



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1978

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

TAXI FARE TO GO UP	1
BILL TO GIVE ATTORNEY GENERAL POWER TO SEEK A REVIEW OF BAIL DECISION	3
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS (ASSISTANCE FUND) BILL BECOMES LAW	4
LEGISLATION TO PROTECT CONSUMERS	6
ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON WEIGHTS AND MEASURES	7
SURVEYS ON IMPORTS-EXPORTS OF SERVICES AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTIONS	12
ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT)(NO. 3) BILL PASSED INTO LAW	14
NEW AND IMPROVED COMMAND AND CONTROL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR FIRE SERVICES	15
BUS SERVICES IN CENTRAL AND WAH FU	16
+NEW LOOK+ SPORTING FACILITIES IN N.T.	17
JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE UP TO WORLD STANDARD	18
MEDICAL FACILITIES IN SHA TIN	19
24 CLINICIANS TO BE RECRUITED FOR QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL	20
MEASURES TAKEN TO HELP MINIMISE DELAYS IN COURT PROCEEDINGS	21
PLANNING STANDARDS FOR N.T. COMMUNITY FACILITIES UNDER REVIEW	22

/STANDARDS.....

STANDARDS OF SAFETY IN GOVT. AND AIDED SCHOOL LABORATORIES ADEQUATE	23
RESERVOIR MIGHT BE DEVELOPED FOR BOATING	24
1,231 ABANDONED VEHICLES REMOVED FROM ROADS UP TO OCTOBER 1 THIS YEAR	25
FERRY SPEED LIMIT	25
DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979	26
BILLS PASSED	26
REPORT OF THE THIRD INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE	27
SAFETY IN WATER SPORTS	27
NO PLANS TO BUILD SWIMMING LAGOONS AND ARTIFICIAL BEACHES	28
ANOTHER JOINT VENTURE BOOST FOR LOCAL INDUSTRY	28
GOVERNOR TO VISIT KCR WORKSHOP	29
+WORKING OUTSIDE PERMISSIBLE HOURS+ WARNING	29
TOPPING OUT OF AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE	30
D.S.W. INAUGURATES HK'S FIRST TRANSPORT SERVICE FOR THE ELDERLY	31
ANTI-SMOKING TEACHING KIT COMPETITION WINNERS TO RECEIVE PRIZES	32
S.W.D. REHABILITATION INSTITUTIONS TO HOLD X'MAS PARTY	33

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1978

- 1 -

TAXI FARE TO GO UP
* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO INCREASE TAXI FARES AS PART OF A PACKAGE DEAL WHICH INCLUDES STIFFER PENALTIES FOR MALPRACTICES TO IMPROVE THE TAXI SERVICE.

THE INCREASES FOR URBAN TAXIS WILL BE \$2.50 FOR THE FIRST MILE AND 50 CENTS FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT ONE FIFTH OF A MILE WITH WAITING TIME CHARGED AT 50 CENTS FOR EVERY 2-1/2 MINUTES.

NEW TERRITORIES TAXI FARES WILL BE INCREASED TO \$1.50 FOR THE FIRST MILE AND 30 CENTS FOR EVERY SUBSEQUENT ONE FIFTH OF A MILE WITH WAITING TIME CHARGED AT 30 CENTS FOR EVERY 2-1/2 MINUTES.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES AT THE SECOND READING OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) BILL 1978 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR. JONES SAID A MINOR ADJUSTMENT WOULD ALSO BE MADE SO THAT EVERY JOURNEY INVOLVING A TUNNEL TOLL OR VEHICULAR FERRY TRIP WOULD INCUR A SURCHARGE OF TWICE THE TOLL OR FERRY FEE TO REPLACE THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF SPECIFIED CHARGES FOR THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL AND VEHICULAR FERRIES.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO INTRODUCE THE HIGHER FARES AND STIFFER PENALTIES FOR MALPRACTICES IN THE TAXI TRADE SIMULTANEOUSLY AS A PACKAGE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE BILL HAD PASSED INTO LAW.

MR. JONES SAID THE FARE INCREASES WERE NOT ONLY DESIGNED TO HAVE SOME DAMPENING EFFECT ON THE BURGEONING DEMAND FOR TAXIS, THEY ALSO RECOGNISED THE INCREASE IN THE OPERATING COSTS OF TAXIS FOR WHICH THE ONE AND ONLY FARE INCREASE SINCE THE WAR WAS IN 1974.

+FURTHERMORE, BY EQUALISING CHARGES FOR THE FIRST AND SUBSEQUENT MILES, THEY ARE INTENDED TO DETER TAXI DRIVERS FROM CONGREGATING IN THE CONGESTED CENTRAL AREAS HOPING FOR A SHORT TRIP.

+THE INCREASES ALSO AIM TO END THE PRESENT ANOMALOUS SITUATION WHEREBY, BECAUSE A SHARED TAXI IS ALMOST AS CHEAP AS TAKING A BUS OR TRAM AND CHEAPER IN MANY CASES THAN A MINIBUS, THE DEMAND FOR THIS FORM OF TRANSPORT IS KEPT ARTIFICIALLY HIGH, OFTEN AT THE EXPENSE OF THOSE WHO WISH TO USE TAXIS IN A MORE NORMAL WAY.+

IN ADDITION, THE HIGHER FARES SHOULD ALSO, BY GIVING DRIVERS MORE LEGITIMATE INCOME, REDUCE THE INCENTIVE TO RESORT TO NEGOTIATING FARES OR REFUSING AN UNATTRACTIVE HIRE, HE SAID.

/MR. JONES.....

MR. JONES SAID THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO CONTINUE ISSUING URBAN TAXI LICENCES AT THE RATE OF 100 A MONTH AND AN EXAMINATION HAS ALSO BEEN MADE OF THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF TENDERING FOR LICENCES WITH A VIEW TO SEEING WHETHER IMPROVEMENTS COULD BE INTRODUCED.

HE SAID THE ANNUAL LICENCE FEE FOR URBAN TAXIS AT \$320 WAS LESS THAN HALF THE AVERAGE LICENCE FEE FOR A PRIVATE CAR. THIS CHARGE SEEMED TO BE VERY LOW AND IT MIGHT WELL, IN DUE COURSE, NEEDED TO BE RECONSIDERED.

ON THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) BILL, HE SAID ITS PURPOSE WAS TO PROVIDE FOR STIFFER SANCTIONS AGAINST TAXI DRIVERS WHO ENGAGE IN MALPRACTICES.

THE BILL SEEKS TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM PENALTY TO A FINE OF \$3,000 AND SIX MONTHS IMPRISONMENT FOR SUCH OFFENCES BY TAXI DRIVERS AS TAMPERING WITH THE METRE, NOT DRIVING TO THE DESTINATION REQUIRED, NOT DRIVING BY THE MOST DIRECT ROUTE OR REFUSAL OF A HIRE.

A FURTHER PENALTY PROPOSED IN THE BILL IS TO EXTEND THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH A COURT OR MAGISTRATE CAN SUSPEND A DRIVER'S LICENCE TO INCLUDE THE MORE SERIOUS TAXI MALPRACTICES WHICH ARE BASICALLY, REFUSAL TO ACCEPT A HIRE, OR TO DRIVE THE TAXI TO THE PLACE INDICATED BY THE HIRER AND OVERCHARGING.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE BILL SEEKS TO CLARIFY THE OFFENCE OF REFUSING A HIRE, BY ALTERING THE REGULATIONS TO REFLECT THE ACTUAL SITUATION IN WHICH TAXIS ARE HAILED ON THE STREETS AND TO DEFINE A HIRER IN SUCH A WAY AS TO INCLUDE A PERSON SEEKING A HIRE.

THIS MEANS, IF A TAXI DRIVER RESPONDS TO A HAIL FROM AN INTENDING PASSENGER AND THEN REFUSES TO ACCEPT THE HIRE, HE WILL BE COMMITTING AN OFFENCE. ACTIONS SUCH AS DISPLAYING AN OUT OF SERVICE SIGN OR LOCKING THE DOOR FROM THE INSIDE WILL NOT BE MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES BECAUSE, BY THE VERY ACT OF RESPONDING TO THE HAIL, THE TAXI DRIVER WILL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE HIRE AND WILL BE REQUIRED BY LAW TO TAKE THE HIRER TO THE DESTINATION NAMED.

MR. JONES SAID THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE NEW SANCTIONS AND PENALTIES WOULD DEPEND HEAVILY ON THE PUBLIC WHO ARE WILLING TO MAKE COMPLAINTS AND TO GO THROUGH THE NECESSARY PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW THEM UP.

HE ALSO ASSURED THAT THE POLICE WOULD CONTINUE WITH THE STRENUOUS EFFORT THEY HAD RECENTLY BEEN MAKING TO COMBAT MALPRACTICES BY TAXI DRIVERS AND WOULD BE READY TO ASSIST THE PUBLIC IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE TO PRESS THEIR COMPLAINTS.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1978

- 3 -

BILL TO GIVE ATTORNEY GENERAL POWER
TO SEEK A REVIEW OF BAIL DECISION
* * * * *

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PROPOSALS GIVING HIM THE POWER TO SEEK A REVIEW OF A COURT DECISION TO GRANT BAIL WOULD BE A USEFUL IMPROVEMENT TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AT THE SECOND READING OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT)(NO. 4) BILL, WHICH CONTAINED SUCH PROPOSALS, MR. HOBLEY SAID THE LEVEL OF PUBLIC CONCERN OVER THE ABSCONDENCE OF DEFENDANTS CALLED FOR POSITIVE ACTION.

HE SAID THE PROPOSED LAW DID NOT IMPOSE ANY RESTRAINT ON THE DISCRETION WHICH MAGISTRATES AND JUDGES HAVE WITH RESPECT TO THE GRANT OF BAIL.

+WHAT IT WILL DO IS TO GIVE THE CROWN A RIGHT TO HAVE DECISIONS OF MAGISTRATES AND DISTRICT JUDGES GRANTING BAIL REVIEWED IN THE HIGH COURT AT THE INSTANCE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.+

HE SAID THE BILL WOULD PUT THE PROSECUTION IN THE SAME POSITION WHERE BAIL WAS GRANTED AS A DEFENDANT HAD ALWAYS BEEN WHERE BAIL WAS REFUSED.

+A DEFENDANT WHO IS REFUSED BAIL HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO APPLY TO THE HIGH COURT FOR A REVIEW AND IS ABLE TO APPLY TO ONE JUDGE AFTER ANOTHER IF HE IS UNSUCCESSFUL.+

BUT HE SAID THE DECISION OF THE HIGH COURT JUDGE ON A REVIEW UNDER THE PROPOSED LAW AT THE INSTANCE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WOULD BE FINAL, AND THERE WOULD BE NO APPEAL BY EITHER PARTY.

+THE PROPOSED FINALITY OF THE DECISION ON A REVIEW HAS LED ME TO PROPOSE ALSO THAT A DEFENDANT'S RIGHT AT LARGE TO GO FROM JUDGE TO JUDGE SHOULD NOW BE ABROGATED.+

MR. HOBLEY SAID THE BILL ALSO PROVIDED FOR THE ADMISSION OF ANY RELEVANT MATERIAL OR ARGUMENT WHICH EFFECTIVELY MEANT THAT THE REVIEW BY A HIGH COURT JUDGE WOULD BE A RE-HEARING OF THE BAIL ISSUE.

