



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 1975

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'COOLING-OFF' CLAUSE TO STAY IN NEW LABOUR BILL

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THE CONTROVERSIAL +COOLING-OFF+ PERIOD IS TO STAY IN THE LABOUR RELATIONS BILL. BUT IT WILL ONLY BE BROUGHT INTO EFFECT BY A FUTURE DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IF THERE IS A CLEAR AND PUBLICLY-RECOGNISED NEED FOR IT.

IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON. NEIL HENDERSON, MOVED THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, WHICH WAS PUBLISHED ON MARCH 21 AND INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL ON MAY 7.

MR. HENDERSON TOLD THE COUNCIL THE BILL HAD CAUSED CONSIDERABLE COMMENT - +SOME OF IT REASONABLY WELL-INFORMED, SOME RATHER LESS SO.+

PARTICULARLY, IT HAD NOT BEEN GENERALLY APPRECIATED JUST HOW RARELY THE COOLING-OFF POWERS WERE LIKELY TO BE USED= THAT THE ARBITRATION AND BOARD OF INQUIRY PROCEDURES IN THE BILL COULD - AND WOULD - OFTEN BE ACTIVATED WITHOUT THE COOLING-OFF PERIOD= AND THAT, IN MANY CASES, ANY STRIKE OR LOCK-OUT IN PROGRESS WOULD PROBABLY BE VOLUNTARILY WITHDRAWN DURING ARBITRATION OR BOARD OF INQUIRY HEARINGS.

MR. HENDERSON SAID : +IN LOOKING BACK OVER RECENT YEARS, I CANNOT SAY THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY MAJOR DISPUTE THAT HAD REACHED A STAGE WHERE I WOULD HAVE CONSIDERED IT NECESSARY TO RECOMMEND TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL THAT A COOLING-OFF PERIOD BE IMPOSED.

+DESPITE THE RARITY OF THE EVENT,+ MR. HENDERSON SAID, +THERE IS THIS NEED TO HAVE IN READINESS SOME FORM OF INTERVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC, BETWEEN THE NORMAL LABOUR RELATIONS PROCEDURES, AND THE IMPOSITION OF EMERGENCY REGULATIONS - AN ACTION WHICH IS TOO DRASTIC TO CONTEMPLATE FOR ANY GENUINE LABOUR DISPUTE, HOWEVER MAJOR.

+THEREFORE IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT WHILE PART V OF THE ORDINANCE SHOULD BE LEGISLATED, IT WILL NOT BE BROUGHT INTO EFFECT UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THERE IS A CLEAR AND PUBLICLY-RECOGNISED NEED.+

MR. HENDERSON SAID ONE OTHER MAJOR OBJECTION TO THE BILL HAD BEEN THAT IT DEPRIVED WORKERS OF THE RIGHT TO STRIKE. HE SAID IT WAS TRUE THERE COULD BE A TEMPORARY INFRINGEMENT ON THIS RIGHT, BUT ONLY IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, AND AS AN IMPROVEMENT ON THE PROVISIONS OF THE ILLEGAL STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS ORDINANCE.

THAT ORDINANCE MADE IT A CRIME TO STRIKE IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, WHICH WAS +ABHORRENT - AND RIGHTLY SO - TO ALL RESPONSIBLE UNIONISTS,+ SAID MR. HENDERSON.

THE LABOUR RELATIONS BILL PROVIDED A BETTER BALANCE BETWEEN UNION RIGHTS AND THE RIGHT OF THE PUBLIC TO BE PROTECTED, AND THIS BALANCE HAD BEEN UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTED BY THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD.

MR. HENDERSON SAID HE ALSO WISHED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE COOLING-OFF PERIOD COULD NOT BE IMPOSED TWICE FOR SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME DISPUTE. +IN SHORT, IT MAY NOT BE RE-INTRODUCED AFTER THE 60-DAY PERIOD,+ HE SAID.

ALSO, THE SECTION OF THE BILL PREVENTING THE PUBLISHING OF CERTAIN MATTERS IN RELATION TO BOARDS OF INQUIRY WAS NOT INTENDED TO INHIBIT UNION LEADERS FROM COMMUNICATING WITH THEIR MEMBERS, OR MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEES WITH THEIR BOARDS, AND THIS WAS NOT THE EFFECT OF THE CLAUSE AS DRAFTED.

