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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Wednesday, August 30, 1972

IMPROVED CROSS-HARBOUR TRANSPORT FACILITIES

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The Hongkong and Yaumati Ferry Company has proposed changes in its vehicular ferry services and these will provide for a better spread of cross-harbour transport facilities which will benefit the community as a whole.

This was stated today by the Financial Secretary, the Hon. C.P. Haddon-Cave, in the Legislative Council while moving a motion on amendments to the Schedule to the Hongkong and Yaumati Ferry Company (Services) Ordinance.

With the opening of the cross-harbour tunnel, the company had applied for the introduction of a new service from North Point to Kwun Tong and from Jubilee Street to Tai Kok Tsui, while maintaining the present Jubilee Street-Jordan Road service.

Another proposed change, he said, was the termination of the existing North Point-Kowloon City service when the proposed North Point-Kwun Tong service came into operation.

The Financial Secretary said the proposed changes were designed to achieve four objectives:

* To minimise the duplication of services between the vehicular ferries and the cross-harbour tunnel;
* To reduce to a minimum redundancies among ferry vessels and workers;
* To encourage a complementary cross-harbour transport system; and

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* To relieve road traffic congestion on both sides of the harbour by providing more vehicular ferry landing points, thus spreading the traffic out.

Mr. Haddon-Cave said the Government believed that a re-routing of the North Point-Kowloon City service would play a part in easing road congestion by relieving the traffic load along the north-east corridor of the Kowloon Peninsula, especially in San Po Kong and Wong Tai Sin.

The proposed Jubilee Street-Tai Kok Tsui service should better meet the needs of lorries which at present crowded onto Nathan Road and Shanghai Street in Kowloon, he said.

The Financial Secretary said the terms offered by the Company to Government for the proposed changes were considered to be reasonable and equitable.

Speaking on the motion, Dr. the Hon. S.Y. Chung urged the Government to reconsider the siting of the Kowloon pier for the proposed Jubilee Street-Tai Kok Tsui service.

He said Tai Kok Tsui did not seem to be the best location on the north-west coast of Kowloon for this new vehicular ferry route.

"First, Tai Kok Tsui is not much further away from the existing route between Jubilee Street and Jordan Road.

"Secondly, since the bulk of vehicular traffic for this new route is presumably and increasingly coming from Tsuen Wan, Kwai Chung and Cheung Sha Wan, the heavy road traffic along the built-up areas such as Cheung Sha Wan and Sham Shui Po will not be relieved," he said.

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On the other hand, Dr. Chung said, Lai Chi Kok was very much more centrally located than Tai Kok Tsui and also had ready built main thoroughfares leading to Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung to the north, Cheung Sha Wan and Sham Shui Po to the south and So Uk and Tai Wo Ping to the east.

Replying to Dr. Chung, the Chairman of the Transport Advisory Committee, the Hon. Szeto Wai, said that the new ferry pier at Tai Kok Tsui was chosen after careful study.

"It adheres closely to the future road system as recommended by the consultants in their 'Hong Kong Long Term Road Study'," he said.

"In the long term, it is planned to link this ferry concourse with the mainland's east-west and north-south traffic arteries respectively by connecting it with Argyle Street and the new Tong Mi Road. This road is designed to link Gascoign Road with the northern stretch of Lai Chi Kok Road, Lai Chi Kok Bridge and Kwai Chung Road all the way as an elevated structure along the Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter through the industrial area of Tai Kok Tsui and on reclamation along the waterfront of Sham Shui Po and passing close to the new industrial area of Cheung Sha Wan," he said.

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LAND SALE PROGRAMME

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The Acting Director of Public Works, the Hon. A.S. Robertson said today that the land sale programme in the urban areas within the next two years will run at a similar rate to that of "the recent past."

The six-month land sale forecast from October until next March provides for the sale of five to six acres of industrial land, about 20 acres of residential land and about one acre of land for commercial development.

Mr. Robertson, who was replying to a question by the Hon. Q.W. Lee, said it was expected that a similar scale would be maintained in the forecast for the year commencing on April 1, 1973, with some increase in the amount of industrial and commercial land.

Industrial land and residential sites are expected to be available at Chai Wan and Cheung Sha Wan. The Wan Chai Reclamation will also provide three to four acres of commercial land.

