissioner of Labour, the Hon. Paul K.C. Tsui, disclosed this in the Legislative Council today when moving the second reading of the Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Amendment) Bill 1973 which paves the way for safety regulations in respect of construction work and cargo handling.

"The increasing use of modern devices and sophisticated techniques for cargo handling, including containerisation, has brought with it new safety problems requiring specialised treatment," he told council.

Last year, he said, accidents in the construction industry reported to the Labour Department involved 4,500 workers, 65 of whom died, compared with 3,918 and 43 deaths in 1971.

"These figures emphasise the urgent need for the enactment of 'specialised' safety regulations to meet the situation."

Mr. Tsui said he intended to submit a comprehensive set of regulations for the council's approval once the new bill became law.

The bill aims at doubling the maximum penalty for breaking regulations under the Ordinance from \$5,000 to \$10,000, and to provide an additional penalty of up to \$1,000 a day for each day the offence continues.

The Commissioner said the present \$5,000 fine was considered insufficient to act as a deterrent, and the increase would underline the importance the government attached to industrial safety.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/17

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 17 -

UNAUTHORISED DISCLOSURES COULD BE CRIMINAL OFFENCE

All possible steps are taken to guard against unauthorised disclosure of confidential matters which might be contrary to the public's interest, the Secretary for Home Affairs, the Hon. Jack Cater, said today.

The government regarded this problem very seriously, he said, and civil servants were liable to disciplinary action if they leaked out restricted information.

Mr. Cater was speaking in the Legislative Council in answer to a question by the Hon. Joyce Symons who wanted to know whether the government would take effective steps to prevent the disclosure to the press of confidential matters under discussion.

He said government officers and those who had access to classified information were subject to the Official Secrets Act under which unauthorised disclosure of confidential matters could constitute a criminal offence.

Mr. Cater stressed, however, that this in no way affected the government's attitude towards the "proper free flow of information of public interest to the community through the media."

He noted that relations between government departments and the media had continued to improve through more direct contact which he personally advocated and regarded as being of "great value".

Mr. Cater assured Mrs. Symons that a thorough investigation would be made into any case she might know of in which breaches of regulations might have occurred.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/18

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 18 -

OUTLYING FERRY PIERS ADEQUATE FOR PEAK DEMANDS

A careful watch is being kept to see if facilities at passenger ferry piers on all outlying island routes need to be improved.

The Financial Secretary, the Hon. C.P. Haddon-Cave said this at the Legislative Council today in reply to a question from the Hon. H.M.G. Forsgate who asked whether the government would take steps to improve and modernise the berthing and loading facilities at the piers.

He said that on Lamma Island, for example, attention is being paid to see whether and when a second pier will be required.

Mr. Haddon-Cave pointed out that with the exception of Cheung Chau, Tai O and Tung Chung, the piers on all outlying routes operated by the Hong Kong and Yaumati Ferry Company are at present adequate for peak demand at weekends and public holidays.

For Cheung Chau, there is a plan to improve the pier to allow the easy berthing of triple-decker ferries.

However, he said little can be done to improve the situation at Tai O and Tung Chung where shallow water and continual silting restrict the piers to small vessels only.

What is being done is to actively encourage holiday-makers to go, instead, to Silvermine Bay where large ferries can berth and load.

In particular, he said the Yaumati Ferry Company has recently been allowed to transport up to eight coaches to Lantau on Sundays and public holidays. With pre-purchased tickets, passengers alighting at Silvermine Bay can proceed to Cheung Sha.

/"Much of the

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 19 -

"Much of the trouble at ferry piers arises from the fact that, whereas the movement of holiday-makers from Hong Kong to outlying islands is spread over many hours, they all tend to return to Hong Kong in a short period between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

"This strains the capacity of both vessels and piers", he said.

The Financial Secretary went on to mention in passing one "useful development" -- the 60-seater motor launches to be made available by the Yaumati Ferry Company for recreational traffic.

The docking requirements of these vessels are minimal, he said.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/20

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 20 -

STAR FERRY TO MERGE WITH HONG KONG AND KOWLOON WHARF

The Legislative Council today adopted a motion clearing the way for a merger between the Star Ferry Company and the Hong Kong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company.