MR. HENDERSON SAID HE WAS MOST GRATEFUL TO UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FOR THEIR LONG AND PATIENT CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS MADE TO THEM, FROM WHICH USEFUL POINTS HAD EMERGED.

BUT, HE SAID, HE COULD NOT AGREE WITH THE SUGGESTION THAT SPECIAL CONCILIATORS BE GRANTED COMPULSORY POWERS TO CALL IN EITHER PARTY TO A DISPUTE.

+I DOUBT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SUCH A POWER,+ MR. HENDERSON SAID. +THE ESSENCE OF CONCILIATION IS VOLUNTARY, AND ANY FORM OF COMPULSION IN THIS FIELD IS TO SOME EXTENT A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS.+

EVEN THOUGH THE PROPOSAL WAS ONLY TO SUMMON PARTIES SEPARATELY, AND NOT TO COMPEL THEM TO MEET, IN PRACTICE THE RECALCITRANT EMPLOYER HAD ONLY TO TURN UP, SAY +GOOD MORNING,+ THEN LEAVE AGAIN.

AND THE PROBLEM AROSE ON THE WORKERS' SIDE OF WHO WAS TO BE +SUMMONED+, BECAUSE OFTEN - EVEN IF INDIVIDUALS COULD BE ESTABLISHED TO BE TALKING FOR THE WORKERS -- THEY FREQUENTLY DENIED THEY WERE +REPRESENTATIVES+, AND SO COULD JUSTLY EVADE BEING CALLED IN.

+I WOULD PROPOSE, THEREFORE, TO LET THE BILL STAND IN THIS RESPECT, BUT UNDERTAKE TO MY HONOURABLE FRIEND DR. CHUNG TO REVIEW THE POSITION AFTER TWO YEARS' WORKING OF THE NEW PROCEDURES.+

MR. HENDERSON SAID AN AMENDMENT WOULD BE MADE TO THE WORDING OF CLAUSE 11(C), WHICH STATED THAT THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL COULD TAKE +SUCH OTHER ACTION+ AS HE THOUGHT FIT. PARTICULARLY IN THE CHINESE TRANSLATION, THIS GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF UNFETTERED POWERS TO DO ANYTHING.

+OF COURSE SUCH ACTION WAS ONLY INTENDED TO BE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE BILL, INCLUDING THE IMPORTANT POWER OF POSITIVE INACTION,+ MR. HENDERSON SAID. +THE WORDING WILL BE MODIFIED TO MAKE THIS CLEARER.+

HE SAID MANY PEOPLE HAD READ DEEP AND SINISTER SIGNIFICANCE INTO THE FACT THAT THE BILL WAS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THIS TIME.

SOME HAD SAID THE BILL WAS BEING +RUSHED THROUGH+ IN ANTICIPATION OF A MARKED DETERIORATION IN LABOUR RELATIONS= OTHERS THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR IT IN THE PRESENT CALM INDUSTRIAL CLIMATE.

+THE PLAIN AND SIMPLE FACT IS THAT THE NEED TO HAVE CERTAIN STATUTORY PROCEDURES HAS BEEN FORESEEN FOR SOME TIME PAST, AND WORK HAS PROCEEDED ON THE BILL FOR TWO YEARS OR SO, AND IT IS NOW READY FOR PRESENTATION,+ MR. HENDERSON SAID.

+IF THERE IS URGENCY, IT IS ONLY THE GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO GET RID OF ARCHAIC LABOUR LEGISLATION SUCH AS THE ILLEGAL STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS ORDINANCE.+

HE SAID MANY PEOPLE HAD SAID THEY FEARED THAT DELAYS IN PROCEEDINGS COULD ACT TO THE DETRIMENT OF WORKERS.

BUT DELAYING TACTICS WERE COMMON FROM BOTH SIDES IN DISPUTES, AND TIME LIMITS WOULD NOT BE BENEFICIAL - AT LEAST IN SO FAR AS CONCILIATION PROCEDURES WERE CONCERNED.

IN FACT, IN THE COMMON +NON-UNION+ DISPUTE SITUATION IN HONG KONG, IT OFTEN TOOK QUITE SOME TIME TO IDENTIFY WORKERS' SPOKESMEN AND TO GET THEM TO TAKE PART IN THE CONCILIATION PROCESS.