Mr. Robertson said about 25 acres of industrial land would be available for sale in the New Territories, about half of which would be in Sha Tin and half in Kwai Chung. The Commercial and residential land would not be available for auction to any extent, but a supply would be maintained by exchanges.

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RELIEVING TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT BUSY INTERSECTION

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Work has started on the construction of a grade-separated interchange at the junction of Kwun Tong and Clearwater Bay Roads to relieve the severe traffic congestion along Prince Edward Road eastward from the San Po Kong Interchange.

This was stated today by the Acting Director of Public Works, the Hon. A.S. Robertson, at the Legislative Council in reply to a question by Dr. the Hon. S.Y. Chung.

Mr. Robertson said a complete solution at this junction could not be looked for until the major and difficult works necessary there were completed in three years' time.

"But as this project will be carried out in stages, there will be some improvements during this period," he said.

As regards a short-term solution such as the erection of a temporary steel flyover, he said this possibility had been considered. However, a flyover of this type at this location was just not practical due to the complex design of the permanent works and the very restricted space available for temporary works.

"We have already replaced the roundabout by traffic light sigals , and whilst it is appreciated that these measures are far from satisfactory, they are the best that can be done at present," he said.

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DANGEROUS BUILDING IN CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST

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A three-storey pre-war building at 167 Connaught Road West has been declared dangerous by the Building Authority.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said today that the load bearing walls of the go-down building had shown signs of continued movement.

These walls have reached the stage where there is a risk of collapse despite extensive shoring.

A notice of intention to apply for a Closure Order in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 6 was posted today.

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ROBBERIES AND THEIR DETECTION RATE

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The average sentence imposed by the courts in robbery cases this year has been five to six years' imprisonment.

The heaviest sentence imposed was one of eight years' imprisonment arising out of the robbery of the Banque Nationale de Paris in February.

The Acting Attorney General, the Hon. G.R. Sneath, who was replying to the Hon. Szeto Wai, said that of the 3,543 robbery cases reported up to the end of July, 1,527 or 43.1 per cent of these had been detected.

Altogether, 1,130 people had been convicted, with 75 people still awaiting trial.

Mr. Sneath said that the total amount of money involved in the robberies was $5,418,263 of which $770,197 or 14.2 per cent had so far been recovered.

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ELIGIBILITY FOR LEGAL AID

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The Legislative Council today agreed to a resolution which increases the limits below which a person becomes eligible for legal aid.

Under the Legal Aid Ordinance, legal aid may now be granted in civil cases to people whose disposable income does not exceed $700 a month and whose capital resources do not exceed $4,000 -- an increase of $200 and $1,000 respectively.

The Acting Attorney General, the Hon. G.R. Sneath, told the Council that the old figures were established in 1966 and since that time there had been a rise in the general level of wages which meant that fewer people were today eligible for legal aid.

He said that although the Government did not accept that these financial limits should "slavishly" follow changes in the index of industrial workers' wages, it was relevant that the index showed a rise of over one-third in the wages in this sector.

Another resolution agreed to by the Council allows a person, whose sentence is to be reviewed by the Full Court on application from the Attorney General, to receive legal aid.

Mr. Sneath said that it was obviously proper that a person who would be entitled to legal aid if he were appealing himself to the Full Court, should be entitled to legal aid if he is a respondent on a motion by the Attorney General to review his sentence.

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MANAGEMENT OF SWIMMING POOLS TO BE REVIEWED

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A general review of all aspects of swimming pool management will be undertaken by the Urban Services Department at the end of the current swimming season.

The Director of Urban Services, the Hon. D.R.W. Alexander, said it was likely that in order to spread the use of the pools more evenly (and to keep them even cleaner), a sessional use of all pools would be introduced.

He hoped that this would enable his department to re-deploy its manpower in such a way that the pools would be closed for only one hour during the lunch break and allow the Kowloon Tsai complex to remain open up to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. Alexander was speaking in the Legislative Council in reply to a question by the Hon. Oswald Cheung.

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JOINT EFFORTS TO PROMOTE HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL OPPORTUNITIES

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The Director of Commerce and Industry, the Hon. Jack Cater, said today that his department and the Trade Development Council had "done a good deal" to promote Hong Kong's industrial opportunities overseas and to lay the foundations for an effective industrial promotion effort in the years ahead.

This had been achieved "despite substantial staffing difficulties and other setbacks".

