



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1976

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1976.

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SINGLE ONE CLASS FARE FOR H.Y.F. CROSS HARBOUR SERVICES
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED A MOTION TO INTRODUCE A SINGLE ONE CLASS FARE TO THE CROSS HARBOUR SERVICES OF THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY.

ALSO APPROVED WAS THAT THE COMPANY'S 25 PER CENT ROYALTY PAYMENT ON ITS NET PROFITS AND ITS \$20,000 MONTHLY FEE FOR ITS EXCLUSIVE NORTH POINT/HUNG HOM FERRY SERVICE IN THE 1975-79 PERIOD BE WAIVED.

THE SINGLE ONE CLASS FARE WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1976. IT WILL BE 30 CENTS FOR ADULTS AND 20 CENTS FOR CHILDREN FROM THREE TO 16.

THE SERVICES TO BE AFFECTED INCLUDE ALL THE CROSS HARBOUR SERVICES EXCEPT THOSE BETWEEN JUBILEE STREET FERRY PIER AND KWUN TONG FERRY PIER ON WHICH A ONE CLASS FARE OF 50 CENTS IS ALREADY CHARGED.

MOVING THE RESOLUTION IN THE COUNCIL TODAY UNDER THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY (SERVICES) ORDINANCE, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DEREK JONES EXPLAINED THAT A PREVIOUS FORECAST MADE IN 1974 OF AN AVERAGE ANNUAL RETURN ON THE COMPANY'S NET FIXED ASSETS OF ABOUT 8 PER CENT UNTIL 1979 HAS BEEN SHOWN TO BE TOO OPTIMISTIC.

+NOT ONLY HAS THE VOLUME OF BOTH PASSENGER AND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC USING THE COMPANY'S CROSS HARBOUR SERVICES CONTINUED TO DECLINE, BUT OPERATING COSTS HAVE ALSO CONTINUED TO INCREASE.

+THUS THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS CARRIED ON THE COMPANY'S HARBOUR SERVICES FELL BY 7 PER CENT IN 1975 COMPARED WITH 1974, THAT IS FROM 131 MILLION IN 1974 TO 121 MILLION IN 1975, WHILE THE VEHICULAR FERRY SERVICES CARRIED A HALF A MILLION FEWER VEHICLES IN 1975 THAN IN 1974, OR A DECLINE OF 13 PER CENT.

+AT THE SAME TIME, THE PRICE OF FUEL OIL CONTINUED TO INCREASE, BY SOME 12 PER CENT, BETWEEN JULY 1974 AND JULY 1976, + MR. JONES SAID.

IN THE LIGHT OF THESE ADVERSE TRENDS, HE CONTINUED, THE COMPANY'S RATE OF RETURN WAS NO MORE THAN 5.1 PER CENT IN 1974, AND 5.4 PER CENT IN 1975.

MOREOVER, IN 1975 THE PROFITABILITY OF ITS FERRY OPERATIONS TAKEN ON THEIR OWN WAS EVEN LESS, SINCE, OF THE TOTAL NET PROFIT OF \$6.2 MILLION, SOME \$1.4 MILLION ACCRUED FROM DIVIDENDS FROM SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES AND APPROXIMATELY \$4 MILLION FROM OTHER NON-TRAFFIC RELATED SOURCES, LEAVING ONLY \$800,000 AS BEING ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE FERRY OPERATIONS AS SUCH.

THE MEASURES APPROVED TODAY WERE EXPECTED TO IMPROVE THE COMPANY'S FINANCIAL POSITION BY SOME \$4 MILLION PER ANNUM AND THOUGH NOT SUFFICIENT WERE CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL AS A FIRST STEP TOWARDS RESTORING THE COMPANY TO REASONABLE PROFITABILITY.

/FURTHER

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FURTHER PROPOSALS, WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM A DETAILED REVIEW OF THE WHOLE OF THE COMPANY'S OPERATIONS NOW BEING UNDERTAKEN, WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL AS SOON AS THEY HAVE BEEN FULLY WORKED OUT AND EVALUATED, HE ADDED.

EVEN WITH THE PROPOSALS APPROVED BY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, +THE MOST RECENT FORECAST OF THE COMPANY'S FINANCIAL POSITION SHOWS THAT IT WOULD BE EXPECTED TO EARN ONLY SOME THREE PER CENT ON ITS NET FIXED ASSETS IN 1976, AND THAT THERE WOULD BE A LOSS IN 1977 WHICH, SHORT OF FURTHER REMEDIAL MEASURES, WOULD STEADILY INCREASE THEREAFTER,+ MR. JONES CONTINUED.

+I AM SURE HONOURABLE MEMBERS WILL AGREE THAT THIS IS A SITUATION THAT CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO DEVELOP AND I CAN ASSURE THEM THAT CONSULTATIONS ARE NOW BEING HELD BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMPANY TO WORK OUT THE NECESSARY REMEDIAL MEASURES TO PUT THE COMPANY'S FINANCES ON A SOUNDER FOOTING,+ HE SAID.

THE PROPOSALS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL TODAY, WHICH HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, WERE STEPS WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY AS AN INTERIM MEASURE TO IMPROVE THE COMPANY'S CASH FLOW POSITION, HE ADDED.

ON THE QUESTION OF ROYALTY, MR. JONES SAID IT APPEARED THAT, FOR TAX PURPOSES, A LOSS WAS MADE BY THE COMPANY IN 1975 AND THAT NO ROYALTY WOULD BE PAYABLE FOR THAT YEAR.