ANOTHER SECTION OF THE BILL ALLOWS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, WHERE A MAGISTRATE OR DISTRICT JUDGE HAS GRANTED BAIL, TO INTERVENE AND REQUIRE THE COURT TO ORDER THE DEFENDANT'S DETENTION IN CUSTODY PENDING THE MAKING OF AN APPLICATION TO REVIEW.

MR. HOBLEY SAID: +I JUSTIFY THIS PROPOSAL ON THE VERY SIMPLE GROUND THAT WITHOUT IT THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS MAY BE FRUSTRATED FROM THE OUTSET BECAUSE THE DEFENDANT ABSCONDS BEFORE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CAN ACT.+

A SECTION OF THE BILL REQUIRES THAT A DEFENDANT WHO IS SO KEPT IN CUSTODY MUST BE BROUGHT BEFORE A HIGH COURT JUDGE WITHIN 48 HOURS.

/THE.....

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ALSO ASSURED THAT HIS POWER TO REQUIRE A MAN TO BE DETAINED PENDING A REVIEW WOULD BE EXERCISED WITH GREAT CARE AND HE DID NOT EXPECT A FLOOD OF APPLICATIONS FROM HIM FOR REVIEW OF BAIL DECISIONS.

+NEVERTHELESS, I THINK THAT THESE PROPOSALS WILL EFFECT A USEFUL IMPROVEMENT IN RELATION TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND WILL ENABLE A FRESH MIND TO BE BROUGHT TO BEAR IN A DIFFICULT CASE,+ HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS (ASSISTANCE FUND) BILL BECOMES LAW
* * * * *

THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG SUGGESTED THAT INSTEAD OF EXACTING A LEVY ON OWNERS AND DRIVERS OF VEHICLES, FUNDS FOR THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE SCHEME COULD BE RAISED BY INCREASING THE COST OF AUTOMOTIVE FUEL.

+TWENTY CENTS A GALLON WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH,+ HE SAID. +AFTER ALL, THE MORE A VEHICLE IS ON THE ROAD, THE MORE LIKELY IT IS TO BE INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT CAUSING PERSONAL INJURY.+

HE SAID THIS METHOD IS THE MOST EQUITABLE, TIME AND MANPOWER SAVING AND COMMENDED IT TO THE GOVERNMENT, SHOULD EXPERIENCE SHOW THAT THE PROPOSED METHOD OF LEVY PROVES CUMBERSOME, EXPENSIVE AND TIME CONSUMING, AND THOUGHT TO BE UNFAIR.

HE HAD ASKED THAT THE WHOLE BURDEN BE BORNE BY GENERAL REVENUE AS A SOCIAL WELFARE MEASURE. HE NOW RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED THE OFFICIAL VIEW THAT THE LARGER PART OF IT SHOULD BE BORNE BY CAR OWNERS AND DRIVERS BECAUSE IN PRACTICE, A PERSON NOT SERIOUSLY INJURED, BUT THROUGH THE FAULT OF THE DRIVER, WOULD MAKE A CLAIM, SIMPLY BECAUSE HE WILL NOT HAVE TO GO TO COURT.

IN AUGUST LAST YEAR, HE HAD PLEADED FOR DRASTIC REFORM OF THE LAWS AND HAD SAID THAT IT MIGHT BE RIGHT TO INTRODUCE A MOTOR INSURANCE BUREAU AS AN ALTERNATIVE.

HE WELCOMED NEWSPAPER REPORTS THAT DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND INSURERS APPEARED TO BE REACHING A CONCLUSION ON INTRODUCING SUCH A BUREAU.

THE HON. WONG LAM, ALSO SPEAKING ON THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS (ASSISTANCE FUND) BILL, SUGGESTED THAT THE REQUIREMENT FOR A VICTIM TO SUFFER A LOSS OF AT LEAST SEVEN DAYS' INCOME OR LEARNING CAPACITY BEFORE HE IS ELIGIBLE SHOULD BE WAIVED OR OTHERWISE SHORTENED.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1978

- 5 -

+THE REQUIREMENT GREATLY REDUCES THE EXTENT OF THE ASSISTANCE TO BE GIVEN TO THOSE WHO HAVE LITTLE SAVINGS, PARTICULARLY IF THE VICTIM IS THE BREADWINNER,+ HE SAID.

MR. WONG ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE WAITING PERIOD FOR ACTUAL PAYMENTS SHOULD BE MADE AS SHORT AS POSSIBLE AND IN NO CASE EXCEED ONE WEEK.

+AS ONE OF THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE SCHEME IS TO ENABLE A VICTIM OR HIS FAMILY TO RECEIVE EARLY RELIEF, GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENSURE THAT PAYMENT IS MADE PROMPTLY,+ HE SAID.

HE CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE WIDER PUBLICITY TO THE SCHEME SO THAT MORE PEOPLE MAY BE AWARE OF IT.

THE HON. PETER C. WONG SUGGESTED AN AMENDMENT TO THE BILL WHICH WAS ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THE DEFINITION OF A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT HAS BEEN AMENDED TO COVER AN ACCIDENT CAUSED DIRECTLY BY +THE PRESENCE+, AND NOT ONLY +THE USE+, OF A VEHICLE ON A ROAD.

MR. WONG EXPLAINED THAT IN ITS ORDINARY MEANING, THE WORD +USE+ WHEN APPLIED TO A VEHICLE, IMPORTS SOME POSITIVE, ACTIVE ELEMENT AND DOES NOT NORMALLY COVER A STATIONARY OR UNATTENDED VEHICLE. NOR WOULD IT COVER AN UNATTENDED VEHICLE CAREERING DOWN A SLOPE.

ALTHOUGH IN CERTAIN JUDICIAL DECISIONS, THE WORD HAS BEEN GIVEN A LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION, THIS DOES NOT NECESSARILY GUARANTEE THAT JUDGES WILL INVARIABLY CONSTRUE THE WORD IN THE SAME SENSE IN EVERY CASE.

+SINCE THIS BILL SEEKS TO HELP THE ORDINARY MAN AND WOMAN, THE CASE FOR MAKING THE LAW AS PLAIN AS POSSIBLE IS FURTHER STRENGTHENED,+ HE SAID.

IN REPLY, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES SAID THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THAT PAYMENTS UNDER THE SCHEME SHOULD BE MADE AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE AND HE WAS SURE THAT THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO SEE THAT WAS THE CASE.

HE SAID THE SCHEME WOULD BE GIVEN FULL PUBLICITY IN THE MEDIA AND THAT EXPLANATORY PAMPHLETS AND OTHER MATERIAL WERE BEING PREPARED TO HELP INFORM THE PUBLIC OF ITS PROVISIONS.

MR. JONES ALSO INTRODUCED FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE. THE AMENDMENTS WERE ESSENTIALLY DESIGNED TO PROTECT THE POTENTIAL LOSS IN REVENUE AS A RESULT OF VEHICLE AND DRIVING LICENCE HOLDERS RENEWING THEIR LICENCES BEFORE THE EXPIRY DATE IN ORDER TO ESCAPE LEVY PAYMENT UNDER THE SCHEME.

THE BILL WAS LATER PASSED INTO LAW.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1978

- 6 -

LEGISLATION TO PROTECT CONSUMERS

* * * * *

TWO IMPORTANT ITEMS OF LEGISLATION IN RELATION TO CONSUMER PROTECTION WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEXT YEAR.

THEY ARE THE TRADE DESCRIPTION BILL WHICH SEEKS TO REPLACE THE MERCHANDISE MARKS ORDINANCE AND TO WIDEN THE SCOPE OF CONTROL OVER FRAUDULENT AND MISLEADING DESCRIPTIONS OF GOODS OFFERED FOR SALE, AND A BILL TO REPLACE THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE.

THIS WAS REVEALED BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON DURING THE COUNCIL'S ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

HE ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL POLICY ON CONSUMER PROTECTION WAS THAT IT SHOULD INTERVENE TO PROTECT PEOPLE ONLY WHEN THEY WERE UNABLE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.

MR. JEAFFRESON SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO CONSIDERING THE APPOINTMENT OF A CHIEF TRADING STANDARDS OFFICER WHOSE INITIAL DUTIES WOULD BE TO FINALISE THE BILL ON WEIGHTS AND MEASURES AND TO BEGIN THE WORK OF BUILDING UP A BODY OF STAFF TO ENFORCE IT.

REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED BY THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS IN THE DEBATE, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD SOUGHT THE SERVICE OF A CHIEF TRADING STANDARDS OFFICER FROM BRITAIN ON THE POSSIBILITY OF SETTING UP AN AGENCY TO ENFORCE THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE.

HE SAID THE OFFICER HAD PREPARED A REPORT AND RECOMMENDED THE SETTING UP OF SUCH AN ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, AND A STANDARDS AND CALIBRATION CENTRE WHICH WOULD BE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, FOR THE SAFE CUSTODY OF THE REFERENCE STANDARDS.

HE ALSO INSPECTED THE STANDARD WEIGHTS AND MEASURES IN THE CUSTODY OF THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES AND REPORTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH THEY WERE STORED FELL BELOW THOSE NOWADAYS CONSIDERED NECESSARY, THEY WERE CAPABLE OF BEING RENOVATED FOR USE AS REFERENCE STANDARDS.

ON THE STANDARDS IN THE CUSTODY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MR. JEAFFRESON SAID THEY WERE IN USE BY OFFICERS OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE IN RESPONSE TO COMPLAINTS OF SHORT MEASURES FROM THE PUBLIC.

+BUT I ACCEPT WE SHALL NOT BE PROPERLY EFFECTIVE UNTIL WE HAVE THE NEW ORDINANCE, THE CHIEF TRADING STANDARDS OFFICER AND STANDARDS APPROPRIATE TO THE VERIFYING OF THE MORE SENSITIVE INSTRUMENTS.

+AS SOON AS WE GET OUR NEW CHIEF TRADING STANDARDS OFFICER AND THE NECESSARY POSTS, HE CAN START TRAINING HIS NEW STAFF. IF HIS INSPECTORS ARE READY BEFORE WE CAN GET THE NEW BILL THROUGH THIS COUNCIL, THEY CAN BE USED TO ENFORCE MORE POSITIVELY THE PRESENT ORDINANCE HOWEVER UNSATISFACTORY IT MAY BE,+ HE SAID.

/ON THE.....

ON THE USE OF METRIC SYSTEM, MR. JEAFFRESON SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY HAD BEEN THAT IT WOULD ADOPT THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF UNITS FOR ITS OWN USE, AND IN LEGISLATION WHEREVER THIS WAS APPROPRIATE.

BUT IT WOULD NOT NORMALLY PROHIBIT THE USE OF CHINESE UNITS OF MEASUREMENT OR OF THE IMPERIAL SYSTEM.

+SO WHILE ALL NEW CONSUMER PROTECTION LEGISLATION WILL USE THE METRIC SYSTEM, AND NON-METRIC UNITS WILL BE DEFINED BY REFERENCE TO METRIC UNITS, AND WHILE THE GOVERNMENT WILL ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO USE THE METRIC SYSTEM, UNDER THE PRESENT IT WILL NOT SET A TARGET TO ABOLISH THE CATTY, THE TAEI, THE FOOT OR THE INCH.+

- - - - 0 - - - -

ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
* * * * *

THE HON. ALEX WU HAS DRAWN ATTENTION TO THE LACK OF ENFORCEMENT OF THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE AND THE GOVERNMENT'S DELAY IN REVISING THE EXISTING LEGISLATION.