Replying in the Legislative Council to a question by the Hon. James Wu, the Director said that the T.D.C. was in the process of recruiting new staff, some of whom would be trained in this promotional work.

He said it had been recognised for some time that a more positive approach to encouraging foreign investment in Hong Kong industry was desirable.

Mr. Cater recalled that last year it was announced that his department and the T.D.C. had entered into a liaison agreement under which the Council accepted an external industrial promotional function with the back up service provided by the Commerce and Industry Department.

He also outlined some of the work which had been undertaken to actively promote foreign participation in Hong Kong industry on a fairly wide front.

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With regard to attracting more British industrialists to Hong Kong, Mr. Cater said the T.D.C. and his department proposed to seek co-operation with British banks and British organisations in the general field of industrial promotion.

He said the two organisations also proposed, and some work had already been done, to encourage British interests in participation in Hong Kong industry by direct contact with industrialists in Britain.

"In this connection, the permanent presence of an experienced promotion officer in London will be of considerable help."

Mr. Cater said that an officer to be assigned to Britain and one from the North American area would shortly be attached to the Industrial Development Department Branch of his department to widen their experience.

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HONG KONG STUDENTS OVERSEAS INFORMED ON JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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The Finance Committee of Legislative Council has approved funds for the appointment of an Establishment Branch representative in London who will help to recruit Hong Kong students living overseas for government posts in Hong Kong.

This was revealed today by the Director of Education, the Hon. J. Canning in reply to a question by the Hon. Wilson Wang in the Legislative Council.

The representative is to be appointed because Hong Kong students studying abroad are showing increased interest in returning to Hong Kong for employment, especially in government service.

The Student Advisor and staff in the Hong Kong Office help by notifying students of vacancies and interviewing potential candidates. The Advisor also assists in the private sector by referring applicants to the Productivity Centre, the Trade Development Council and other leading business houses.

In addition, arrangements have been made for Government vacancies to be advertised in the Hong Kong Digest which has a wide circulation among Hong Kong people in the United Kingdom.

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REOPENING OF ROAD HELD UP BY DANGER OF LANDSLIDES

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It is hoped to have at least one lane of Ching Cheung Road in north-west Kowloon re-opened to traffic in about six weeks' time if weather permits. The road was closed following landslips in June.

The Acting Director of Public Works, the Hon. A.S. Robertson, said this today in the Legislative Council in reply to a question by Dr. the Hon. S.Y. Chung.

He said the problem of re-opening the road was not simply to remove the large amount of slipped material - 70,000 cubic yards - and the repair of the slip face.

The problem was that any activity here during the wet season was difficult and dangerous since there was still a risk of further landslides due to treacherous mixture of weak soft material and large boulders overhanging the site," he said.

In this connection, Mr. Robertson said, all work must be done with extreme care and, as a result, general progress had been slow.

"However, the contractor has worked with all possible speed and is continuing to do so," he said.

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LITTER OFFENDERS GIVEN THREE DAYS TO APPEAR IN COURT

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An amendment which allows a greater period of time before a person has to appear in court on litter charges was approved by the Legislative Council this afternoon.

The Acting Attorny General, the Hon G.R. Sneath, moved the amendment during the committee stage of the Magistrates (Amendment) Bill 1972 which is concerned with the "Clean Hong Kong" campaign.

Under the original draft of the legislation a person handed a statutory notice for being a suspected litter offender had to appear before a named magistracy within 24 hours of the handing over of the notice.

However, the amendment approved by the Council today provides that the date to be specified in the notice will be not less than three clear days after it has been handed to the person concerned.

Another amendment also allows a magistrate to permit a representative to appear on behalf of a person who has been served with a notice. This will only apply where the representative satisfies the magistrate that he is authorised to enter a plea of guilty and is himself able to pay any fine imposed.

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TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR TEACHERS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION BEING EXPANDED

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Plans are being made to expand the training programmes for teachers of special education for handicapped children.

At present, about 80 per cent of all teachers engaged in this field have received specialised training, either overseas or locally.

The Director of Education, the Hon. J. Canning, said today: "With the implementation of the second five-year development programme on special education, many more people will have to be similarly trained."

He was replying Mrs. Joyce Symons at today's Legislative Council meeting.