The motion involved an amendment to the schedule of the Star Ferry Company (Services) Ordinance to ensure that the wharf company would remain public with its shares freely transferable, and that the majority of its directorate, management and administrative staff are British subjects.

These requirements already apply to the ferry company.

In moving the motion, the Financial Secretary, the Hon. C.P. Haddon-Cave, said the main intention behind these provisions was to ensure that the company would not be under the control of a single individual or of an organisation in which the Hong Kong public is not substantially interested.

"The merger will, in fact, further the intention of these requirements since the public's shareholding in the wharf company is far wider than its shareholding in the ferry company," he said.

He noted that the two companies were very closely connected, having common directors and management and operating a joint subsidiary company.

After the merger, he said, the ferry company would continue to operate as at present, except that it would be a subsidiary of the wharf company. Its operations would also continue to be governed by the Star Ferry Company (Services) Ordinance.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/21

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 21 -

RETIRING AGE FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

Consultations between the government and the staff associations on the question of revising the retiring age of civil servants are proceeding constructively, the Colonial Secretary, the Hon. Sir Hugh Norman-Walker, said today.

He told the Legislative Council that a great deal of goodwill and understanding had been shown during the negotiations, and he hoped that an agreement would shortly be reached.

Debate in the council on the motion concerning the retiring age of civil servants would be resumed once the consultations had concluded and after the agreement had been endorsed by the Governor-in-Council, Sir Hugh said.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/22

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 22 -

NEW MARKETS TO HANDLE IMPORTED VEGETABLES

The government believes that the wholesaling of locally produced vegetables should continue to be channelled through the Vegetable Marketing Organisation, the Financial Secretary, the Hon. C.P. Haddon-Cave, said today.

Replying to a question from the Hon. Wilfred Wong, he said the wholesaling of imported vegetables would be covered by new markets now being built or planned.

These markets, he said, would be run by a similar body as the Vegetable Marketing Organisation and would be under the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries in his capacity as Director of Marketing.

Mr. Haddon-Cave explained that the marketing of imported vegetables was different from that required by local producers who received a variety of services from the Vegetable Marketing Organisation which were not needed by importers.

In answer to another question from Mr. Wong, the Financial Secretary said the average daily volume of vegetables handled by the Vegetable Marketing Organisation in April was 3,456 piculs of which 78.3 per cent were locally produced.

The corresponding figures for May and June were 3,595 piculs and 79.4 per cent, and 3,286 piculs and 81.1 per cent.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/23

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 23 -

EXPEDITING APPROVAL OF PLANS

The Buildings Ordinance Office has engaged consultants to help consider the soil stability aspects of architects' submissions and structural aspects of building plans in an attempt to further speed up the approval process.

This, together with the system of curtailed checking of all building plans from May 15, had increased the capacity of the office to deal with about 1,350 plans every month, the Acting Director of Public Works, the Hon. A.S. Robertson told Legislative Council this afternoon.

Originally the office could only deal with about 850 plans in a month.

Mr. Robertson said that on May 15 there were 1,850 plans outstanding, and at the end of June the number was 1,450.

However, he pointed out that these figures did not reflect failure to expedite approval of building plans, because submissions had increased considerably in the past two months.

But he anticipated that even if the figures were to increase in July and August, the number of outstanding plans at the end of the two months would still be reduced to 1,200 and 950 respectively.

Mr. Robertson said there was every prospect in the next two months of being able to deal with plans within the statutory period for approvals.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/24

HINTS FOR TEACHERS

Successful teaching and good broadcasting have a common factor "they must have something right at the beginning to rivet attention".

Mr. James Hawthorne, Director of Broadcasting, said that a good teacher and a broadcaster must never "show off" and try to demonstrate that they know more than the listeners, because they can easily be switched off. "The best broadcasts and the best lessons are simple".

He was speaking today at the conference for graduands of the Northcote College of Education.

Concrete practical examples are better than a number of theories, because they enable the listeners to apply the facts to their own experience.