+NEVERTHELESS, IN VIEW OF THE LOW RATE OF RETURN ACHIEVED BY THE COMPANY, IT IS CONSIDERED NECESSARY FORMALLY TO ABOLISH THE ROYALTY REQUIREMENT FOR THE REMAINING FIVE YEARS OF THE COMPANY'S FRANCHISE PERIOD, AS THIS WILL ASSIST ANY FURTHER MEASURES WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE FUTURE TO IMPROVE THE COMPANY'S PROFITABILITY,+ HE SAID.

WAIVING THE ROYALTY AND THE MONTHLY FEE OF \$20,000 FOR THE NORTH POINT/HUNG HOM SERVICE FOR THE YEARS 1975 TO 1979, MR. JONES SAID, +IT WOULD BE IN HARMONY WITH THE TREATMENT ALREADY ACCORDED TO THE 'STAR' FERRY COMPANY, THE BUS COMPANIES AND HONG KONG TRAMWAYS.+

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SINGLE ONE CLASS FARE WOULD PRODUCE AN ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL REVENUE OF ABOUT \$2.5 MILLION EACH YEAR AND WOULD SAVE ABOUT \$1 MILLION PER ANNUM IN STAFF AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY HAS PROPOSED TO IMPROVE THE FACILITIES ON THE PRESENT LOWER DECKS OF ITS CROSS HARBOUR VESSELS AND TO SPEND SOME \$1.5 MILLION ON MODIFICATIONS.

THESE IMPROVEMENTS WERE EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT A YEAR TO COMPLETE, BUT INVIEW OF THE NEED FOR IMMEDIATE STEPS TO IMPROVE THE COMPANY'S FINANCIAL POSITION, IT WAS FELT THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ONE-CLASS SYSTEM SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED BEYOND SEPTEMBER 1, MR. JONES SAID.

+THERE SHOULD, HOWEVER, USUALLY BE SUFFICIENT ROOM ON THE PRESENT FIRST CLASS DECK FOR ALL PASSENGERS WHO WISH TO USE IT AND I SHOULD EMPHASISE THAT THE NECESSARY MODIFICATIONS TO VESSELS WILL BE EFFECTED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE,+ HE ADDED.

CALL FOR CLOSER CO-ORDINATION IN YOUTH SERVICES

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THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN TODAY CALLED FOR BETTER CO-ORDINATION, ELIMINATION OF DUPLICATION, AND +A CLEARER OVERALL PERCEPTION OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN ATTAINING THE SHORT AND LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES OF OUR YOUTH SERVICES.+

SPEAKING AT THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID THERE WOULD BE AN INCREASING URGENCY FOR THESE AS SERVICES FOR YOUTH EXPANDED AND BUILT UP.

HE REFERRED TO THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME AND SAID THAT IT WAS EXPECTED TO ENCOMPASS PERHAPS UP TO TWO MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE IN OVER 5,000 RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

+THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT, WHICH HAS BEEN A CATALYST AND A CO-ORDINATOR OF RECREATION AND SPORTS AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL, IS HOPING TO GET ADDITIONAL STAFF DURING THE 1976-77 PERIOD TO IMPLEMENT PHASES II AND III OF ITS RECREATION AND SPORT SCHEME AND TO HAVE RECREATION AND SPORT OFFICERS OPERATING IN 17 DISTRICTS INSTEAD OF ONLY SIX AT PRESENT,+ MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID.

+ANTICIPATING AN EXPANSION OF THE RESOURCES, PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, IT IS PERHAPS TIMELY FOR GOVERNMENT TO STRENGTHEN ITS CO-ORDINATION AT THE DISTRICT, REGIONAL AND CENTRAL LEVELS IN ORDER TO GET MAXIMUM VALUE FOR RESOURCES EXPANDED,+ HE SAID.

MR. CHEONG-LEEN PROPOSED:

- * A MORE EFFECTIVE ROLE BY THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SERVICES FOR YOUTH IN ANTICIPATING MAJOR PROBLEM AREAS, IN CLARIFYING AND CRYSTALLIZING POLICIES, AND IN SETTING UP THE POLICY GUIDELINES IN TIME=
- * A PROPER USE OF THE CENTRAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN CO-ORDINATING AT THE TOP ALL ASPECTS OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR YOUTH ONCE THE POLICIES HAVE BEEN AGREED UPON, AND
- * A GREATER RESPONSIBILITY BY THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICER AMONG THE FIVE O'S -- RECREATION AND SPORT OFFICERS, COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICERS, POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICERS AND URBAN SERVICES OFFICERS IN ADDITION TO THE CDO'S -- TO ENSURE MAXIMUM CO-ORDINATION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT.

+QUITE OFTEN THE INTER-RELATION AND CO-ORDINATION WORKS WELL AMONG THE FIVE O'S, BUT SOMETIMES CO-ORDINATION IS MISSING OR IS MERELY SUPERFICIAL, LEADING TO UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION OF EFFORT OR INEFFECTIVE RESULTS,+ HE SAID.

+ON THE LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE FOR YOUTH SERVICES, IN THE SIMPLE WORDS OF A LAYMAN, I WOULD SAY THAT IT IS TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES TO MAKE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE HEALTHY, RESPONSIBLE, ACTIVE, INTELLIGENT AND USEFUL CITIZENS OF OUR COMMUNITY,+ MR. CHEONG-LEEN CONTINUED.

AS FOR THE SHORT-TERM, A HIGHLY DESIRABLE AND IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE WAS TO ASSIGN ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO REDUCE SHARPLY CRIMINAL TENDENCIES AND OTHER FORMS OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AMONG THE YOUNG PEOPLE, HE SAID.

+IT IS A MATTER OF THE UTMOST URGENCY FOR GOVERNMENT TO EMBARK UPON A PLAN AIMED AT REACHING OUT TO THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR MIDST WHO FOR FAMILY, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, OR OTHER REASONS, ARE POTENTIAL DELINQUENTS OR ARE ON THE BORDERLINE OF BECOMING YOUNG CRIMINALS,+ HE SAID.