Mr. Canning said that about 20 teachers attended one-year courses in special education here annually in addition to those taking part in short courses and seminars.

He revealed that 26 officers from the Education Department's Special Education Section have received overseas training and seven more were either now studying in Britain or due to go there soon.

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DR. CHOA VISITS LONDON:

DR. LEE RETIRING AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR (MEDICAL)

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The Director of Medical and Health Services, Dr. Gerald Choa, leaves for London tonight on a three-week visit, including 10 days in the United Kingdom as a guest of the British Government.

During his absence, Dr. J.K. Craig, Deputy Director of Medical and Health (Health), will act as Director in addition to his own duties.

Travelling on the same plane with Dr. Choa will be Dr. C.O. Lee who is retiring as Deputy Director of Medical and Health (Medical) after 26 years in the public service. Dr. Lee is on a private visit to the United Kingdom for six weeks.

On his return to Hong Kong at the end of that time, he will rejoin the Medical and Health Department on re-employment in another capacity as Medical Training Administrator.

Dr. K.L. Thong is to act as Deputy Director of Medical and Health (Medical) from today.

Dr. Choa is breaking his journey to London with a short stay in Rome during which he will visit Caritas International.

In Britain, arrangements have been made through the British Trade Commission in Hong Kong for Dr. Choa to visit new hospitals, community health centres, and research institutes in the United Kingdom, accompanied by Mr. A.E. Starling, Chief Hospital Secretary, Medical and Health Department.

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While in London, the Director will have discussions with officials in the Overseas Development Administration, the Hong Kong Government Office, the Department of Health and Social Security, the Department of Trade and Industry, and also the registrars of the General Medical Council and the General Nursing Council.

It is understood that he will take the opportunity to visit the Drugs Dependents' Clinical Research and Treatment Unit in the Maudsley Hospital, and an environmental pollution research unit. He will return on September 17.

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CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO BALANCE OF RAINSTORM DONATIONS

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The management committee of the Community Relief Trust Fund had been advised that it would be possible, by enabling legislation, to carry forward the balance of donations to victims of the June rainstorm disasters for use in future emergencies.

The Director of Social Welfare and Fund Trustee, the Hon. G.T. Rowe, told the Legislative Council this today in reply to questions by the Hon. Mrs. Joyce Symons.

She had asked if the Government was aware that appeals to the public for donations following the June rainstorms made by TVB and other organisations had been "impressed with a trust for the relief of victims of that catastrophe."

Mr. Rowe said both the Government and the management committee were aware of this but carrying balances forward had been done in similar circumstances when the Fund was originally established, and it was right that this possibility should not be overlooked.

"The Committee certainly recognises the importance of considering the matter carefully, so that we arrive at a solution which will meet both the wishes of the donors and the needs of the community as a whole," Mr. Rowe explained. "For this reason, the issue has been raised publicly."

He already knew, as a result, that some donors agreed with the proposed move, and he believed others might.

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But he assured Mrs. Symons that the response of the community, and of the donors in particular, would be carefully weighed by the committee before a final decision was taken.

This could not, in any case, be taken in a hurry since payments were still continuing. Some victims of the disasters might still have claims, and time had to be allowed for them to make appropriate representations.

In reply to Mrs. Symons' request for information on how much money had been given to victims at Sau Mau Ping, the Kotewall Road area, and other areas, Mr. Rowe pointed out that the record of payment related to types of payment made, and not to different areas.

So far as the Social Welfare Department was concerned, the bulk of payments had gone to victims in Sau Mau Ping.

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SEWAGE PROBLEM STUDY FOR NORTHWEST KOWLOON

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Consulting engineers are about to begin a separate detailed study on alternative methods of treating and disposing of sewage in the northwest Kowloon area from Lai Chi Kok to Yau Ma Tei.

The consultants are to recommend and implement a solution. It is expected that the investigation and preliminary design will be completed before the end of next year and works put in hand then.

The Acting Director of Public Works, the Hon. A.S. Robertson, also disclosed in the Legislative Council that the final report by consulting engineers engaged to look into the problems arising from the discharge of sewage into Victoria Harbour and nearby waters is now in the hands of the Government Printer.

Replying to a question by the Hon. Szeto Wai, Mr. Robertson said: "The report will require detailed study by a number of government departments, and these should be available by the end of the year following which detailed recommendations will be made."