+WHAT WOULD THE REST OF THE WORLD THINK OF A MAJOR TRADING COMMUNITY WHICH EXERCISES ABSOLUTELY NO CONTROL OVER ITS OWN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES? IT IS HARDLY THE BASIS FOR A GOOD REPUTATION,+ HE SAID.

MR. WU INITIATED DEBATE ON THE SUBJECT AT THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY. THREE OTHER UNOFFICIAL COUNCILLORS, THE HON. S.L. CHEN, THE REV. THE HON. PATRICK MCGOVERN AND THE HON. ALLEN LEE SPOKE IN HIS SUPPORT.

MR. WU NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS REALLY A SERIOUS MATTER FOR MOST PEOPLE, THE SUBJECT HAD SOMETIMES BEEN TREATED RATHER LIGHTLY IN THE COUNCIL:

+THERE CERTAINLY ARE ELEMENTS OF FARCE IN A SITUATION WHERE A LAW HAS BEEN ENACTED FOR MORE THAN 93 YEARS, AMENDED 10 TIMES THIS CENTURY, BUT NOT ENFORCED WITHIN LIVING MEMORY.+

THE LAW IS SHORT AND HAS A SIMPLE PURPOSE, PROVIDING FOR STANDARDS OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC, AND FOR EXAMINERS OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WHO CAN ENTER BUSINESS PREMISES TO EXAMINE SCALES AND BALANCES.

THAT THIS SIMPLE, SENSIBLE LEGISLATION WAS ALLOWED TO FALL INTO DISUSE WAS A POOR REFLECTION ON ALL OF US: ADMINISTRATORS, LEGISLATORS, TRADERS AND CONSUMERS, MR. WU SAID.

THE ORDINANCE REQUIRES THAT STANDARD WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BE KEPT IN THE TREASURY AND THAT COPIES BE KEPT BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1978

- 8 -

THOSE DEPOSITED IN THE TREASURY ARE SOMETHING OF A MYSTERY. THOSE COPIES, THE COMMISSIONER IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN HANDED OVER INSTEAD +FOR ADMINISTRATIVE CONVENIENCE+ TO THE COMMISSIONER OF THE CUSTOMS SERVICE TO WHOM HOWEVER MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CANNOT SEND THEIR MEASURING INSTRUMENTS FOR VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION.

MR. WU QUOTED THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES WHO, HE SAID, WAS ENTIRELY FRANK ABOUT THE REASON IN A WRITTEN ANSWER TO SIR S.Y. CHUNG 18 MONTHS AGO: +THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES AT PRESENT WITH THE COMMISSIONER ARE IN A GENERALLY POOR CONDITION. CERTAINLY IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO GUARANTEE THAT ANY OF THEM ARE OF THE STANDARD OF ACCURACY REQUIRED OF SECONDARY STANDARDS.+

+I MUST NOT BE UNKIND TO THE SECRETARY,+ MR. WU ADDED, +THE SECRETARY TOLD SIR S.Y.: 'WE INTEND THAT THIS UNSATISFACTORY STATE OF AFFAIRS SHOULD BE RECTIFIED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.....+

+BUT, LIKE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES -- EVERYTHING IS RELATIVE. HOW LONG IS A YARD.... HOW HEAVY IS A CATTY.... AND HOW SOON IS SOON?+

MR. WU POINTED OUT THAT IN APRIL, 1977 THE GOVERNMENT HAD SAID THAT THE ORDINANCE WAS +PRESENTLY BEING REVISED+. THAT, HE SAID, WAS NO RASH, HASTY PROMISE. THREE YEARS EARLIER IT HAD ASSURED THE CONSUMER COUNCIL THAT +VERY PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS HAVE LED US TO BELIEVE THAT A NEW WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE SHOULD BE ENACTED TO REPEAL AND REPLACE THE EXISTING ORDINANCE OF 1885+.

IN DECEMBER, 1975, ANOTHER YEAR LATER, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TOLD MR. T.S. LO THAT NEW LEGISLATION HAD BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR SOME TIME. +THAT, SURELY, IS AN UNCHALLENGEABLE STATEMENT OF THE OBVIOUS,+ MR. WU SAID.

+BUT THERE IS ALWAYS A SAVING CLAUSE. IN THIS CASE IT WAS THE NEED TO BRING THE LEGISLATION UP TO DATE, AND TO PROVIDE FOR ADEQUATE ENFORCEMENT.

+AND SO WE COME TO THE END OF 1978, AND HOW MUCH FURTHER FORWARD ARE WE?+

+HARDLY A STANDARD INCH -- IF ANYONE KNOWS WHAT THAT IS.+

WE HAD HAD AN EXPERT REPORT, HE SAID, BUT ~~SOMEHOW THE~~ WHOLE THING HAD GOT TIED UP WITH THE CHANGEOVER TO THE METRIC UNITS. SOME TIME SOON, AND THE SOONER THE BETTER, OUR WEIGHTS AND MEASURES MUST BE BROUGHT UP TO DATE, AND THAT MUST INCLUDE PROPER CONSIDERATION OF THE METRIC SYSTEM AND OTHER ASPECTS INVOLVING STANDARDS. WE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE LATEST EXPERIENCE IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

/+BUT IS.....

+BUT IS ALL THAT A GOOD ENOUGH EXCUSE FOR GOING ON YEAR AFTER YEAR, ALLOWING EXISTING SIMPLE LEGISLATION TO FALL INTO DECAY AND CONTEMPT?

+WHY ARE WE MAKING SUCH HEAVY WEATHER OVER THE ENFORCEMENT OF A PIECE OF FUNDAMENTAL CONSUMER PROTECTION LEGISLATION WHICH IS AS IT WAS IN 1885?+ MR. WU ASKED.

+TO SAY THAT WE NEED AN ARMY OF INSPECTORS TO ENFORCE SUCH LEGISLATION IS NO MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN SAYING THAT WE NEED A LARGE NUMBER OF TRAFFIC WARDENS TO ENFORCE PARKING LAWS OR HEALTH INSPECTORS TO ENSURE FOOD SAFETY.+

THE GOVERNMENT ARGUMENT SEEMS TO BE BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT EVERY TRADER IS A VILLAIN AND WILL HAVE TO BE WATCHED AND CHECKED DAILY, WHICH IS RATHER RIDICULOUS. ACCESS TO THE EXISTING LAW IS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF THE CONSUMER. IT IS NOT SOME NEW-FANGLED 1970'S CONSUMERISM, BUT OLD FASHIONED 1880'S COMMON SENSE. THE LEGISLATION IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO THE VAST MAJORITY OF HONEST TRADERS WHO WOULD WELCOME THE CHANCE TO OPERATE WITH VERIFIED CERTIFIED MEASURES, MR. WU SAID.

HE SAID THERE WAS OBVIOUSLY A NEED FOR PROPERLY TRAINED WEIGHTS AND MEASURES INSPECTORS WHEN THE NEW LAW WAS ENACTED, AND EVEN BEFORE. THE EXPERT REPORT HAD INDICATED THAT THERE WAS NO GREAT PROBLEM IN TRAINING THEM IN HONG KONG. HOWEVER A GREAT DEAL OF THE WORK COULD BE DONE WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY BY SELF-DISCIPLINE, BACKED BY SOME FORCEFUL PUBLIC INFORMATION AND CO-ORDINATION FROM THE CONSUMER COUNCIL.

HE ACCEPTED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT OR IT MIGHT NOT BE DESIRABLE OR USEFUL TO GIVE THE CONSUMER COUNCIL EXECUTIVE POWER, BUT THERE WAS AMPLE PROOF THAT THE COUNCIL HAD A POWERFUL, PERSUASIVE AND EDUCATIONAL REPUTATION ALREADY.

+IF THE GOVERNMENT WERE ONLY PREPARED TO MAKE ITS EXISTING LEGISLATION WORK FOR THE TIME BEING, I BELIEVE WE COULD REVIVE A SIMPLE AND MUCH NEEDED FORM OF CONSUMER PROTECTION.

+IF BETTER STILL, WE HAD NOT ONE COPY OF THE STANDARD WEIGHTS AND MEASURES, BUT SEVERAL -- SAY ONE IN EACH CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT OFFICE -- THEN I BELIEVE WE WOULD BE HONOURING OUR EXISTING OBLIGATIONS AND MEETING THE RIGHTFUL EXPECTATIONS OF CONSUMERS AND TRADERS ALIKE,+ HE SAID.

MR. S.L. CHEN, SPEAKING AFTER MR. WU, SAID SOME VERY BOLD DECISIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN IF WE WERE AT ALL SERIOUS ABOUT THE MATTER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

TO REVISE THE ORDINANCE WITHOUT A POSITIVE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMME WOULD MERELY BE AN EXERCISE ON +PAPER TALK+.

+WE MUCH SET OURSELVES A TARGET PROGRAMME TO ABOLISH THE 'CATTY' AND THE 'TAEL', THE 'FOOT' AND THE 'INCH' AND SO ON, AND TO REPLACE THEM WITH CORRESPONDING METRIC UNITS,+ HE SAID.

HE HOPED THE GOVERNMENT, AS A RESULT OF THE DISCUSSION, WILL FURTHER THINK ABOUT THE IDEA OF ESTABLISHING A STANDARDS BUREAU WHICH HE RAISED IN THE COUNCIL IN FEBRUARY LAST YEAR.

+AS WE ARE NOW TALKING EARNESTLY ABOUT PREPARING OURSELVES TO VENTURE INTO THE HIGH TECHNOLOGY ERA, IT IS A LITTLER INCOMPREHENSIBLE THAT WE ARE NOT EVEN ABLE TO DO SOMETHING POSITIVE TO RESOLVE SUCH AN ELEMENTARY PROBLEM AS WEIGHTS AND MEASURES. WE HAVE ALL THE WISDOM, BUT WHAT WE SADLY LACK IS DETERMINATION,+ HE SAID.

FR. MCGOVERN SAID HIS COMPLAINT WAS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS UNNECESSARILY + DRAGGING ITS FEET+. +IN FACT I WOULD GO SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT IT HAS NOT GOT A LEG, OR A ROD POLE OR PERCH, TO STAND ON,+ HE SAID.

THE STEPS IT SHOULD TAKE SEEMED TO HIM OBVIOUS. IT SHOULD FOLLOW ALREADY AGREED POLICY AND GO STRAIGHT INTO THE METRIC SYSTEM AS A PRIMARY OBJECTIVE. THE METRICATION UNIT AND THE METRICATION COMMITTEE CAN USE THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND MAKE USE OF THEIR EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL, AND CAN USE THE EXPERTISE AND GOOD NAME OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL TO DO THE PUBLIC EDUCATION SIDE OF THE WORK.

+IN THIS WAY GOVERNMENT WILL GET SOME TWO MILLION WEIGHT-CONSCIOUS ADULTS TO ENFORCE THE LAW FREE OF CHARGE FOR THEIR OWN GOOD,+ HE SAID.

FR. MCGOVERN SAID HE FORESAW ONE SMALL OBSTACLE AND HAD ONE MILD REGRET.

+HE SUSPECTED THAT IN SPITE OF THEIR HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS WHICH CAN INSTANTLY ADJUST THE ODDS TO ENSURE THAT THE PUNTER NEVER GETS AN EVEN BREAK, THE JOCKEY CLUB WOULD CONTINUE TO MEASURE THE HEIGHT OF THEIR HORSES IN HANDS -- +A DOUBLE ANACHRONISM SEEING THAT THEY ARE DEALING WITH FOUR-FOOTED ANIMALS.+

HIS MILD REGRET WAS THAT THERE MAY BE A CERTAIN LOSS TO THE CHEAPER WIT OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. +FOR EXAMPLE, NO LONGER WILL A HEN-PECKED HUSBAND OR MALE CHAUVINIST PIG BE ABLE TO CONSOLE HIMSELF WITH REMARKS LIKE 'GIVE A WOMAN AN INCH AND SHE THINKS SHE'S A RULER'.