A DIFFERENT RANGE OF SERVICES IS CALLED FOR. IT SHOULD:

- * ENCOMPASS AND REACH OUT TO THE YOUTH GANGS THAT DOMINATE AND INSTIL FEAR AT THE NUMEROUS 'BLACK SPOT' PLAY-GROUNDS,
- * MAKE CONTACT WITH YOUTH GANGS LIVING IN THE OLDER HOUSING ESTATES BUT WHO ROAM THE STREETS OF URBAN AREAS SEEKING ACTION, QUICK THRILLS AND EASY MONEY,
- * STRENGTHEN THE LINKS WITH THE AFTERCARE SERVICE OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT,
- * SEEK OUT AND TRAIN VOLUNTEER GROUPS AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL TO GIVE COUNSEL AND LOOK AFTER DELINQUENTS,
- * RESEARCH INTO NEW TECHNIQUES AND PROGRAMMES TO BREAK THE STRANGLEHOLD OF THE TRIAD MOVEMENT ON DELINQUENTS, AND
- * RESEARCH INTO REASONS FOR THE DISAPPEARANCE OF YOUNG GIRLS FROM THEIR HOMES AND FIND OUT WHAT CAN BE DONE TO REDUCE THEIR NUMBER.

+UNLESS ACTION WITH FORESIGHT IS TAKEN NOW, THE RATE OF CRIME -- AND VIOLENT CRIME AT THAT -- WILL NOT COME DOWN BUT WILL WORSEN IN THE YEARS TO COME,+ HE SAID.

IN HIS REPLY, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. DENIS BRAY SAID THAT IT WAS FORTUNATE THAT ONLY A VERY SMALL NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE WAS INVOLVED IN DELINQUENCY AND THAT MOST YOUNGSTERS HAD IN THEM +A LATENT POTENTIAL TO IMPROVE SOCIETY AND IT IS THIS THAT MOST YOUTH SERVICES SEEK TO RELEASE.+

WHILE HE WOULD TRY TO STATE THE POSITION AS HE SAW IT, HE WARNED THAT THIS WAS AN AREA OF CONTROVERSY WHICH HAD NOT RECENTLY BEEN CRYSTALLISED IN A POLICY STATEMENT.

HE SAID THERE WERE DIFFERENT VIEWS ON THE TERM +COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT+ WHICH MR. CHEONG-LEEN HAD USED TO DESCRIBE THE SERVICES AIMED AT ENABLING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BECOME USEFUL CITIZENS.

+THE SOCIAL SCIENTIST SEES A NECESSITY TO ENABLE AN INDIVIDUAL TO FULFIL HIMSELF IN COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT WHILE A LAYMAN THINKS IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO GET PEOPLE LIVING IN THE SAME BLOCK TO GET TOGETHER TO CLEAN THE STAIRS,+ HE SAID.

IT PROBABLY DID NOT MATTER WHICH WAS THE AIM FOR BOTH WERE WORTHY AIMS, HE CONTINUED, BUT IF SOCIAL FULFILMENT LED TO CONFLICT, THE QUESTION BECAME MORE DIFFICULT.

IN HONG KONG, UNLIKE IN WESTERN CULTURES +CONFLICTS FADE OUT IN COMPROMISE,+ HE SAID.

+WHEN THEREFORE THE LEADER OF A GROUP SEES SOMETHING WRONG AND STARTS TO SAY SO THE HONG KONG REACTION IS TO BRING THIS PERSON INTO THE MACHINERY FOR DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM.

+HIS HELP IN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM IS SOUGHT. HIS EXPERIENCE, KNOWLEDGE AND LEADERSHIP ARE DEPLOYED IN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM.

+OF COURSE HE DOES NOT ALWAYS GET HIS OWN WAY BUT HE IS ENABLED TO MAKE A REAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOLUTION OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN CO-OPERATION WITH OTHERS WHO IN TURN BENEFIT FROM THE NEW INSIGHT HE BRINGS.

+THIS IS WHAT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SEEMS TO ME TO BE ABOUT,+ MR. BRAY SAID.

A GREAT MANY YOUNG PEOPLE IN HONG KONG HAD LEARNED THAT ACTION AIMED AT DEALING WITH SOCIAL PROBLEMS WAS A GOOD DEAL MORE SATISFYING THAN MAKING GRANDIOSE GESTURES ABOUT PROBLEMS WHICH WERE SO BIG THAT NO IMMEDIATE SOLUTION WAS POSSIBLE -- WHATEVER MIGHT BE FEASIBLE IN THE LONG TERM, AND NOT ALL THE WORK OF THE FIVE O'S HAD SUCH GRAND ENDS, HE ADDED.

TURNING TO OTHER POINTS RAISED BY MR. CHEONG-LEEN, MR. BRAY AGREED THAT MORE EFFECTIVE CO-ORDINATION WAS NEEDED AS IT WAS IMPORTANT AND WOULD BECOME MORE SO WITH EXPANSION OF THE SERVICES, WHILE ANOTHER LEVEL OF CO-ORDINATION -- THE REGIONAL LEVEL -- COULD BE REQUIRED AS WELL.

THE CDO NOW REGULARLY CHAIRED MEETINGS OF THE FIVE O'S AND IF CDO'S WERE TO HAVE GREATER CO-ORDINATING RESPONSIBILITIES, MORE EXPERIENCED MEN THAN WE HAD BEEN ABLE ALWAYS TO GET IN RECENT YEARS WOULD BE REQUIRED.