A brief summary would also be available, and would possibly be put on sale to the public if this were considered appropriate.

He also said that as a result of a series of interim technical reports made by the consultants, government views on the form of sewage treatment to be adopted at the Castle Peak and Sha Tin New Towns had been finalised.

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WORK OF TENANCY ENQUIRY BUREAUX

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The two Tenancy Inquiry Bureaux under the Secretariat for Home Affairs are responsible for giving advice to both landlords and tenants, and for carrying out certain executive duties.

The Acting Secretary for Home Affairs, the Hon. F.K. Li told the Legislative Council this today in reply to a question by the Hon. Wilfred Wong.

Under the Demolished Buildings (Redevelopment of Sites) Ordinance, the Bureaux can use the data obtained from their experience in measuring premises in emergency operations when pre-war buildings are declared dangerous and have to be demolished.

This data also forms the basis for advance payments to landlords and tenants of dangerous buildings, thus providing them with immediate financial aid.

Under the Tenancy (Notice of Termination) Ordinance, the Bureaux stipulate six months' security of tenure. However, if two parties enter into a tenancy agreement for a fixed period of more than three years, they may jointly apply to the Secretary for Home Affairs for the exemption of this six months' notice.

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SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS UNDER REVIEW

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The selection procedures for Administrative Officers are now under a thorough review with the co-operation of the University authorities to make the necessary adjustments before direct University recruitment takes place next year.

The Acting Colonial Secretary, the Hon. S.T. Kidd, told the Legislative Council this today in reply to a question by the Hon. Wilson Wang.

He said that 250 applications, including 114 from final-year University students, were received for the post of Administrative Officer in November, 1971. Only 14 final-year students passed the written examinations and were invited for interviews, but none were found suitable for appointment.

As a result of this, a review of the appointment procedures is now in progress.

The academic qualification for appointment as an Administrative Officer is a First or Second Class Honours degree from a Hong Kong or British university, or its equivalent.

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SIR HUGH SENDS MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY

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The Acting Governor, Sir Hugh Norman-Walker has sent a message of sympathy to the Queen on the death of Prince William of Gloucester.

The message, which is addressed to the Secretary of State reads: "I would be grateful if you will convey to Her Majesty the Queen the sorrow and deep sympathy of the people of Hong Kong at the sad news of the death of His Royal Highness Prince William of Gloucester."

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PACKAGE TOUR OPERATIONS BEING REVIEWED

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The Financial Secretary, the Hon. C.P. Haddon-Cave, said today he understood the various bodies represented on the Hong Kong Tourist Association were considering the whole question of how package tour operations were organised and conducted.

They might well recommend legislation which would incorporate compulsory registration of tour operators and travel agents and sanctions for commercial misbehaviour, however this might be defined, he said.

He was speaking in the Legislative Council in reply to the Hon. P.C. Woo who had asked: "In view of recently reported malpractices, will Government consider taking early appropriate steps such as the compulsory registration of tourist agencies with sanctions for their de-registration if a proper standard of business ethics is not maintained?"

The Financial Secretary continued: "The Government will examine any proposals put to us, but I cannot guarantee that they will be accepted.

"Rather we may well come to the conclusion that the problem can better be approached through action by the Hong Kong Tourist Association and the Hong Kong Association of Travel Agents with their individual members and by better publicity amongst tourists," he said.

Mr. Haddon-Cave said this sort of approach rather than the restriction of competition would seem to him to be preferable to the introduction of restrictive legislation with all the attendant administrative costs and complications.

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As regards malpractices, he said he was not quite sure what particular malpractices or alleged malpractices in the tourist trade Mr. Woo was referring.

He said there had been reports about the conduct of some travel agents and tour operators. "In particular, the Hong Kong Association of Travel Agents has complained that some tourists, in particular Japanese tourists, are being overcharged for their purchases in certain Hong Kong shops."

According to enquiries made by the Tourist Association, he said, some tourist guides negotiated commissions from tourist shops on the basis of the business they introduced.

Mr. Haddon-Cave said whether this sort of situation should be dealt with by measures such as the compulsory registration of travel agents and tour operations was, in his view, another question.

"So is the criteria to be applied in deciding who is fit to be and who is not fit to be registered. So is the definition of the standards of business ethics to be applied.

"In any case, such actions, by introducing a closed shop in this sphere of activity might well reduce competition and raise tour prices unduly," he said.