THE ARBITRATION OR BOARD OF INQUIRY STEPS IN THE BILL WERE, HOWEVER, A DIFFERENT CASE, WHERE IT WOULD BE REASONABLE TO IMPOSE A TIME LIMIT IN RELATION TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISPUTE AT THE TIME. THE BILL WOULD BE AMENDED TO ENABLE THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL TO SET TIME LIMITS.

IT HAS ALSO BEEN URGED THAT THERE COULD BE CASES WHERE MORE THAN ONE ARBITRATOR SHOULD BE APPOINTED, AND THE BILL WOULD BE AMENDED TO ALLOW FOR THIS.

MR. HENDERSON SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME DOUBTS ABOUT THE RIGHT OF AUDIENCE BEFORE ARBITRATORS AND BOARDS OF INQUIRY. AMENDMENTS WOULD BE PROPOSED TO MAKE CLEAR THE POSITION OF PARTIES AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN THESE PROCEEDINGS.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE PANEL OF ARBITRATORS WHO COULD BE CALLED ON WOULD BE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, SO IF A CASE AROSE WHERE THERE WERE REASONABLE OBJECTIONS TO A PARTICULAR ARBITRATOR BEING APPOINTED FOR A SPECIFIC DISPUTE, THEY COULD BE MADE TO THE COMMISSIONER BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NAMED AN ARBITRATOR.

SOME THOUGHTFUL COMMENT HAD BEEN PROVOKED THAT THE BILL DID NOT TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TO PROMOTE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.

+THIS, HOWEVER WELL-INTENTIONED, SEEMS TO ME TO MISS THE POINT,+ HE SAID.

THE PROCESS OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING DEPENDED ON A COLLECTIVE DESIRE OF THE PARTIES FOR AGREEMENT. LEGISLATION COULD ONLY BE REQUIRED TO REMOVE OBSTACLES TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, AND AT THE MOMENT THERE WERE NO SUCH OBSTACLES.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE ITS POLICY ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CLEAR BY DECLARING THAT INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION CONVENTION 98 (APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RIGHT TO ORGANISE AND BARGAIN COLLECTIVELY) WAS APPLIED TO HONG KONG.

COMMENTING ON DR. CHUNG'S REFERENCE TO FEARS ABOUT VICTIMISATION OF WORKERS DURING A COOLING-OFF PERIOD, MR. HENDERSON SAID HE TOOK DR. CHUNG'S POINT AND AN AMENDMENT WOULD BE PROPOSED TO DEAL WITH THIS +INSOFAR AS IT CAN BE COVERED BY LEGISLATIVE MEANS.+

FINALLY, HE SAID, THERE HAD BEEN A NUMBER OF COMMENTS ON ITEM 2 OF THE SCHEDULE TO THE BILL, WHICH TRANSFERRED FROM THE MORIBUND ILLEGAL STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS ORDINANCE TO THE TRADE UNIONS ORDINANCE A PROVISION TO PROTECT WORKERS WHO REFUSED TO TAKE PART IN ILLEGAL STRIKES.

UPON REFLECTION, HE HAD DECIDED IT WAS UNDESIRABLE TO IMPORT THIS +PARTICULAR RELIC+ INTO THE TRADE UNIONS ORDINANCE, PARTICULARLY AS IT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE NO MEANING IN FUTURE WITH THE ABOLITION OF THE CONCEPT OF THE ILLEGAL STRIKE. THE ITEM WOULD THEREFORE BE DROPPED.

EARLIER, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, DR. THE HON. CHUNG SZE-YUEN, OUTLINED THE REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED AND CONSIDERED BY A SPECIAL AD HOC GROUP FORMED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

THE GROUP HAD MET WITH ABOUT TEN GROUPS OF PEOPLE REPRESENTING TRADE UNIONS OR INTERESTED IN LABOUR MATTERS.

DR. CHUNG SAID THE MANY REPRESENTATIONS COULD BE DIVIDED INTO THREE CATEGORIES -- THOSE TOTALLY AGAINST THE ENTIRE BILL, THOSE OBJECTING AGAINST THE 'COOLING-OFF' PROVISION, AND THOSE WELCOMING THE LEGISLATIVE MEASURES BUT SUBJECT TO CERTAIN AMENDMENTS.

AFTER LONG DELIBERATIONS, THE AD HOC GROUP CONSIDERED THAT THE COOLING OFF PERIOD CLAUSE SHOULD REMAIN BUT SHOULD NOT BE BROUGHT INTO FORCE UNTIL ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

IT ALSO FELT THAT SOME OF THE REPRESENTATIONS DESERVED SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THESE INCLUDED :-

- \* SUGGESTIONS THAT CONCILIATORS SHOULD BE EMPOWERED TO COMPEL THE PARTIES IN DISPUTE TO MEET WITH THE CONCILIATORS.