A DECISION WAS RECENTLY TAKEN TO TRANSFER RESPONSIBILITY FOR CYO POLICY TO THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS IN ADDITION TO HIS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CDO'S AND RSO'S AND IT WAS HOPED THIS WOULD LEAD TO BETTER CO-ORDINATION.

AT THE DEPARTMENTAL LEVEL MR. BRAY SAID THERE HAD BEEN A HIATUS AND HE WAS NOT SURE WHETHER THE PRESENT STEERING GROUP ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE WERE RIGHT.

HE PROPOSED TO EXAMINE THE PRESENT ORGANISATION WITH THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES.

HE POINTED OUT THAT MR. CHEONG-LEEN'S DEFINITION OF THE OBJECTIVE OF YOUTH SERVICES REQUIRED MANY DISCIPLINES.

+THEY CANNOT PERFORM EFFECTIVELY IN ISOLATION AND AN INTER-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO ANY SOCIAL PROBLEM IS FRAUGHT WITH DIFFICULTIES.

+WE RECOGNISE THEM, WE HAVE DONE SOMETHING TO DEAL WITH THEM. BY NO MEANS HAVE ALL THE PROBLEMS BEEN SOLVED. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO TACKLE THOSE THAT REMAIN,+ HE SAID.

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SAFER INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENT FOR WORKERS

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REGULATIONS MADE BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR WITH THE OBJECT OF BRINGING ABOUT SAFER INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENT FOR WORKERS WERE APPROVED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MOVING THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (GUARDING AND OPERATION OF MACHINERY) REGULATIONS 1976, MR. IAN PRICE, COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, POINTED OUT THAT ABOUT ONE THIRD OF ALL REPORTED INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS WERE CAUSED BY MACHINERY.

+PRESENT REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE FENCING OF MACHINERY HAVE PROVED UNSATISFACTORY BECAUSE THEIR PROVISIONS ARE COUCHED IN BROAD AND GENERAL TERMS, AND DANGEROUS PARTS ARE NOT DEFINED,+ HE EXPLAINED.

+THIS HAS GIVEN RISE TO THE NEED FOR THESE NEW SAFETY REGULATIONS TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON GUARDING OF DANGEROUS MACHINERY,+ HE SAID.

THE NEW REGULATIONS SPECIFY NOT ONLY THE DANGEROUS PARTS OF MACHINERY OR PLANT WHICH NEED EFFECTIVE GUARDING, BUT ALSO FIVE METHODS OF GUARDING, FROM WHICH A PROPRIETOR CAN CHOOSE TO ADOPT ANY ONE OR A COMBINATION OF SEVERAL.

THE FIVE METHODS ARE: FIXED GUARD, INTERLOCKING GUARD, AUTOMATIC GUARD, TRIP GUARD AND TWO-HANDED CONTROL DEVICE.

MR. PRICE SAID THE NEW REGULATIONS WOULD NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THE PROVISION FOR THE FIRST TIME OF GUARDS FOR EACH AND EVERY MACHINE IN HONG KONG.

+AS THE LAW NOW STANDS,+ HE SAID, +ALL DANGEROUS PARTS OF MACHINES ARE REQUIRED TO BE SECURELY FENCED UNDER REGULATION 23 OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS REGULATIONS.+

MR. PRICE SUGGESTED THAT THE REGULATIONS SHOULD NOT BE LOOKED AT SOLEY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COST OF SECURE FENCING.

+AN ACCOUNTANT CAN READILY POINT TO THE COST OF PREVENTIVE MEASURES BUT HE IS NOT CONCERNED, UNFORTUNATELY, WITH THE COST OF ACCIDENTS WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED BY THE ORIGINAL OUTLAY,+ HE SAID.

THE NEW REGULATIONS WOULD NOT BE BROUGHT INTO EFFECT UNTIL APRIL 1, 1977, MR. PRICE SAID, BECAUSE SOME EMPLOYERS MIGHT HAVE TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS TO THEIR MACHINES TO PROVIDE THEM WITH PROPER GUARDING.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE WOULD HELP EDUCATE EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS BY TRAINING AND BY PUBLICITY.

/MR. PRICE

MR. PRICE SAID HE ENVISAGED A FURTHER PERIOD OF AT LEAST SIX MONTHS WHEN THE REGULATIONS WOULD BE ENFORCED WITH DISCRETION.

AN EXPLANATORY HANDBOOK IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE ON THE NEW REGULATIONS WOULD BE PRINTED FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION TO EMPLOYERS IN DUE COURSE. THIS WOULD ILLUSTRATE THE VARIOUS TYPES OF GUARDING SUITABLE FOR THE MORE COMMONLY FOUND MACHINES.

MR. PRICE URGED INDUSTRIALISTS AND ALL THOSE USING OR WORKING ON MACHINERY TO CLOSELY STUDY THE NEW REGULATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN DRAFTED WITH THE NEEDS OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY IN MIND.

FURTHER REGULATIONS MADE BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR WITH THE SAME OBJECT WERE ALSO APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL. THESE WERE THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (DRY BATTERIES) REGULATIONS.

MOVING THE RESOLUTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE REGULATIONS, MR. IAN PRICE, SAID THE AIM WAS TO CONTROL THE HAZARDS POSED BY CARBON BLACK, MANGANESE DIOXIDE AND AMMONIUM CHLORIDE USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF DRY BATTERIES.

HE EXPLAINED THAT CARBON BLACK CAUSED IRRITATION TO THE EYES= MANGANESE DIOXIDE WAS TOXIC AND COULD HAVE CUMULATIVE POISONOUS EFFECTS ON THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM= AND AMMONIUM CHLORIDE COULD CAUSE DERMATITIS.