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NINE BILLS PASSED IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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Nine bills passed their committee stage and third readings in Legislative Council this afternoon and became law.

Four of them - the Pensions (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 1972, the Public Health and Urban Services (Amendment) (No. 4) Bill, 1972, the Dutiable Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 1972 and the Waterworks (Amendment) Bill, 1972 - were passed without amendment.

The other five - the Guardianship of Minors Bill, 1972, the Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 1972, the Legal Aid (Amendment) Bill, 1972, the Magistrates (Amendment) Bill, 1972 and the Summary Offences (Amendment) Bill, 1972 - were passed with amendments.

Further consideration in the committee stage of the Accountants Bill, 1972 has been adjourned until the Council meeting on October 25.

The Legislative Council, which has gone into recess after today's meeting, will begin its new session on October 18.

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QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS

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The Port Health Authority announced today that quarantine restrictions have been imposed against arrivals from Visakhapatnam (port), India because of cholera.

At the same time, quarantine restrictions imposed against arrivals from Baghdad, Iraq because of smallpox have been removed.

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THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT BROADCASTING

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The role of Government's broadcasting services in the years ahead is "manifold and vital" - to reflect the best of the institutions of Hong Kong's two cultures and to propagate traditional standards of free speech and comment.

This was said today by the Acting Director of Broadcasting, Mr. Tim Birch, in a luncheon talk to the Hong Kong Association of the Pharmaceutical Industry at the Hong Kong Club.

In his talk, he discussed the position of Government's broadcasting services within the context of the swiftly changing community of Hong Kong.

Mr. Birch said that broadcasting was in a constant and sensitive relation with the conditions of society and "we cannot ignore these changes which are affecting our community to please those who cry 'don't rock the boat'".

He started off his address by quoting a remark made by the former Governor, Sir David Trench, when he opened the Broadcasting House in 1969. Sir David then said: "We want to inform people about what Government and public institutions are doing and why; and also to reflect back responsible opinion on matters of public concern."

He was also quoted as saying: "It is, I think, important that the public should realise that the Government broadcasting service is not one which is imposed on the taxpayer without taking into account his attitude towards the service for which he is paying."

/Mr. Birch .....

Mr. Birch pointed out that one of his department's most important tasks was to expound to the listeners the aims, policies and practices of Government, and to demonstrate what Government was trying to do for the public by objectively portraying its activities.

"However, it must be recognised that no succession of reassuring palliatives will succeed in convincing people that Government is good," he said.

To take a contemporary example, he said, the Lap Sap Chung was a fine campaign symbol, but if the rubbish truck was not there at the end of the street to take the rubbish away, then all the radio campaigns in the world would not keep Hong Kong clean.

The Director said Government's broadcasting services had always been the subject of lively controversy and there were conflicting demands among the listeners.

"But how do we as broadcasters make sense out of these bewildering and conflicting demands? First of all, let me say that by using audience research, we are now able to find out broadly what the public wants."

He said a recent audience survey for the Chinese Service, for example, showed an almost insatiable demand for popular drama, and the Drama Section was now producing no less than 52 plays a week.

"Similarly, we have found out that on the English Service, the main listeners to English news magazines in the evening are Chinese who prefer local news and in the morning expatriates who want more international news, so we have cut our cloth according to this pattern."

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Mr. Birch again quoted Sir David as saying: "Government wishes to use Radio Hong Kong to reflect back to Government responsible public opinion on matters of public interest and concern. This indicates that Government is not adverse to using its own facilities for criticism and controversy."

In this context, the Director said, Mr. Jack Cater who was taking over the job of Information Secretary soon, had a very special interest in this feedback of information from the people to its Government.

"We at Radio Hong Kong are ready and delighted to wield our forces with a will in strengthening these vital links.

"As Jack Cater has said, one of his tasks will be to coordinate the information effort of Government in this community. He has met my staff and talked to them of his aims, and I am convinced that his appointment means a strengthening of Radio Hong Kong's voice in this community," he said.

As regards the future, Mr. Birch said it was as bright as the past, because plans were in hand for the use of mobile radio transmitters to bring news live into programmes, for the setting up of stereo broadcasting, for the improvement of FM coverage in the Colony, and for the expansion and improvement of the Television Services.

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Release Time: 8.45 p.m.