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- \* IN THE EVENT THE DISPUTE IS REFERRED TO ARBITRATION, THE ARBITRATOR SHOULD BE MORE THAN ONE PERSON. THE PROCEDURE OF ARBITRATION AND THE SELECTION OF THE ARBITRATOR SHOULD ALSO BE SUBJECT TO THE CONSENT OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED IN THE DISPUTE.
- \* IF A BOARD OF INQUIRY IS APPOINTED TO LOOK INTO THE DISPUTE, THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL SHOULD SPECIFY A PERIOD WITHIN WHICH IT SHOULD SUBMIT ITS REPORT.

IT WAS ALSO FELT THAT EFFECTIVE MEANS TO PROTECT WORKERS AGAINST DISCRIMINATION AND VICTIMIZATION DURING A COOLING OFF PERIOD SHOULD BE WRITTEN INTO THE BILL. IT WAS ARGUED THAT DURING A COOLING OFF PERIOD AN EMPLOYER MAY RESORT TO OTHER MEASURES SHORT OF A LOCK-OUT -- SUCH AS JOB REASSIGNMENT OR PUNITIVE ACTION ON GROUNDS OF ALLEGED NEGLIGENCE OR INCOMPETENCY -- TO VICTIMIZE LABOUR LEADERS.

THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN ALSO SPOKE ON THE BILL.

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SPEEDING UP NEW HOUSING CONSTRUCTION IN  
THE PRIVATE SECTOR

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PART II OF THE LANDLORD AND TENANT ORDINANCE RENT AND TENURE CONTROLS DO NOT APPLY TO NEW BUILDINGS FOR WHICH OCCUPATION PERMITS WERE ISSUED AFTER DECEMBER 14, 1973.

HOWEVER, THIS LEGISLATION IS DUE TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 14, 1976 AND NO DECISION CAN BE TAKEN AT THIS EARLY STAGE ON WHETHER TO RENEW IT BEYOND THAT DATE. THUS DEVELOPERS HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER (WHEN THE PRESENT THREE-YEAR +HOLIDAY+ FOR NEW HOUSING LAPSES) THEIR NEW BUILDINGS WILL BE CONTROLLED AFTER THAT DATE.

THIS LACK OF CERTAINTY IS SAID TO BE INHIBITING NEW INVESTMENT IN HOUSING, AT A TIME WHEN DEVELOPERS SHOULD BE EXPANDING RATHER THAN CONTRACTING PRODUCTION.

THERE HAS BEEN A SHARP DROP IN THE LAST 18 MONTHS IN THE NUMBER OF BUILDING PLANS SUBMITTED BY PRIVATE DEVELOPERS FOR THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE'S APPROVAL- AND THIS WILL HAVE A MARKED EFFECT ON THE NUMBER OF NEW FLATS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN THE FUTURE.

THIS IS SHOWN UP BY THE ACTUAL COMPLETION FIGURES FOR THE METROPOLITAN AREA FOR EACH OF THE LAST FEW YEARS, COMPARED WITH FORECAST FLAT COMPLETIONS FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS :-

<u>PAST PERFORMANCE</u>		<u>FORECAST PRODUCTION</u>	
1972/73	23,700 FLATS	1975/76	13,000 FLATS
1973/74	21,300 FLATS	1976/77	12,000 FLATS
1974/75	19,100 FLATS	1977/78	11,500 FLATS

REDUCED INVESTMENT IN PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING CAN ONLY ADD TO THE HOUSING SHORTAGE, FOR THERE IS AN ABSOLUTE DEMAND FOR HOUSING WHICH, IN THE SHORT TERM, CANNOT BE PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

ANY SLOWING-DOWN NOW WILL RESULT IN A LOSS OF NEW ACCOMMODATION OVER THE NEXT YEAR OR SO, A LOSS WHICH IT IS UNLIKELY CAN BE MADE UP LATER WITHIN THE 10-YEAR HOUSING PROGRAMME. THIS WILL INEVITABLY BRING ABOUT A SHARP RISE IN SELLING PRICES AND RENTS FOR NEW FLATS.