BUT THE MAIN RISK, MR. PRICE SAID, WAS THE POSSIBILITY OF POISONING BY MANGANESE DIOXIDE WHICH MIGHT BE INGESTED, INHALED OR ABSORBED THROUGH THE SKIN.

THE MEASURES TO CONTROL THESE HAZARDS ARE:-

- * PROPER VENTILATION OF WORKPLACES TO KEEP CONTAMINANTS IN THE ATMOSPHERE WITHIN SAFE LIMITS=
- * SEGREGATION OF CERTAIN PROCESSES OF MANUFACTURE, AND PROPER STORAGE OF THE CONSTITUENT CHEMICALS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF CONTAMINATION=
- * REQUIRING PROPRIETORS TO PROVIDE AND WORKERS TO USE PROTECTIVE CLOTHING TO AVOID CONTACT WITH THESE CHEMICALS=
- * MAINTAINING A MINIMUM STANDARD OF CLEANLINESS FOR WORKPLACES=

AND

- * PROVIDING WASHING FACILITIES FOR WORKERS.

MR. PRICE POINTED OUT THAT PRESENT CONTROL BY WAY OF SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE WAS UNSATISFACTORY IN THAT SUCH REQUIREMENTS COULD ONLY BE IMPOSED AFTER THE PROCESS HAD BEEN IN OPERATION.

TO ALLOW PROPRIETORS TIME TO MAKE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS AND ALTERATIONS TO THEIR FACTORIES, THE REGULATIONS WILL BE BROUGHT INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 1977.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THIS MOTION, THE HON. JAMES WU SAID HE HAD CONSULTED THE INDUSTRY CONCERNED AND MET WITH ITS REPRESENTATIVES.

+I WAS ADVISED THAT THEIR FACTORIES HAD TO PROVIDE FOR REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFENSIVE TRADES ADMINISTERED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

+THEY ALSO SAID THAT IN GENERAL THEIR PRESENT FACILITIES INCORPORATE PROVISIONS THAT ARE EQUAL OR BETTER THAN THOSE REQUIRED UNDER THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS.

+THEY SEE NO DIFFICULTY NOR HARDSHIPS INCURRED DUE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION,+ HE ADDED.

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11 PER CENT INCREASE FOR PENSIONERS
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED AN 11 PER CENT INCREASE FOR ALL PENSIONS IN PAYMENT ON JULY 1, 1976 WITH EFFECT FROM OCTOBER 1.

THE COST OF THE INCREASES IS ESTIMATED AT \$6 MILLION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR AND \$12 MILLION IN A FULL YEAR.

MOVING THE RESOLUTION IN COUNCIL TODAY, THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST OCCASION THE NEW RULES ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN DECEMBER 1975 FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF PENSION INCREASES WERE APPLIED.

THE PRESENT REVIEW COVERED THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 1, 1974 TO JUNE 30 THIS YEAR, HE ADDED.

AS THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) WAS NOT AVAILABLE FOR THE WHOLE OF THIS PERIOD IT WAS NECESSARY TO USE THE OLD MODIFIED CONSUMER PRICE INDEX.

+THERE WAS AN INCREASE OF 9.48 PER CENT IN THE MOVING ANNUAL AVERAGE OF THE MODIFIED CONSUMER PRICE INDEX DURING THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 1, 1974 TO JUNE 30, 1975, AND AN INCREASE OF 1.87 PER CENT IN THE MOVING ANNUAL AVERAGE OF CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) DURING THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1, 1975 TO JUNE 30, 1976, GIVING AN OVERALL INCREASE OF 11.35 PER CENT DURING THE REVIEW PERIOD,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED, FOR THE RECORD, THAT THE AWARD OF ANY INCREASE IN PENSIONS WOULD ALWAYS BE SUBJECT TO THE PROVISION OF FUNDS IN THE NORMAL WAY, AND MUST HAVE REGARD TO THE PREVAILING FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION.

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PLANS TO EXPAND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON. IAN PRICE, TODAY ANNOUNCED HIS PLANS TO EXPAND THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THAT IN THIS CITY OF OVER FOUR MILLION PEOPLE, IT WAS NOT EASY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE OF A CAREER.

+IT IS VITAL, THEREFORE, THAT THE SERVICE SHOULD MEET THE DEMAND MADE ON IT,+ HE SAID.

MR. PRICE HOPED TO EXPAND THE SERVICE IN ORDER TO PROVIDE CAREERS TALKS TO ALL FORM FIVE AND MIDDLE FIVE STUDENTS, OF WHICH ONLY 40 PER CENT ARE COVERED AT PRESENT.

IT WAS HOPED THAT THE SERVICE WOULD EVENTUALLY REACH ALL STUDENTS AT FORM THREE LEVEL AFTER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EDUCATION POLICY OF PROVIDING A THREE-YEAR POST-PRIMARY EDUCATION.

MR. PRICE ALSO HOPED TO EXPAND THE SERVICE OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

THEY ARE:

- * TO INCREASE THE FLOW OF CAREERS INFORMATION BY WAY OF CAREERS LITERATURE, REFERENCE MATERIAL AND AUDIO VISUAL AIDS=
- * TO SET UP NEW BRANCH OFFICES IN AREAS WHERE THE SERVICE IS NEEDED, IN PARTICULAR IN THE NEW TOWNS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES=
- * TO CO-ORDINATE AND MAXIMISE THE EFFORTS OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN THEIR CAREERS GUIDANCE WORK=
- * TO ORGANISE MORE CAREERS SEMINARS=
- * TO HOLD A BIGGER AND BETTER CAREERS EXHIBITION IN THE NEW RAILWAY TERMINAL FROM 19TH TO 28TH NOVEMBER THIS YEAR= AND
- * TO TAKE CAREERS INFORMATION TO RESIDENTS IN HOUSING ESTATES AND REMOTE AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, BY USING THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S MOBILE EXHIBITION UNIT.