Mr. Hawthorne also gave valuable advice to the graduands on how to mould a disciplined class, to help the students who could not keep up with the rest of the class, and when and how to give praise.

He pointed out that the first years of teaching were crucial because it was the formative period when the young teacher finds his style and establishes discipline.

- - - - 0 - - - -

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 25 -

WATER SAFETY POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION

Two-hundred-and-fifty entries for the Water Safety Poster Design Competition will be on display in the City Hall Exhibition Hall tomorrow (Thursday) from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The judging will take place from 2 p.m. onwards.

The aim of the competition is to promote awareness of water safety among children. It is open to school children of all ages attending primary and secondary schools throughout Hong Kong.

The panel of judges includes Mr. Gwilym Rees representing the Urban Council; Mr. Mike Griffith, the Education Department; Mr. Ma Yu-kwong, the Hong Kong Life Guard Club and Mr. Carl Myatt, the South China Morning Post.

The competition is one of the many projects launched by the Urban Council in its "Let's Swim '73" campaign.

The first prize is \$300; the second, \$200; the third, \$100; and there are four consolation prizes of \$50 each. The results of the competition will be announced on July 13.

The sponsors and organisers of the competition are the Urban Council, the Education Department, the Royal Life Saving Society (H.K. Branch), the Hong Kong Life Guard Club and the South China Morning Post.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/26

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 26 -

INTEGRATED SCIENCE COURSE FOR TEACHERS

Four Scottish tutors with considerable experience in the teaching of Integrated Science have arrived in Hong Kong.

They will lecture to more than 50 science teachers, science lecturers and examination science specialists at the summer course on Integrated Science for lower secondary forms which opens at the Hong Kong International School tomorrow (Thursday) morning.

The tutors are Mr. A.W. Jeffrey and Mr. S.T.S. Skillen, both of whom are Inspectors in the Scottish Education Department, Mr. J. Hughes, Director, Scottish Curriculum Development Centre for Science, Mathematics and Technical Subjects, and Mr. I. Robertson, Principal Lecturer in Chemistry at Jordan Hill College of Education, Scotland.

The course, organised by the Education Department, is based on curricula used in Scotland and adopted by other countries in the world. The course will train teachers in improved techniques and, in particular, treats science as one integrated subject, thus removing artificial divisions introduced by regarding science as a collection of separate subjects.

Teachers attending the course will teach Integrated Science next September in Form 1 in 20 secondary schools taking part in the pilot scheme.

The course opening tomorrow will last until July 26. It will be opened by Mr. A.G. Brown, Assistant Director of Education (Chief Inspector of Schools).

/In connection

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 27 -

In connection with the course, an exhibition of up-to-date science equipment will be displayed at the Hong Kong International School from July 6 to 13.

.....
Note to Editors: You are invited to have the opening of the course covered. The ceremony will begin at 9.00 a.m. on July 5 at the Hong Kong International School, No. 6 South Bay Close, Repulse Bay, Hong Kong.

.....
/28

Wednesday, July 4, 1973

- 28 -

TRIBUTE TO CLERK OF COUNCIL

The Legislative Council today paid tribute to Mr. R.J. Frampton, Clerk of the Council, who will proceed on leave prior to assuming a new post.

Speaking on behalf of his Unofficial colleagues, the Senior Unofficial Member, the Hon. P.C. Woo, thanked Mr. Frampton for his valuable services and wished him well in his future career.

Mr. Woo said Mr. Frampton had at all times during his three years of service with the Councils Branch, been efficient and courteous and he praised him for a job well done.

In a humorous vein, the Colonial Secretary, Sir Hugh Norman-Walker, said he had some "complaints" against Mr. Frampton, all related to today's council meeting.

In the first place, said Sir Hugh, "he got my questions in the wrong order. For another, he overestimated by nearly five minutes the duration of this session.

"But apart from those two slight departures, I say goodbye to him with great sorrow. He has done it very well."

Mr. Frampton joined the Councils Branch in January 1970 after a short training period in the House of Commons in parliamentary procedures.

- - - - 0 - - - -

Release time: 9.00 p.m.