+PERHAPS NEW PHRASES WILL BE COINED BY SHARPER WITS THAN MINE,+ HE CONTINUED. +PERHAPS SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF 'GIVE A WOMAN A CENTIMETRE AND SHE THINKS SHE'S A MILLIPEDE' -- BUT THAT PERHAPS MIGHT BE TOO VENOMOUS A REMARK TO USE AGAINST THE WEAKER SEX.+

FR. MCGOVERN POINTED OUT THAT MUCH HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE TOWARDS METRICATION. THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS ALREADY EXPORTING LARGE QUANTITIES OF GOODS IN METRIC MEASUREMENTS. +THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAS BROKEN ITS CHAINS AND NOW MEASURES IN METRES. LAND SALES ARE ALSO DONE IN THE BIGGER MEASUREMENT OF SQUARE METRES, PERHAPS TO REFLECT THE BIGGER INFLATIONARY PRICES FOR WHICH LAND IS BEING SOLD.

+WE ALSO HAVE OUR NOTES AND COINS -- THOUGH THE LATTER ARE REPUTEDLY STILL SHORT, AND WE HAVE LONG SINCE BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO OUR CENTIGRADE MEASUREMENT OF TEMPERATURE.

+SO THE REMAINING OBSTACLES IN THE PATH OF A NEW OR AMENDED WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE ARE NOT SO GREAT THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE UNDULY WEIGHED DOWN BY THEM.

+IT SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET ON WITH WHATEVER MEASURES REMAIN TO BE TAKEN. I EXHORT THEM TO DO SO, NOT IN GOVERNMENT STANDARD TIME, BUT RAPIDLY, AS RAPIDLY AS IT WOULD ISSUE A BILL FOR PAYMENT AS DISTINCT FROM A BILL FOR LEGISLATION.+

MR. ALLEN LEE, WHO ALSO SERVES ON THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, SAID BECAUSE OF CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS AND MANY OTHER COMMODITIES IN RECENT YEARS, THE CONSUMER HAD BEEN MADE VERY AWARE OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF BEING GIVEN SHORT WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BY PROFITEERING RETAILERS.

QUITE A NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS MADE TO THE CONSUMER COUNCIL IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS WERE OF THIS NATURE. +I AM SURE THAT AS A RESULT OF THE EVER-INCREASING INFLATION RATE, SUCH COMPLAINTS WILL INCREASE CORRESPONDINGLY IN THE YEARS TO COME,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT IN MANY COUNTRIES, STRICT CONTROLS ON WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WERE ACCEPTED AS FUNDAMENTAL IN CONSUMER PROTECTION AND LEGISLATION REQUIRING SUCH CONTROLS WAS CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL.

THE EXISTING WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE IN HONG KONG, EVEN IF ENFORCED DILIGENTLY, WAS FAR FROM ADEQUATE.

REALISING THIS, THE CONSUMER COUNCIL URGED THE GOVERNMENT AS EARLY AS IN JUNE 1974 TO REPLACE THE EXISTING ORDINANCE AND GAVE DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS, INCLUDING THE ONE THAT ACCURATE WEIGHING SCALES SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE IN ALL NEW TERRITORIES AND CITY DISTRICT OFFICES AND URBAN COUNCIL MARKETS.

ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY RECOGNISED THE DESIRABILITY FOR A NEW ORDINANCE, ALMOST NO PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN THESE FOUR-AND-A-HALF YEARS.

MR. LEE NOTED THAT IN THE GOVERNMENT'S OPINION THERE WAS NO ADVANTAGE IN INTRODUCING A NEW ORDINANCE BEFORE IT WAS IN A POSITION TO ENFORCE THE LAW. HOWEVER, HE SAID, WHEN THE CONSUMER COUNCIL ASKED FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE EXISTING LEGISLATION IN 1974, +IT ALSO URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO RECRUIT AND TRAIN OFFICERS IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF ITS PROVISIONS AND ADVISED THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE LACK OF PROPERLY TRAINED STAFF COULD LEAD TO PROLONGED DELAYS IN THE STRICT CONTROL OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.+

IN ANY CASE, HE ADDED, THE LACK OF PROPERLY TRAINED STAFF SHOULD NOT DELAY THE ENACTMENT OF THE NEW ORDINANCE, AS THE DATE OF ENFORCEMENT COULD BE LEFT UNTIL SUCH A TIME WHEN THERE WERE SUFFICIENT TRAINED PERSONNEL TO ENFORCE IT.

THE ADVANTAGE IN SO DOING WOULD BE THAT DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD, THE PUBLIC COULD HAVE AMPLE TIME TO BE EDUCATED FOR THE CHANGEOVER TO THE NEW LEGISLATION.

+I AM SURE THAT THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, WHICH IS THE CONSUMER EDUCATION AUTHORITY IN HONG KONG, WILL BE WILLING TO CARRY OUT A CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE BOTH THE CONSUMER AND THE TRADER IN THIS RESPECT,+ HE SAID.

THE SUCCESS OF THE NEW LEGISLATION WOULD ALSO DEPEND A GREAT DEAL ON CONSUMER AWARENESS. IF THE PUBLIC WAS AWARE OF THEIR RIGHTS UNDER THE NEW LAW, THEY WOULD BECOME A VERY LARGE TEAM OF 'INSPECTORS' THEMSELVES AND KEEP A CHECK ON THOSE TRADERS WHO GAVE SHORT WEIGHTS AND SHORT MEASURES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SURVEYS ON IMPORTS-EXPORTS OF SERVICES AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTIONS
* * * * *

TWO SEPARATE SURVEYS ON THIS YEAR'S IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF SERVICES AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED BY THE GOVERNMENT NEXT YEAR, SAID THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

PRESENTING THE ORDERS FOR THE TWO SURVEYS, MR. JEAFFRESON TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THE STATISTICS ADVISORY BOARD HAD ALREADY ENDORSED THE OVERALL PLANS FOR BOTH SURVEYS.

HE SAID THE SURVEY OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF SERVICES FOR 1978, WAS A NEW ONE.

IT WOULD COVER INDUSTRIES PROVIDING SERVICES IN THE AREAS OF SEA AND AIR TRANSPORTATION, INSURANCE, CINEMA AND TELEVISION FILM PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION AS WELL AS HOTEL MANAGEMENT.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING THE SURVEY WAS TO GET DATA FOR DETERMINING THE VALUE OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF SERVICES IN RESPECT OF THESE PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES.

+OTHER INDUSTRIES ENGAGING IN THE IMPORT AND EXPORT OF SERVICES WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE PRESENT SURVEY BECAUSE THE INFORMATION REQUIRED CAN BE GOT THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS,+ HE SAID.

+FOR EXAMPLE,+ HE ADDED, +STATISTICS IN AGGREGATE FORM ON THE FINANCIAL SECTOR WILL BECOME AVAILABLE FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING.+

+THE SURVEY CAN BE SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EXISTING PROGRAMME OF ECONOMIC SURVEYS AS AN INTERIM MEASURE TO OBTAIN USEFUL INFORMATION ON SPECIAL ASPECTS OF SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES, PENDING THE LAUNCHING OF A FULL BENCHMARK SURVEY NOW SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN 1981.

/+THE DATA.....

+THE DATA COLLECTED WILL HELP US TO IMPROVE OUR ESTIMATES OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT. IT WILL RESULT IN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE SERVICE INDUSTRIES AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE CURRENT ACCOUNT FLOWS IN THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS,+ HE SAID.

THE SURVEY WOULD COVER A SAMPLE OF SOME 2,000 ESTABLISHMENTS. COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO BE RETURNED TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT BY JUNE 30, 1979.

ON THE SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION FOR 1978, MR. JEAFFRESON POINTED OUT IT WOULD CONTINUE THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION FROM INDUSTRIES ENGAGED IN MANUFACTURING, MINING, QUARRYING AND THE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER.

THE FIRST COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF THESE INDUSTRIES WAS IN 1974 BASED ON INFORMATION RELATING TO 1973.

IT WAS A BENCHMARK SURVEY DESIGNED TO COLLECT INFORMATION PARTICULARLY ON THOSE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INDUSTRIES THAT WERE UNLIKELY TO CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE SHORT TERM.

EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS HAD CONDUCTED ANNUAL BUT LESS COMPREHENSIVE SURVEYS SEEKING INFORMATION ON THE ELEMENTS THAT DID CHANGE QUICKLY TO PROVIDE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT STATE OF THE INDUSTRIES.

BUT EVERY FIVE YEARS HE MUST BRING THE BENCHMARK INFORMATION UP-TO-DATE. SO THE ORDER BEFORE TODAY'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS FOR ANOTHER BENCHMARK SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION.

MR. JEAFFRESON CONTINUED TO POINT OUT THE SURVEY WAS AIMED AT OBTAINING DATA FOR:

- * ASSESSING STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE INDUSTRIES CONCERNED=
- * COMPILING SUCH INDICATORS AS AN INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION=
- * PROVIDING A CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT OF THE CONTRIBUTION MADE TO THE COMMUNITY'S EARNINGS BY THESE INDUSTRIES=
- * ASSESSING SECULAR CHANGES IN THEM AND USING THE RESULTS TOWARDS DETERMINING CHANGES IN THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE= AND
- * DEVELOPING PUBLIC POLICY TOWARDS THE INDUSTRIES AS NECESSARY.

HE SAID THE SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION 1978 WOULD COVER A SAMPLE OF SOME 15,000 ESTABLISHMENTS OUT OF 42,000.

COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO BE RETURNED TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT BY JUNE 30, 1979, HE ADDED.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1978

- 14 -

ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL PASSED INTO LAW
* * * * *

AN AD HOC GROUP OF UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS HAS RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS TO THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL TO ENSURE THAT, IN CONFERRING POWER ON THE AUTHORITIES TO REQUIRE MOTOR VEHICLES TO BE PROPERLY MAINTAINED AND SAFELY USED ON THE ROAD, THERE WOULD BE ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS AGAINST ABUSE OF THIS POWER.

CONVENER OF THE GROUP, THE HON. S.L. CHEN POINTED OUT THAT THE POWER, SUCH AS AUTHORISING A POLICE OFFICER TO EXAMINE A MOTOR VEHICLE ON THE ROAD AND TO ORDER ITS DETENTION FOR EXAMINATION, WAS SIGNIFICANT WHICH IF ABUSED COULD CAUSE CONSIDERABLE INCONVENIENCE OR EVEN HARDSHIP TO THE VEHICLE OWNERS.

THE GROUP MET SEVERAL TIMES WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT AND THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE AND REACHED AGREEMENT WITH THEM ON THE AMENDMENTS.

THE UNOFFICIALS WERE VERY UNHAPPY ABOUT A CLAUSE IN THE BILL WHICH PROVIDED FOR A 72-HOUR MAXIMUM PERIOD OF DETENTION FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE. THIS, THEY WERE TOLD, WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT SHORTAGE OF MOTOR VEHICLE EXAMINERS.