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WAYS TO TACKLE CAR EXHAUST POLLUTION

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THE PROBLEM OF CAR EXHAUST POLLUTION IS BEING TACKLED IN SEVERAL WAYS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. ALAN ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT TOLD LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN.

+TAKEN TOGETHER, AND AS THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IS INCREASED AS PLANNED, THESE MEASURES SHOULD BRING ABOUT A GROWING IMPROVEMENT IN THE REDUCTION OF EXHAUST POLLUTION IN AREAS OF DENSE TRAFFIC,+ HE SAID.

DRIVERS OR OWNERS OF VEHICLES REPORTED TO BE EMITTING EXCESSIVE SMOKE ARE REQUIRED TO PRESENT THEIR VEHICLES FOR INSPECTION AND ARE LIABLE TO BE PROSECUTED UNDER ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATIONS, HE POINTED OUT.

DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS, OWNERS OF SOME 4,000 SUCH VEHICLES WERE REQUIRED TO RECTIFY ANY FAULTS FOUND, AND THERE WERE 300 PROSECUTIONS FOR THIS OFFENCE.

+REGULATIONS ARE BEING AMENDED TO PROVIDE LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR THE USE OF SMOKE METERS TO MEASURE EXHAUST EMISSIONS ON THE SPOT. BOTH THE POLICE AND TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ARE EQUIPPED WITH THESE INSTRUMENTS AND THEIR USE WILL MAKE IT EASIER TO ENFORCE THE REGULATIONS,+ MR. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT SAID.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FIXED PENALTIES SCHEME, WHICH INCLUDES THE EMISSION OF EXCESSIVE SMOKE AS AN OFFENCE, SHOULD ALSO LEAD TO MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL.

+IN ADDITION, ANY VEHICLES CALLED IN FOR TESTING FOR OTHER REASONS, ARE ALSO CHECKED FOR EXCESSIVE SMOKE AND IF NECESSARY REMEDIAL WORK IS ORDERED. PLANS ARE IN HAND TO GREATLY INCREASE THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES THAT CAN BE TESTED IN THIS WAY,' HE CONTINUED.

WITH REGARD TO NEW VEHICLES, MR. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT SAID, ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION, LEGISLATION HAD BEEN INTRODUCED REQUIRING THAT NEW VEHICLES IMPORTED INTO HONG KONG SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO MEET THE SAME HIGH STANDARDS OF EXHAUST EMISSION AS THOSE IMPOSED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES.

+THESE STANDARDS APPLY IN HONG KONG TO PETROL ENGINED VEHICLES MANUFACTURED AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 1974, AND TO DIESEL ENGINED VEHICLES MANUFACTURED AFTER SEPTEMBER 1 THIS YEAR.+ HE ADDED.

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CLASS TEACHERS' IMPORTANT ROLE IN SYSTEM
OF ALLOCATING SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES
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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, MR. Q.W. LEE, SAID TODAY THE IMPORTANT ROLE TO BE PLAYED BY TEACHERS IN THE NEW SYSTEM OF ALLOCATING SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES TO PRIMARY SIX PUPILS WAS A VERY REAL ADVANCE EDUCATIONALLY.

ADDRESSING THE FIVE DISTRICTS SCHOOLS JOINT GRADUATION CEREMONY IN THE CITY HALL, MR. LEE SAID : +CHILDREN WILL NOW BE ASSESSED, AND THEIR EDUCATIONAL FUTURE WILL DEPEND NOT ON THEIR PERFORMANCE IN A BRIEF ONCE-AND-FOR-ALL EXAMINATION, BUT ON THE JUDGEMENT OF THEIR CLASS TEACHERS WHO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OBSERVE THEM IN DEPTH OVER AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME.

+THE TEACHERS WILL MAKE THEIR DECISIONS WITH ALL THE SKILL AND DEDICATION THEY POSSESS. THEY WILL NOW RIGHTLY FILL A MUCH MORE IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE NEW SYSTEM.

+I AM CONFIDENT THAT ALL EDUCATION SPONSORS, MEMBERS OF SCHOOL BOARDS, HEADMASTERS, PARENTS AND OTHER PARTIES CONCERNED WILL CO-ORDINATE THEIR EFFORTS TO ASSIST OUR TEACHERS IN DISCHARGING THEIR EVER HEAVIER RESPONSIBILITIES SO THAT THE CONTINUING HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF OUR PRIMARY EDUCATION WILL BE ENSURED.+

MR. LEE SAID THE NEW SYSTEM OF TEACHERS' ASSESSMENT PLUS AN ACADEMIC APTITUDE TEST HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT AS AN ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE ALLOCATION FOLLOWING THE PLANNED DISAPPEARANCE OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS METHOD NOT ONLY REMOVED THE BAD EFFECTS OF THE OLD SYSTEM, BUT ALSO RECOGNISED THE NEW OBJECTIVES OF EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.

+IT GIVES REGARD TO THE TIME-SCALE OF THE CHANGES TO BE MADE AS WELL AS TO THE PUBLIC'S UNEASINESS OVER A SYSTEM WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE NO CENTRAL SUPERVISION.

+IT ALSO TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF THOSE WHO ADVOCATE A TEMPORARY BRIDGE BETWEEN SELECTIVE PUBLIC EXAMINATION AND TEACHERS' ASSESSMENT. THE ACADEMIC APTITUDE TEST IS REALLY AN ANSWER TO SUCH A NEED RATHER THAN AS A NEW FORM OF PUBLIC EXAMINATION TO REPLACE THE OLD ONE,+ MR. LEE STRESSED.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THIS COMPROMISE HAD NOT PLEASED EVERYONE, IT DID SEEM TO HAVE BEEN GREETED BY MOST PEOPLE AS A VERY SENSIBLE MEASURE AND THE GOVERNMENT HAD ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD BE BROUGHT UP FOR REVIEW IN 1980.

EARLIER, MR. LEE SAID : +EDUCATION IS A PART OF SOCIAL PROGRESS WHICH IN ITSELF IS MAKING PROGRESS FROM TIME TO TIME.

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+AT PRESENT, WE ARE AGAIN IN A PERIOD OF MUCH CHANGE BOTH IN THE CONCEPT AND THE SYSTEM OF EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.+

HE SPOKE ABOUT THE COMMENDABLE PROGRESS MADE IN THE INTRODUCTION OF THE +ACTIVITY METHOD+ IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

THE EMPHASIS IN THIS METHOD IS TO REDUCE MEMORISATION OF FACTS SO THAT YOUNG PUPILS, DURING THEIR MOST FORMATIVE YEARS, CAN LEARN TO OBSERVE, THINK AND JUDGE FOR THEMSELVES AND HAVE GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUAL CREATIVITY.

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HONG KONG TIME
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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION WHICH WILL HAVE THE EFFECT OF MAINTAINING HONG KONG STANDARD TIME THROUGHOUT THE NEXT WINTER AND SUMMER TO SEE WHAT PERMANENT ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. DENIS BRAY, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. JAMES WU AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. BRAY NOTED THAT WHEN THE BILL AUTHORISING PERMANENT +HONG KONG TIME+ WAS PUBLISHED, THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO STRONG VIEWS ON THE QUESTION OF THE BEST TIME FOR HONG KONG.

HE SAID THERE WERE PARTIES WHO PREFERRED EITHER A SYSTEM OF NINE HOURS AHEAD OF THE GMT OR GMT PLUS EIGHT.

THE BILL, HE ADDED, SETTLED FOR GMT PLUS NINE AND CERTAINLY GENERATED AN ANIMATED DISCUSSION.

+WE HAVE TRIED GMT PLUS NINE IN THE WINTER WHEN IT WAS ADOPTED AS A FUEL SAVING MEASURE AT THE END OF 1973,+ MR. BRAY SAID.

+IT IS NOW PROPOSED THAT WE HAVE A SUMMER WITH GMT PLUS EIGHT.

+IF AFTER THE EXPERIENCE OF STANDARD TIME THROUGHOUT NEXT WINTER AND SUMMER THIS IS STILL THE FAVOURED TIME SYSTEM, IT WILL BE ADOPTED PERMANENTLY,+ HE ADDED.

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COMPENSATION FOR PEOPLE INJURED AT MTR SITES
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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY, SAID TODAY IF ANYONE VISITING A MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION SITE ON DUTY OR ANYONE WHO WAS OTHERWISE ON SUCH A SITE WITH PERMISSION WAS INJURED OR KILLED ON THE SITE AS A RESULT OF THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE MTR CORPORATION OR ITS SERVANTS OR CONTRACTORS, HE OR HIS DEPENDANTS WOULD HAVE THE NORMAL CIVIL CLAIM FOR DAMAGES.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. ROGER LOBO AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HOWEVER, MR. HOBLEY ADDED, THAT IF SUCH A PERSON WAS INJURED OR KILLED WHOLLY THROUGH HIS OWN FAULT OR ACCIDENTALLY WITHOUT FAULT ON ANYONE'S PART, NEITHER HE NOR HIS DEPENDANTS WOULD HAVE ANY CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION.

+IT IS CONSIDERED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE REASONABLE TO EXPECT EITHER THE GOVERNMENT OR THE CORPORATION TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPENSATING A PERSON, OR HIS DEPENDANTS, WHERE THE INJURY OR DEATH IS ATTRIBUTABLE WHOLLY TO HIS FAULT OR IS ACCIDENTAL,+ HE SAID.

+TO DO SO WOULD BE CONTRARY TO ALL ACCEPTED PRACTICE AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR OTHER SPHERES OF ACTIVITY, WHICH ARE IN THIS RESPECT NO DIFFERENT FROM THE RAILWAY, ARE IMMENSE,+ HE ADDED.

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MEASURES TO IMPROVE TAXI SERVICE BEING CONSIDERED
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A WORKING PARTY REVIEWING ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATIONS IS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING IT AN OFFENCE FOR TAXI DRIVERS TO REFUSE PICKING PASSENGERS WHILE DRIVING ALONG THE ROAD, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. ALAN ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR. THE HON. CHUNG SZE-YUEN, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF THE INCONVENIENCE AND UNDESIRABILITY OF SUCH A PRACTICE.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE FIRST RESPONSIBILITY OF A TAXI DRIVER, DRIVING ALONG A ROAD, MUST BE TO DRIVE SAFELY AND TO OBSERVE TRAFFIC RULES.

+THIS RESPONSIBILITY HAS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AND IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO FORMULATE REGULATIONS WHICH, ON THE ONE HAND, RECOGNISE THAT THERE ARE VALID REASONS WHY TAXI DRIVERS MAY BE UNABLE TO PICK UP PASSENGERS WHEN HAILED, AND ON THE OTHER HAND, DO NOT PROVIDE ERRING TAXI DRIVERS WITH EASY EXCUSES FOR AVOIDING PROSECUTION,+ HE SAID.

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GOVERNOR THANKS LEGCO MEMBERS FOR HARD WORK

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BEFORE CLOSING THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, THANKED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR +THE VERY GREAT VOLUME OF IMPORTANT BUSINESS TRANSACTED AND THE LARGE AMOUNT OF OTHER WORK WELL DONE+.