AFTER LENGTHY DELIBERATION, THE GROUP AGREED TO SUPPORT THIS 72-HOUR PERIOD ON CONDITION THAT THE GOVERNMENT URGENTLY RE-EXAMINED THE ESTABLISHMENT, CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AND RECRUITMENT OF THESE EXAMINERS, WITH A VIEW TO INTRODUCING A 24-HOUR MAXIMUM PERIOD OF DETENTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IT WAS AGREED, MR. CHEN SAID, THAT THIS SITUATION SHOULD BE REVIEWED IN SIX MONTHS' TIME.

THE 72-HOUR DETENTION PERIOD ALSO DREW COMMENTS FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN WHO SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER WHETHER VEHICLE OWNERS SHOULD BE COMPENSATED FOR EACH DAY THE VEHICLE WAS IMPOUNDED BEYOND THE PERIOD.

+THE LIVELIHOOD OF SOME OF THESE VEHICLE OWNERS IS AT STAKE AND THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT CREATE HARDSHIP SIMPLY BECAUSE IT CANNOT ADHERE TO THE LAW,+ HE SAID.

HE FEARED THIS SECTION OF THE BILL WOULD BE ENFORCED MORE IN THE BREACH BECAUSE THE SHORTAGE OF MOTOR VEHICLE EXAMINERS HAS BEEN ALMOST ENDEMIC FOR THE LAST TWO TO THREE YEARS.

HE ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO MONITOR OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES WHICH ARE IMPOUNDED BEYOND THE 72-HOUR LIMIT.

IN REPLY, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES THANKED MR. CHEN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC GROUP FOR THE VERY CONSIDERABLE EFFORT THEY PUT INTO THEIR CONSIDERATION OF THE BILL.

/HE ALSO.....

HE ALSO ASSURED MR. CHEN AND MR. CHEONG-LEEN THAT THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WOULD KEEP A RECORD OF PERFORMANCE IN RESPECT OF THE 72-HOUR DETENTION PERIOD AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD RE-EXAMINE THE ESTABLISHMENT, CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AND RECRUITMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLE EXAMINERS WITH A VIEW TO SHORTENING THE PERIOD OF DETENTION.

THE BILL WAS LATER PASSED INTO LAW WITH AMENDMENTS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NEW AND IMPROVED COMMAND AND CONTROL TELECOMMUNICATIONS
SYSTEM FOR FIRE SERVICES

* * * * *

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS TOLD TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT A NEW AND IMPROVED COMMAND AND CONTROL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM WOULD BE INTRODUCED NEXT AUGUST BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF APPLIANCES AND TO SPEED UP THEIR CALL-OUT.

IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION RAISED BY THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN IN RELATION TO THE INITIAL DIFFICULTIES BEING EXPERIENCED BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN TRYING TO REACH PREMISES TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH FIRE OR OTHER CALAMITY, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES DISCLOSED THAT AN EXTENSIVE BUILDING PROGRAMME WAS BEING CARRIED OUT, ESPECIALLY IN THE URBAN AREA AND AREAS OF HIGH RISK, TO ENSURE NEW FIRE STATIONS WOULD BE PROVIDED TO ACHIEVE THE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED ATTENDANCE TIME OF SIX MINUTES FROM THE ALARM BEING RAISED.

+IN THE SHORT TERM AND ON THE STREETS, A COMPUTERISED TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM IS IN OPERATION IN WEST KOWLOON TO GIVE THE DUTY OFFICER IN THE FIRE SERVICES, CONTROL OVER TRAFFIC LIGHTS TO HELP SPEED UP THE ATTENDANCE TIME OF APPLIANCES,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS WAS KEEPING THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF ROAD WORKS WHICH MAY AFFECT ACCESS TO BUILDINGS, OR CAUSE TRAFFIC CONGESTION, AND ADVANCE PLANS WERE BEING MADE FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES TO USE ALTERNATIVE ROUTES.

MR. DAVIES SAID, +WHERE EMERGENCY VEHICLES ARE DELAYED AS A RESULT OF ILLEGAL PARKING OR OTHER OBSTRUCTION, THE FIRE SERVICES COMMANDER ON THE WAY TO, OR AT AN INCIDENT, SEEKS URGENT POLICE ASSISTANCE BY RADIO TO CLEAR THE ROUTE AND VEHICLES ON IT.+

+IT WOULD BE OF IMMENSE ASSISTANCE IF DRIVERS WOULD RESPOND QUICKLY TO SIRENS AND LIGHTS OF EMERGENCY VEHICLES AND GIVE WAY TO THEM,+ MR. DAVIES STRESSED.

HE FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT PLANS FOR NEW BUILDINGS WERE EXAMINED BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO ENSURE ADEQUATE ACCESS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BUS SERVICES IN CENTRAL AND WAH FU

* * * * *

TWO NEW BUS TERMINI WERE BEING BUILT IN THE MTR ADMIRALTY STATION TO BETTER MEET EXISTING NEEDS AND TO CATER FOR FUTURE DEMANDS OF COMMUTERS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. PETER C. WONG, MR. JONES SAID PLANS WERE ALSO IN HAND TO EXTEND THE CENTRAL BUS STATION EASTWARD TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DEPARTURE PLATFORMS AND, IN THE LONGER TERM, CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO PROVIDING A NEW TERMINUS ON THE SITE OF THE PRESENT CENTRAL MARKET.

ON EXISTING BUS SERVICES IN CENTRAL, MR. JONES SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE ADEQUACY OF THE SERVICE AND THE PROBLEM WAS MAINLY DUE TO LACK OF SUITABLE TERMINAL AND KERBSIDE STOPPING FACILITIES.

HE POINTED OUT THAT AT PRESENT 17 BUS ROUTES PROVIDING ABOUT 120 DEPARTURES AND CARRYING ABOUT 13,500 PASSENGERS IN A PEAK HOUR WERE OPERATED FROM THE CENTRAL BUS STATION. IN ADDITION, NINE SERVICES TERMINATING ON-STREET IN CENTRAL PROVIDED ABOUT 60 DEPARTURES CARRYING ABOUT 8,500 PASSENGERS IN A PEAK HOUR.

HE SAID THE ON-STREET TERMINATION OF BUS SERVICES COULD CAUSE CONSIDERABLE CONGESTION IN THE ROADS AFFECTED.

HOWEVER, HE SAID ONCE THE NEW BUS FACILITIES WERE PROVIDED IN CENTRAL, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE CONSIDERABLY TO IMPROVE THE SERVICE AND IN THE MEANTIME, ADDITIONAL ROUTES WERE BEING INTRODUCED WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

MR. JONES ALSO NOTED THAT THE OPENING OF THE CROSS-HARBOUR SECTION OF THE MTR IN MARCH 1980 WOULD REDUCE SOME OF THE PRESSURE ON BUS SERVICES IN CENTRAL AND THE INTERCHANGE FACILITIES AT ADMIRALTY STATION WOULD ALSO BRING CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MR. JONES SAID THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN CONSULTING WITH CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY FOR SOME TIME NOW ABOUT THE PROVISION OF NEW AND IMPROVED SERVICES TO WAH FU ESTATE TO COPE WITH THE BUILD-UP OF POPULATION.

HE SAID SOME IMPROVEMENTS HAD ALREADY BEEN INTRODUCED, SUCH AS THE EXTENSION OF ROUTES 40, 48, 73 AND 74 TO THE NEW BUS TERMINUS IN THE ESTATE, AND THE NEW TERRITORIES CROSS-HARBOUR ROUTE 170 TO THE ESTATE.

HE SAID EVEN WITH THESE MEASURES, THE LEVEL OF SERVICES WAS NOT SUFFICIENT AND THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WAS CONSIDERING FURTHER PLANS TO PROVIDE THREE NEW SERVICES AND TO IMPROVE THE FREQUENCIES ON EXISTING ROUTES.

MR. JONES ALSO POINTED OUT THAT CMB IN ADDITION TO ITS OUTSTANDING ORDERS FOR 127 NEW BUSES, MOSTLY LARGE CAPACITY DOUBLE-DECKERS, RECENTLY DECIDED TO PLACE ORDERS FOR A FURTHER 140 NEW BUSES.

+WHEN THESE BUSES ARE DELIVERED THERE SHOULD BE A CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT IN SERVICES OVERALL, INCLUDING SERVICES TO WAH FU,+ HE SAID.

+NEW LOOK+ SPORTING FACILITIES IN N.T.
* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT AIMED TO PROVIDE, OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, AN OUTDOOR STADIUM FOR EVERY HALF A MILLION PEOPLE LIVING IN THE DEVELOPED AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. JOHN TODD SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID GAMES HALLS AND RUNNING TRACKS WERE ALSO PLANNED TO CATER FOR EVERY 300,000 PEOPLE TO +BRING A TOTALLY NEW LOOK TO THE SPORTING FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO THE PEOPLE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES+.

MR. TODD WAS SPEAKING AT THE PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY OF THE 19TH ANNUAL INTER-DISTRICT PRIMARY SCHOOL ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP ORGANISED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES SCHOOLS SPORTS ASSOCIATION IN THE TSUEN WAN SPORTS GROUND.

HE SAID THE AIM OF THE PROGRAMME WAS TO BUILD THREE INDOOR STADIA AT TSUEN WAN, TWO AT SHA TIN, TWO AT TUEN MUN AND ONE EACH AT TAI PO AND FAN LING.

THERE WILL BE SIX OUTDOOR STADIA, TWO AT TSUEN WAN AND ONE EACH AT SHA TIN, TUEN MUN, TAI PO AND FAN LING AS WELL AS AN INDOOR SPORTS STADIUM AT TSUEN WAN.

AT THE CENTRE OF THIS CO-ORDINATED EXPANSION, MR. TODD WENT ON, WAS THE SILVER JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE AT SHA TIN - A JOINT EFFORT BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

+THIS MAGNIFICENT PROJECT+, HE SAID, +WILL PROVIDE THE SPECIALISED TRAINING AND COACHING FOR ALL OF THOSE YOUNG ASPIRING SPORTSMEN AND WOMEN OF POTENTIAL INTERNATIONAL STANDARD WHO WILL 'GRADUATE' FROM THE RANGE OF FACILITIES NOW UNDER PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION.

+WE CERTAINLY HOPE THAT ALL THE NEW FACILITIES WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS PROVIDING A STEADY STREAM OF SUCH SPORTSMEN AND WOMEN FOR SPECIALISED AND EXPERT TRAINING AT THE CENTRE.+

AT KWAI CHUNG, MR. TODD NOTED, A SPLENDID NEW SPORTS STADIUM WAS OPENED ONLY TWO WEEKS AGO AND CONSTRUCTION OF ANOTHER INDOOR GAMES HALL WOULD BEGIN NEXT YEAR.

+AND I HOPE THAT A START WILL ALSO BE MADE ON CONVERTING THE YEUNG UK ROAD FACILITY INTO A FULLY-EQUIPPED OUTDOOR STADIUM.+

MR. TODD PRAISED THE ASSOCIATION FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN THE PAST 19 YEARS IN ORGANISING NUMEROUS SPORTS MEETINGS FOR ASPIRING YOUNG ATHLETES FROM THE NEW TERRITORIES.

+THEY CAN LOOK BACK WITH A SENSE OF PRIDE AND ACHIEVEMENT IN BRINGING SO MUCH STIMULATION AND SPIRIT OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE,+ HE ADDED.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1978

- 18 -

JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE UP TO WORLD STANDARD
* * * * *

THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE AT SHA TIN WOULD PROBABLY BE AS MODERN AND SOPHISTICATED AS THE MOST ADVANCED CENTRES IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD WHEN COMPLETED IN MAY 1982, THE HON. LI FOOK-WO TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MEANWHILE, TRAINING AND COACHING IN THE SPORTS INITIALLY CHOSEN AND FOR WHICH FACILITIES WERE TO BE PROVIDED WOULD BEGIN AS SOON AS THE NEWLY-APPOINTED CHIEF COACH JOINED THE CENTRE NEXT MONTH, HE SAID.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT TRAINING PROGRAMMES WOULD SOON BE UNDERWAY IN TEMPORARY VENUES WITH THE MANY OFFERS OF HELP ALREADY GIVEN BY THE LOCAL SPORTS COMMUNITY.