+I SHOULD LIKE TO WISH THEM ALL SUCH RELAXATIONS AS THEY CAN GET WHICH IS VERY WELL DESERVED BEFORE WE MEET AGAIN,+ HE SAID.

+I NOW ADJOURN THE COUNCIL. THE NEXT SITTING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6 WHEN THE NEW SESSION OF THE COUNCIL WILL BEGIN,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

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BILLS PASSED

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

THEY WERE THE COMMODITIES TRADING BILL 1976, THE BOOKS REGISTRATION BILL 1976, THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1976, THE SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976 AND THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) BILL 1976.

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MA LIU SHUI FERRY SERVICE MADE PERMANENT
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY ADOPTED A MOTION TO INCLUDE THE EXISTING FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN MA LIU SHUI AND WU KAI SHA IN THE SCHEDULE TO THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY (SERVICES) ORDINANCE AND IN THE COMPANY'S FRANCHISE.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. ALAN ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT SAID THE SERVICE WAS STARTED BY THE COMPANY IN JULY 1974 ON A LICENCE GRANTED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT UNDER THE FERRIES ORDINANCE TO REPLACE KAITO SERVICES.

THE KAITOS, WHICH ILLEGALLY CARRIED LARGE NUMBERS OF PICNICKERS BETWEEN THE TWO PLACES, WERE NOT SUITABLE FOR THIS TYPE OF WORK AND COULD NOT HANDLE THE OVERLOADING THAT OCCURRED.

HE RECALLED THAT IN FEBRUARY 1974, A MOTOR JUNK LOADED WITH PASSENGERS CAPSIZED OFF MA LIU SHUI RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF THREE PASSENGERS.

MR. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT SAID THE PRESENT SERVICE USING PROPER FERRYBOATS HAD PROVED POPULAR CARRYING AN AVERAGE OF OVER 30,000 PASSENGERS A MONTH.

SINCE IT HAD BEEN RUNNING SATISFACTORILY, HE SAID, IT SHOULD BE GIVEN MORE PERMANENT STATUS BY INCLUSION IN THE FERRY COMPANY'S FRANCHISE.

THE EXISTING FARE OF \$1 FOR THE ORDINARY CLASS WILL BE MAINTAINED.

A DELUXE CLASS FARE AT \$4 AND HOVERFERRY FARE AT \$5 HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE SCHEDULE SO THAT A MORE COMFORTABLE SERVICE CAN BE INTRODUCED IN FUTURE SHOULD THE DEMAND ARISE, HE SAID.

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SECRETARY FOR NEW TERRITORIES
OPENS SUMMER YOUTH CAMP
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THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. DAVID AKERS-JONES, TODAY OFFICIALLY OPENED A FOUR-DAY YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING CAMP AT TAI PO, AND PRAISED THE ORGANISERS FOR A WELL-DESIGNED PROGRAMME WHICH ENABLED THE YOUTH OF THE DISTRICT TO MAKE THE BEST AND FULLEST USE OF THEIR SUMMER VACATION.

SIXTY YOUNG MEN, AGED BETWEEN 16 AND 25, ARE TAKING PART IN THE CAMP ORGANISED BY THE TAI PO SIX DISTRICTS YOUTH RECREATION CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR. PANG HANG-YIN.

PART OF THIS YEAR'S SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME, THE CAMP INCLUDES SUCH ACTIVITIES AS INITIATIVE TESTS, FIRST AID TRAINING, MAP READING, LIGHT RESCUE WORK AND A FINAL DAY SEMINAR ON YOUTH LEADERSHIP.

MR. AKERS-JONES NOTED THAT THE PROGRAMME UNFOLDED TODAY MARKED A CONCERTED EFFORT TO CO-ORDINATE THE SUMMER ACTIVITIES IN VARIOUS AREAS OF TAI PO.

+AND I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE NUMBER OF YOUTHS TAKING PART IN THESE ACTIVITIES HAS INCREASED EVERY YEAR, AS HAS THE VARIETY OF RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES,+ HE SAID.

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LADY MACLEHOSE TO VISIT SCHOOL FORESTRY WORK CAMP
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LADY MACLEHOSE WILL VISIT THE SCHOOL FORESTRY WORK CAMP AT THE WONG NEI CHUNG FOREST OFFICE TOMORROW (AUGUST 5).

THE CAMP IS ONE OF THE SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES WHICH LADY MACLEHOSE WILL VISIT IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

TWO TEACHERS AND 18 PUPILS OF THE BUDDHIST SIN TAK COLLEGE ARE TAKING PART AND THE PURPOSE OF THE CAMP IS TO PROVIDE SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION IN COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE CIVIC AFFAIRS OF HONG KONG.

THE CAMP ALSO PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE FOR A FEW DAYS IN A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AND TO WORK IN BEAUTIFUL SURROUNDINGS WHILE THE CAMPERS INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNTRYSIDE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY.

THE SIX-DAY PROGRAMME IS ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER THE VISIT.

LADY MACLEHOSE WILL ARRIVE AT THE WONG NEI CHUNG FOREST OFFICE, TYTAM RESERVOIR ROAD, WONG NEI CHUNG GAP (NEAR THE HONG KONG CRICKET CLUB) AT 9.30 A.M.

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WATER CUT
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN MONGKOK, KOWLOON WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS STARTING FROM 1 A.M. ON FRIDAY (AUGUST 6) TO ALLOW THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT A NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY TAI KOK TSUI ROAD, CHERRY STREET, TONG MEI ROAD, FUK TSUN STREET, LIME STREET, LARCH STREET AND WALNUT STREET, INCLUDING ASH STREET, OAK STREET, PINE STREET, BEECH STREET, ELM STREET, IVY STREET AND ANCHOR STREET.

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