MR. LI MADE THESE REMARKS WHEN HE TABLED THE FIRST REPORT OF THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE WHICH COVERED THE NINE MONTHS FROM JULY 1977 TO MARCH 1978.

DURING THIS PERIOD, THE HON. SIR ALBERT RODRIGUES WAS APPOINTED THE FIRST CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MR. D.M.W. GRIFFITHS, WAS RECRUITED.

IN JULY MR. GRIFFITHS VISITED SOME OF THE MAJOR SPORTS CENTRES IN EUROPE AND ON RETURN DREW UP PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS FOR THE DESIGN OF THE CENTRE.

AN ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION FOR THE DESIGN IS BEING HELD IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS. THIS WILL HOPEFULLY ATTRACT THE BEST LOCAL TALENTS IN HONG KONG.

FOUR ADDITIONAL MEMBERS WERE APPOINTED TO THE BOARD IN SEPTEMBER TO MAKE UP THE FULL STRENGTH OF NINE.

+IT WILL BE OUR AIM TO RAISE THE STANDARD OF PERFORMANCE IN SPORTS IN HONG KONG, THEREBY STIMULATING INCREASED PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS AND RECREATION GENERALLY,+ MR. LI SAID.

+THERE IS MUCH MORE TO BE DONE BEFORE THE CENTRE IS TRANSLATED FROM PLAN TO REALITY.+

MR. LI ALSO NOTED THAT OVER \$12.5 MILLION WERE DONATED TO THE PROJECT BY THE QUEEN'S SILVER JUBILEE APPEAL COMMITTEE. AN EQUAL AMOUNT WAS MATCHED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB ON A DOLLAR-TO-DOLLAR BASIS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/19

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1978

- 19 -

MEDICAL FACILITIES IN SHA TIN
* * * * *

THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN STEPS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CONSULTATION SESSIONS IN THE EXISTING SHA TIN CLINIC AND AT THE SAME TIME EXTEND THE HOURS OF OPERATION UP TO MIDNIGHT DAILY FOR DEALING WITH EMERGENCY CASES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. K.L. THONG, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, THE HON. CHARLES YEUNG.

MR. YEUNG HAD ASKED WHAT INTERIM MEASURES THE GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING TO MEET THE GROWING DEMAND FOR MEDICAL FACILITIES ARISING FROM THE RAPID INCREASE IN THE POPULATION OF SHA TIN BEFORE THE OPENING OF SHA TIN HOSPITAL IN 1982.

APART FROM THE SHORT-TERM MEASURES WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN, DR. THONG SAID A SECOND LARGE GENERAL CLINIC WILL BE BUILT AT THE SHA TIN TOWN CENTRE TO CATER TO THE NEEDS OF THE INCREASING POPULATION.

THIS PROJECT, WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN INCLUDED IN CATEGORY A OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME, IS DUE TO BE COMPLETED BY EARLY 1980, HE SAID.

DR. THONG SAID THESE MEASURES WOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE POPULATION IN SHA TIN FOR MORE FACILITIES AT THE EXISTING CLINIC AND MORE GENERAL OUT-PATIENT SERVICES IN THE AREA.

DURING THE MEETING, ANOTHER UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, THE HON. ALEX WU, ASKED IF THE GOVERNMENT HAD ANY PLANS TO PROVIDE DECOMPRESSION FACILITIES FOR DIVERS IN DISTRESS.

IN REPLY, DR. THONG SAID ARRANGEMENTS ALREADY EXISTED AT PRESENT BETWEEN THE ROYAL NAVY AND THE GOVERNMENT WHEREBY CASES OF DECOMPRESSION SICKNESS DUE TO DIVING ARE TREATED AT HMS TAMAR AND AFTERWARDS RETURNED TO GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS FOR SUBSEQUENT MANAGEMENT.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE ONLY NINE CASES SO FAR THIS YEAR REQUIRING DECOMPRESSION TREATMENT.

+UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE NEED FOR DECOMPRESSION FACILITIES IS LIMITED AND THE ABOVE ARRANGEMENTS ARE CONSIDERED ADEQUATE AND SATISFACTORY,+ HE SAID.

HOWEVER, THE SITUATION WAS BEING WATCHED CLOSELY AND KEPT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW, HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/20

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1978

- 20 -

24 CLINICIANS TO BE RECRUITED FOR QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL

THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE HAS RECOMMENDED THAT AN ADDITIONAL 24 CLINICIANS BE RECRUITED FOR QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO RELIEVE THE SERVICE LOAD ON ITS UNIVERSITY DOCTORS, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. E.P. HO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. JOHN BREMRIDGE, MR. HO SAID THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL WERE BEING EXAMINED AND IN THE LIGHT OF THE CONCLUSION REACHED, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO APPROACH THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WITH A VIEW TO THE VOTING OF AN ADDITIONAL GRANT FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, RESERVED SOLELY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STAFF AT ITS MEDICAL SCHOOL.

MR. HO POINTED OUT THAT QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL WAS NOW RUN ON A DUAL CONTROL SYSTEM BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG TO MEET THE SERVICE AND TEACHING ROLES OF THE HOSPITAL.

+BY AND LARGE THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE WORKED OVER THE YEARS, PARTLY BECAUSE THE UNIVERSITY CLINICIANS AND THE GOVERNMENT DOCTORS HAVE BOTH GROWN UP WITH THE SYSTEM, AND PARTLY BECAUSE ALL CONCERNED ARE DETERMINED TO MAKE IT WORK EVEN AT SOME INCONVENIENCE TO THEMSELVES,+ MR. HO SAID.

HOWEVER, MR. HO SAID THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE, WITH THE ADVICE OF AN EXPERT SUB-COMMITTEE, HAD RECOMMENDED THAT AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM IN CLINICAL MANNING SHOULD BE ADOPTED INSTEAD FOR THE NEW TEACHING HOSPITAL NOW BEING BUILT AT SHA TIN FOR THE SECOND MEDICAL SCHOOL.

+THIS MEANS THAT THE CLINICAL STAFF OF THE SHA TIN HOSPITAL, COMPRISING PARTLY UNIVERSITY AND PARTLY GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL, SHOULD ALL SHARE SERVICE AND TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES BUT WITH A LESSER SERVICE LOAD FOR THE UNIVERSITY STAFF AND A SMALLER TEACHING ROLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT STAFF,+ MR. HO EXPLAINED.

MR. HO ADDED THAT HE HAD PROPOSED TO SET UP A WORKING PARTY TO REVIEW THE MANAGEMENT, ORGANISATION AND STAFFING REQUIREMENTS OF QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL, BEARING IN MIND ITS ROLE AS A TEACHING AS WELL AS SERVICE INSTITUTION.

+I HOPE THAT THIS WORKING PARTY WILL BE ABLE TO COMMENCE ITS DELIBERATIONS EARLY IN JANUARY WITH A VIEW TO THE SUBMISSION OF SPECIFIC PROPOSALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/21

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1978

- 21 -

MEASURES TAKEN TO HELP MINIMISE DELAYS IN COURT PROCEEDINGS
* * * * *

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT MEASURES HAD BEEN TAKEN TO HELP MINIMISE DELAYS IN COURT PROCEEDINGS CAUSED BY THE RECENT INDUSTRIAL ACTION BY POLICE INTERPRETERS.

+FIRST, THE SERVICE OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE OFFICERS ON THE POLICE FORCE ESTABLISHMENT ARE BEING CONCENTRATED ON THE TRANSLATION OF STATEMENTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR DISTRICT COURT AND SUPREME COURT CASES,+ MR. HOBLEY SAID.

+SECONDLY, THE POLICE FORCE IS USING THE SERVICES FOR THIS WORK OF RETIRED INTERPRETERS WHO ARE OF COURSE BEING REMUNERATED,+ HE ADDED.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MR. HOBLEY SAID THAT SO FAR AS INTERPRETATION WAS CONCERNED, BILINGUAL CHINESE POLICE OFFICERS ARE HELPING OUT. +IN SHORT, OTHERS ARE CONTRIBUTING IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER TO KEEPING THINGS MOVING AS NEAR TO NORMAL AS POSSIBLE,+ HE SAID.

+AND, OF COURSE, THE INTERPRETERS HAVE CONTINUED TO PERFORM MUCH OF THEIR USUAL WORK, AND NOT ALL OF THEM ARE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THE REFUSAL TO PERFORM WORK,+ HE ADDED.

MR. HOBLEY POINTED OUT THAT THE CONDUCT OF THE POLICE INTERPRETERS HAD CAUSED AND WAS CAUSING DELAY IN RELATION TO SOME CRIMINAL CASES TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE DISTRICT COURT OR COMMITTED FOR TRIAL TO THE SUPREME COURT.

+HOWEVER,+ HE SAID, +THE EFFECT OF THEIR CONDUCT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, THOUGH NATURALLY WORRYING, IS NOT ALARMING.+

AS AN EXAMPLE, MR. HOBLEY SAID, THE DELAYS HAVE BEEN MITIGATED TO SOME EXTENT BY THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT'S OFFICERS WHO HAVE DEALT WITH SOME CASES ON FILES WHICH ARE LESS THAN SATISFACTORY BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF TRANSLATIONS OF STATEMENTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.

+I CANNOT ALLOW THIS TO GO ON,+ HE ADDED.

REFERRING TO CASES BEING TRIED BY MAGISTRATES, MR. HOBLEY SAID THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT DELAYS BECAUSE THE DEMAND FOR TRANSLATIONS, WHICH REPRESENTED ABOUT HALF OF THE INTERPRETERS' WORK ON AVERAGE, WAS MUCH LESS.

+TRANSLATIONS ARE NOT PREPARED WHERE THERE IS A PLEA OF GUILTY, AND THEY ARE NOT ALWAYS NECESSARY IF THERE IS A TRIAL,+ MR. HOBLEY SAID.

+BOTH THE LAY PROSECUTORS AND POLICE PROSECUTING OFFICERS WHO READ CHINESE ARE WORKING FROM PAPERS WRITTEN IN CHINESE, WITHOUT TRANSLATIONS,+ HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/22

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1978

- 22 -

PLANNING STANDARDS FOR N.T. COMMUNITY FACILITIES
UNDER REVIEW
* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW LOOKING AT THE PLANNING STANDARDS FOR SEVERAL OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TYPES OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES -- CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY CENTRES AND INDOOR GAMES FACILITIES.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE HON. DAVID AKERS-JONES TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT A MOVE WAS BEING MADE TO CHANGE THE PREVIOUS EQUATIONS OF SIZE OF POPULATION TO STANDARD OF PROVISION TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL AREAS.

+WE ARE ALSO TRYING TO SHOW MORE IMAGINATION IN THE USE OF GOVERNMENT SITES IN THE NEW DEVELOPMENT AREAS, COMBINING FOR EXAMPLE LIBRARIES, SQUASH COURTS AND PERHAPS INDOOR GAMES AREAS WITH MARKET BUILDINGS IN TAI PO AND YUEN LONG,+ HE SAID.

MR. AKERS-JONES WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. CHARLES YEUNG ABOUT PLANNING CRITERIA FOR THE PROVISION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN THE RURAL AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

AS FOR CULTURAL FACILITIES, HE SAID, IT MUST BE RECOGNISED THAT THESE WOULD BE THE PRIME OBJECTS OF INTEREST AND AMBITION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS.

+THESE WILL CALL FOR A HIGH DEGREE OF INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION. GREATER FLEXIBILITY IS THE ORDER OF THE DAY,+ MR. AKERS-JONES ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/23

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1978

- 23 -

STANDARDS OF SAFETY IN GOVT AND AIDED SCHOOL LABORATORIES
ADEQUATE
* * * *

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON. KENNETH TOPLEY TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THE GOVERNMENT WAS SATISFIED THAT STANDARDS OF SAFETY IN LABORATORIES IN GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SCHOOLS WERE ADEQUATE.

+THE REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT IS PROVIDED, THE TEACHING STAFF ARE FULLY QUALIFIED, ALL SCHOOLS ARE ISSUED WITH A BOOKLET ON SAFETY IN THE LABORATORY AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL ON SAFETY IS MADE AVAILABLE FOR PUPILS,+ MR. TOPLEY SAID.

+IT IS TRUE THAT NEW SYLLABUSES CALL FOR MORE EMPHASIS ON PRACTICAL EXPERIMENTATION,+ HE SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE REV. THE HON. JOYCE BENNETT.

HE SAID THAT IN STANDARD PLAN SCHOOLS THE PROVISION OF LABORATORIES WAS CONSIDERED SUFFICIENT TO COPE WITH THE DEMANDS OF THE NEW SYLLABUSES.

IN OLDER OR NON-STANDARD SCHOOL BUILDINGS SOME CONVERSION OF ACCOMMODATION TO GIVE EXTRA LABORATORY FACILITIES WAS OFTEN REQUIRED, HE POINTED OUT.

+THESE CONVERSIONS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT AS QUICKLY AS IS PRACTICABLE. IN THESE SCHOOLS WHERE CONVERSION IS STILL TO BE DONE CARE IS TAKEN TO LIMIT ANY PRACTICAL WORK DONE IN ORDINARY CLASSROOMS TO THAT WHICH DOES NOT HAVE POTENTIAL HAZARDS,+ MR. TOPLEY SAID.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION FROM MISS BENNETT, HE SAID A WORKING GROUP IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WAS ALREADY LOOKING INTO THE MATTER OF INCREASING THE NUMBER OF LABORATORY TECHNICIANS ON THE STAFF ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOLS WHERE THE NEW CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT SYLLABUSES FOR INTEGRATED SCIENCE WERE BEING IMPLEMENTED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/24

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1978

- 24 -

RESERVOIR MIGHT BE DEVELOPED FOR BOATING
* * * * *

A LOCAL RESERVOIR MIGHT BE DEVELOPED FOR BOATING ON A TRIAL BASIS, SAID THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. F.K. LI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR. LI WAS ANSWERING A QUESTION FROM THE HON. CHARLES YEUNG ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE PLOVER COVE, HIGH ISLAND AND OTHER SUITABLE RESERVOIRS FOR RECREATIONAL BOATING.

MR. LI SAID AN INTER-DEPARTMENT WORKING GROUP APPOINTED TO LOOK INTO THE USE OF RESERVOIRS FOR WATER SPORTS HAD CONCLUDED THAT ONE OF THE RESERVOIRS -- THE PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR, THE HIGH ISLAND RESERVOIR AND THE JUBILEE RESERVOIR -- SHOULD BE DEVELOPED FOR BOATING ON A TRIAL BASIS AFTER IT HAD CONSULTED THE NATIONAL SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS CONCERNED.

MR. LI SAID WHEN HE RECEIVED THE WORKING GROUP'S REPORT, LIKELY TO BE WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS, HE WOULD SEEK ADVICE FROM THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT.

+IF THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE ENDORSED BY THE COUNCIL, WE SHALL SUBMIT AN APPROPRIATE ITEM FOR INCLUSION IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME,+ HE SAID.

THE WORKING GROUP APPOINTED IN AUGUST THIS YEAR HAD IDENTIFIED THE MENTIONED RESERVOIRS AS SUITABLE FOR SAILING, CANOEING AND ROWING IF THESE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES WERE PROPERLY CONTROLLED TO SAFEGUARD THE HEALTH OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC, THE SAFETY OF USERS AND THE SECURITY OF WATERWORKS INSTALLATIONS, MR. LI SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/25

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1978

- 25 -

1,231 ABANDONED VEHICLES REMOVED FROM ROADS
UP TO OCTOBER 1 THIS YEAR

* * * * *

POLICE REMOVED 1,324 ABANDONED VEHICLES FROM ROADS IN 1977 AND 1,231 THIS YEAR UP TO OCTOBER 1, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR. DAVIES SAID THIS IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE REV. THE HON. JOYCE BENNETT.

IN DISCHARGING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONTROLLING TRAFFIC ON PUBLIC THOROUGHFARES AND REMOVING OBSTRUCTIONS, HE SAID, +THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE DECIDES ON THE OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES TO BE ACCORDED TO IT, AND HIS OFFICERS CONSIDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PARTICULAR OBSTRUCTION.+

MR. DAVIES SAID POLICE WOULD WRITE TO THE OWNER TO REMOVE HIS VEHICLE IF IT HAD BEEN LEFT ON ANY ROAD FOR A PERIOD EXCEEDING 72 HOURS AND APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN ABANDONED.

IF THE OWNER DID NOT COMPLY WITHIN SEVEN DAYS THE VEHICLE WOULD BE TOWED AWAY TO THE POLICE POUND, HE EXPLAINED.

+IN ADDITION, ANY PARKED OR BROKEN DOWN VEHICLE WHICH IS LIKELY TO OBSTRUCT THE TRAFFIC FLOW OR ENDANGER PEOPLE USING THE ROAD, MAY BE TOWED AWAY WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE,+ MR. DAVIES ADDED.

+IN THE CASE OF OTHER OBSTRUCTIONS TO PAVEMENTS AND ROADS, PATROLLING POLICE OFFICERS MAY ORDER THEIR REMOVAL.

+IF OWNERS FAIL TO COMPLY THEN THEY ARE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION. THIS YEAR, UP TO DECEMBER 1, THERE HAVE BEEN 46,163 PROSECUTIONS FOR THIS OFFENCE. IF THE OWNER OF GOODS OR MATERIALS CAUSING THE OBSTRUCTION CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED, THE POLICE ARRANGE WITH URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS TO EFFECT REMOVAL,+ MR. DAVIES SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FERRY SPEED LIMIT
* * * * *

THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE WOULD EXEMPT FERRY SPEED LIMITS WHEN HE CONSIDERED IT SAFE TO DO SO.

MR. JEAFFRESON SAID THIS IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. LEUNG TAT-SHING ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER RELAXING THE SPEED LIMIT WITHIN THE HARBOUR, SO THAT MORE SPEEDY CROSS-HARBOUR FERRY SERVICES COULD BE PROVIDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1978

- 26 -

DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979
* * * * *

THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979 WAS INTRODUCED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL WAS TO CLARIFY THE POWER IN THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES ORDINANCE TO MAKE REGULATIONS FOR THE SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION OF LIQUOR LICENCES.

+SUBSECTION 6(1)(N) OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE PROVIDES THAT THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL MAY BY REGULATION PRESCRIBE OR PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUE OF LIQUOR LICENCES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT, FUNCTIONS AND PROCEDURES OF BOARDS APPOINTED FOR THE PURPOSE,+ HE SAID.

+REGULATION 23(1) OF THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (LIQUOR) REGULATIONS EMPOWERS THE LIQUOR LICENSING BOARD TO REVOKE OR SUSPEND ANY LIQUOR LICENCE ON PROOF TO ITS SATISFACTION THAT AN OFFENCE HAS BEEN COMMITTED AGAINST THE ORDINANCE.

+IT HAS RECENTLY BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THIS REGULATION MAY BE ULTRA VIRES THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS ADVISED THAT IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO PUT THE QUESTION BEYOND DOUBT BY INCORPORATING EXPRESS ENABLING POWER IN THE ORDINANCE AND THEREAFTER RE-ENACTING REGULATION 23(1) OF THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (LIQUOR) REGULATIONS,+ MR. JONES EXPLAINED.

THEREFORE, HE CONTINUED, CLAUSE 2(A) OF THE BILL AMENDED SUBSECTION 6(1)(N) OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE TO EMPOWER THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO MAKE REGULATIONS PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUE AND THE SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION OF LIQUOR LICENCES BY A BOARD APPOINTED FOR THE PURPOSE.

IN ADDITION TO THIS, HE SAID CLAUSE 2(B) OF THE BILL AMENDED SUBSECTION 6 (2) OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE BY EXPRESSLY PROVIDING THAT ANY REGULATIONS MADE UNDER SECTION 6 MIGHT ALSO PROVIDE THAT A CONTRAVENTION OF ANY REGULATION SHOULD BE AN OFFENCE AND TO PRESCRIBE PENALTIES FOR SUCH OFFENCES.

DEBATE ON THE MOTION WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BILLS PASSED
* * * * *

THREE BILLS WERE PASSED INTO LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY WERE THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1978, THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS (ASSISTANCE FUND) BILL 1978 AND THE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS (ADJOURNMENT DURING GALE WARNINGS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1978

- 27 -

REPORT OF THE THIRD INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE
* * * * *

THE FINDINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT WORKING PARTY FORMED TO EXAMINE THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT OF THE THIRD INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE WERE CONTAINED IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET SPEECH, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WONG LAM ON WHEN THE FINDINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT WORKING PARTY FORMED TO EXAMINE THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT OF THE THIRD INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE WOULD BE PUBLISHED FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE PUBLIC.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THE FINDINGS WERE CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPHS 165 TO 179 OF THIS YEAR'S BUDGET SPEECH AND, FOR MORE SPECIFIC DETAILS, ANNEXES (15) AND (16) TO THE PRINTED VERSION OF THE SPEECH.

THESE GAVE DETAILS OF THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED, THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ACCEPTED AND THE REASONS FOR THEIR NON-ACCEPTANCE, AND THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE WORKING PARTY.

HE ADDED THAT THE WORKING PARTY HAS VIRTUALLY COMPLETED ITS CONSIDERATION OF THE OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS, AND HE WOULD REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN HIS NEXT BUDGET SPEECH IN 70 DAYS TIME.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SAFETY IN WATER SPORTS
* * * * *

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. F.K. LI TODAY (WEDNESDAY) OUTLINED THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN PROMOTING SAFETY IN WATER SPORTS.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HO KAM-FAI AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. LI SAID THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT LAUNCHED A GENERAL CAMPAIGN ON SAFETY IN OUTDOOR PURSUITS EARLIER THIS YEAR, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON WATER SPORTS DURING THE SUMMER.

+THE CAMPAIGN CONSISTS OF SHORT TELEVISION INSERTS AND POSTERS EMPHASISING THE MOTTO 'PLAY SAFE', + MR. LI SAID.

IN ADDITION, MR. LI SAID A PAMPHLET ENTITLED +STEPPING OUT: A GUIDE TO OUTDOOR RECREATION IN HONG KONG+ CONTAINING SAFETY HINTS AND ADVICE ON MOST POPULAR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES INCLUDING CANOEING HAS ALSO BEEN PUBLISHED AND ISSUED THROUGH SCHOOLS.

IT CAN BE OBTAINED FREE OF CHARGE FROM CITY DISTRICT OFFICE COUNTERS, RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE OFFICES AND GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION CENTRES, HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/28

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1978

- 28 -

NO PLANS TO BUILD SWIMMING LAGOONS AND ARTIFICIAL BEACHES

* * * * *

THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE HON. DAVID AKERS-JONES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THAT THERE WERE NO PLANS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME OR ANY OTHER PROGRAMMES TO CONSTRUCT SWIMMING LAGOONS AND ARTIFICIAL BEACHES.

MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THIS IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN WHO ASKED WHEN AND WHERE THE FIRST ARTIFICIAL BEACH AND SWIMMING LAGOON WOULD BE COMPLETED AND OPENED FOR PUBLIC USE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ANOTHER JOINT VENTURE BOOST FOR LOCAL INDUSTRY

* * * * *

THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT WELCOMED THE SETTING UP OF A NEW COMPANY BY HONG KONG AND SAUDI ARABIAN INTERESTS WHICH WILL MANUFACTURE ELECTRIC FANS AT THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

THE LEASE FOR THE TAI PO SITE WAS SIGNED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE FAN TAT MANUFACTURING CO. LTD., A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN WING TAT OF HONG KONG AND A SAUDI ARABIAN COMPANY A.S. HAKBANY AND BROTHERS -- SAID TO BE THE WORLD'S LARGEST IMPORTERS OF ELECTRIC FANS.

THIS IS THE FIRST DIRECT INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY BY A SAUDI ARABIAN COMPANY AND REPRESENTS A DIVERSIFICATION OF SOURCE OF INVESTMENTS.

THE NEW FACTORY WILL MANUFACTURE ELECTRIC FANS AND, AT A LATER STAGE, SEVERAL OTHER ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS.

THE HK\$15 MILLION JOINT VENTURE WILL INTRODUCE NEW PRODUCTION PROCESSES TO HONG KONG. IT WILL USE HIGHER TECHNOLOGY WHICH WILL SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY TO PRODUCE SOME OF THE MOST SOPHISTICATED ELECTRIC FANS IN THE INDUSTRY.

+LIKE ALL NEW INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS, THIS INVESTMENT IS WELCOMED BY THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID. +THIS HAS BEEN A GOOD YEAR FOR INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT,+ HE ADDED.

+MORE THAN 80 NEW PLANTS HAVE BEEN OPENED THIS YEAR WITH OVERSEAS INTERESTS. IN ADDITION, A NUMBER OF NEW TECHNIQUES AND NEW PRODUCTS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED TO HONG KONG COMPANIES BY THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT,+ HE SAID.

THE SAUDI ARABIAN PARENT COMPANY HAS A LONG HISTORY OF TRADING WITH HONG KONG. IT BEGAN IMPORTING ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT FROM FAN TAT ALMOST 20 YEARS AGO. IT IS ALSO THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT SUPPLIER OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT IN SAUDI ARABIA.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1978

- 29 -

GOVERNOR TO VISIT KCR WORKSHOP

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE WILL VISIT THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY WORKSHOP AT HO TUNG LAU, SHA TIN TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, MR. DEREK JONES AND THE GENERAL MANAGER OF KCR, MR. D.M. HOWES.

SIR MURRAY WILL BE BRIEFED BY MR. HOWES ON THE OPERATION OF THE WORKSHOP AND INSPECT THE MAIN PARTS OF THE WORKS.

THE MAINTENANCE, OVERHAUL AND SERVICING OF KCR'S ROLLING STOCK, EQUIPMENT AND PLANT, ELECTRIC LIGHTING AND POWER SIGNALS ARE CARRIED OUT AT THE WORKSHOP.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT TO THE KCR WORKSHOP AT HO TUNG LAU, SHA TIN TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON. TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED. A GOVERNMENT VAN (AM 5005) WILL LEAVE THE CAR PARK OUTSIDE THE MAIN WING OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT 3 P.M. SHARP.

----- 0 -----
'WORKING OUTSIDE PERMISSIBLE HOURS' WARNING

FACTORY PROPRIETORS WERE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WARNED NOT TO EMPLOY WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO WORK ILLEGALLY OUTSIDE THEIR PERMISSIBLE WORKING HOURS OTHERWISE THEY MAY FACE PROSECUTION FOR CONTRAVENING THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS REGULATIONS.

THE WARNING CAME FROM A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WHEN HE REFERRED TO A COURT CASE AT THE NORTH KOWLOON MAGISTRACY YESTERDAY (TUESDAY) IN WHICH THE PROPRIETOR OF A GARMENT FACTORY IN CHEUNG SHA WAN WAS GIVEN A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5,000 FOR EMPLOYING 40 FEMALE WORKERS OUTSIDE THEIR PERMISSIBLE WORKING HOURS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID FACTORY PROPRIETORS SHOULD REPORT THE OVERTIME PARTICULARS TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS REGULATIONS BEFORE THEY EMPLOY ANY WOMAN OR YOUNG PERSON TO WORK OUTSIDE THE PERMISSIBLE WORKING HOURS.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1978

- 30 -

TOPPING OUT OF AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE
* * * * *

MR. DAVID STEAD, DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE TOPPING-OUT CEREMONY OF THE AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 4 P.M.

THE 230-METRE LONG BRIDGE IS THE FIRST TO LINK HONG KONG ISLAND WITH AN OFFSHORE ISLAND.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE TOPPING-OUT CEREMONY OF AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE TOMORROW.

PRESS TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO MAKE USE OF THE TRANSPORT FACILITY ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE AT THE OPEN CARPARK OUTSIDE THE RECEPTION OFFICE OF MURRAY BUILDING NOT LATER THAN 2.55 P.M.

TWO NINE-SEATER VANS WILL LEAVE AT 3 P.M. SHARP.

OFFICERS OF THE P.W.D.'S PUBLICITY UNIT WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST THE PRESS.

----- 0 -----

/31.....

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1978

- 31 -

D.S.W. INAUGURATES HK'S FIRST TRANSPORT SERVICE FOR THE ELDERLY

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) INAUGURATED HONG KONG'S FIRST SPECIAL TRANSPORT SERVICE FOR THE ELDERLY.

SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY AT QUEEN'S PIER, MR. LEE CALLED FOR MORE TRANSPORT SERVICES OF THIS KIND TO BETTER MEET THE NEEDS OF OLD PEOPLE.

THE TRANSPORT SERVICE FOR THE ELDERLY, RUN BY THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE AGED, HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE WITH A SPECIALLY EQUIPPED 50-SEATER BUS DONATED BY THE HONG KONG COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING CO. LTD.

MR. LEE SAID PROVISION OF THE SERVICE WAS IN LINE WITH A RECOMMENDATION MADE BY THE GREEN PAPER ON ELDERLY SERVICES AS A MEANS TO HELP KEEP THE ELDERLY MOBILE AND ACTIVE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

HE SAID OLD PEOPLE HAD MUCH TIME AT THEIR DISPOSAL AND THE SERVICE WOULD ENABLE THEM TO TAKE UP MORE LEISURE ACTIVITIES SO THAT THEY WOULD BE LESS LIKELY TO ISOLATE AND WITHDRAW THEMSELVES.

AT THIS MORNING'S CEREMONY, MR. LEE RECEIVED, ON BEHALF OF THE SOCIETY, THE BUS FROM MR. TSE CHI-MAN, CHINESE PROGRAMME DIRECTOR OF THE BROADCASTING COMPANY, AND LATER CUT THE RIBBON TO MARK THE INAUGURATION OF THE SERVICE.

THE BUS HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO MEET THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF OLD PEOPLE -- EASY ACCESS, COMFORT AND SAFETY. IT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR LOAN TO OTHER OLD PEOPLE'S INSTITUTIONS FOR ORGANISING OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, AND IS EXPECTED TO BE USED BY 14,000 OLD PEOPLE EACH YEAR.

AFTER THE CEREMONY, A GROUP OF 50 OLD PEOPLE TRAVELLED ON THE SPECIAL BUS FOR A TRIP TO OCEAN PARK. THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S CASTLE PEAK BOYS' HOME PROVIDED A BAND AND SCOUTS TO ENTERTAIN AND HELP THE OLD PEOPLE AT THE CEREMONY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/32

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1978

- 32 -

ANTI-SMOKING TEACHING KIT COMPETITION
WINNERS TO RECEIVE PRIZES
* * * * *

CASH PRIZES AND TROPHIES WILL BE PRESENTED TO WINNING SCHOOLS OF THE ANTI-SMOKING TEACHING KIT COMPETITION TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 10 A.M. BY MR. R.M. CAMERON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

MR. LEUNG TAT-SHING, UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WILL ADDRESS THE GATHERING.

THE COMPETITION WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO EDUCATE THE YOUNG ON THE HAZARDS OF CIGARETTE SMOKING.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY OF THE ANTI-SMOKING TEACHING KIT COMPETITION TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 10 A.M. IN THE G.I.S. THEATRE, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

----- 0 -----

/33

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1978

- 33 -

S.W.D. REHABILITATION INSTITUTIONS TO HOLD X'MAS PARTY

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TEAM, WHO SCORED FIRST IN THIS YEAR'S TALENT QUEST FOR THE HANDICAPPED, WILL REPEAT THEIR WINNING PERFORMANCE TO ENTERTAIN FELLOW TRAINEES.

THE TEAM, FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S KAI CHI CHILDREN'S CENTRE, WILL STAGE THEIR DANCE AND MASQUERADE SHOW TOMORROW AT A JOINT CHRISTMAS PARTY OF THE CENTRE AND ITS ADJACENT ABERDEEN REHABILITATION CENTRE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THEIR SHOW WILL BE AMONG A SERIES OF PROGRAMMES AT THE PARTY ORGANISED FOR 400 TRAINEES FROM BOTH CENTRES. OTHER PROGRAMMES INCLUDE A VARIETY SHOW BY TELEVISION ARTISTES AND SINGING PERFORMANCES BY VOLUNTEER GROUPS.

THE JOINT CHRISTMAS PARTY WILL TAKE PLACE AT 2.30 P.M. TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE ABERDEEN REHABILITATION CENTRE IN WONG CHUK HANG.

ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 22), ANOTHER INSTITUTION OF THE DEPARTMENT — THE KAI NANG TRAINING CENTRE — WILL ALSO HOLD A CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR 160 MENTALLY RETARDED TRAINEES.

THE INMATES WILL CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH PUPPET SHOWS, SINGING PERFORMANCE, LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AND PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND PRIZES.

THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES BRANCH, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, MR. IAN STRACHAN, WILL BE THE GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE PARTY WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT 10.30 A.M. AT THE CENTRE IN KWUN TONG.

THE OCCASION IS PART OF THE CENTRE'S YEAR-ROUND EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME IN ADDITION TO THE FORMAL SOCIAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR THE TRAINEES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE JOINT CHRISTMAS PARTY OF THE KAI CHI CHILDREN'S CENTRE AND ABERDEEN REHABILITATION CENTRE, TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 2.30 P.M. AT THE ABERDEEN REHABILITATION CENTRE IN WELFARE ROAD, WONG CHUK HANG, AS WELL AS THE CHRISTMAS PARTY OF THE KAI NANG TRAINING CENTRE TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 22) AT 10.30 A.M. AT THE CENTRE IN TSUI PING ROAD, KWUN TONG.

----- 0 -----