IN ADDITION, THIS CURRENT LACK OF PRIVATE-SECTOR ACTIVITY REDUCES EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AT A TIME WHEN THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR MORE JOBS.

/AGAINST THIS .....

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AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, THE HON. IAN LIGHTBODY, TOLD LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT IT IS THEREFORE VERY MUCH IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO ENCOURAGE NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN THE PRIVATE-SECTOR.

TO ACHIEVE THIS THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED THAT ALL NEW HOUSING COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1977 WILL ENJOY FIVE YEARS OF FREEDOM FROM ANY NEW OR EXTENDED LANDLORD AND TENANT TYPE CONTROLS THAT MAY BE IN FORCE DURING THIS PERIOD.

THUS A BLOCK OF FLATS COMPLETED IN OCTOBER 1976 WILL NOT BE LIABLE TO ANY CONTROLS BEFORE OCTOBER 1981.

THIS ARRANGEMENT, HE SAID, GIVES PRACTICAL ENCOURAGEMENT TO PRIVATE DEVELOPERS WITHOUT TYING GOVERNMENT'S HANDS FOR TOO LONG A PERIOD, AND THE ADVANTAGE IS THAT THE SITUATION CAN BE REVIEWED EVERY YEAR AND IF NECESSARY THE SCHEME CAN BE EXTENDED A YEAR AT A TIME.

MR. LIGHTBODY SAID THE SCHEME APPLIES TO ALL HOUSING COMPLETED SINCE DECEMBER 14, 1973 AND TO HOUSING NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION AS WELL AS TO NEW DEVELOPMENT STARTED AFTER TODAY - BUT PROVIDED THEY ARE COMPLETED BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1977. THE AIM IS TO GET NEW HOUSING CONSTRUCTION MOVING NOW RATHER THAN LATER.

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MORE HYDRANTS FOR KOWLOON WALLED CITY  
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AN ADDITIONAL SEVEN FIRE HYDRANTS WILL SOON BE INSTALLED IN THE ROADS SURROUNDING THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY TO PROVIDE BETTER FIRE COVER FOR THE AREA, THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, TOLD LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. LI FOOK-WO, HE SAID THERE WERE 10 FRESH WATER AND TWO SALT WATER PEDESTAL HYDRANTS LOCATED IN CARPENTER ROAD, JUNCTION ROAD, TUNG TAU CHUEN ROAD AND TUNG SHING ROAD WHICH ENCOMPASSED THE WALLED CITY AND THE ADJOINING SQUATTER AREAS.

+NO PART OF THE AREA IS MORE THAN 500 FEET FROM A HYDRANT,+ MR. MCDONALD SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE PURPOSE IN PROVIDING WITHIN THE WALLED CITY AREA BECAUSE OF ITS CONGESTED LAYOUT WHICH MAKES VEHICULAR ACCESS BY FIRE FIGHTING APPLIANCE IMPOSSIBLE.

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NEW PHARMACY AND POISONS REGULATIONS

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THE SALE AND MANUFACTURE OF ALL PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS IN HONG KONG WILL BE SUBJECT TO CONTROL UNDER NEW REGULATIONS DRAWN UP BY THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD FOLLOWING A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE EXISTING PROVISIONS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. THE HON. GERALD CHOA, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON WHEN HE MOVED THE RESOLUTIONS IN RESPECT OF THE PHARMACY AND POISONS REGULATIONS 1975 AND THE POISONS LIST REGULATIONS 1975.

INCLUDED IN THE NEW PROVISIONS, HE SAID, IS A REQUIREMENT FOR ALL PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, WHETHER THEY INCLUDE POISONS OR NOT, IMPORTED INTO OR MANUFACTURED IN HONG KONG, TO BE REGISTERED BEFORE THEY CAN BE OFFERED FOR SALE.

+THE AIM OF THIS IS TO SAFEGUARD THE PUBLIC AGAINST COUNTERFEIT AND SUB-STANDARD MEDICINES WHICH USUALLY ORIGINATE FROM UNKNOWN SOURCES,+ HE SAID.

ANOTHER PROVISION IS THAT ALL LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURERS WILL HAVE TO BE LICENSED.

THIS, DR. CHOA EXPLAINED, WILL ENABLE THE BOARD TO EXERCISE APPROPRIATE CONTROL AND SUPERVISION AND TO ENSURE THAT ALL MEDICINES MANUFACTURED LOCALLY ARE UP TO A RECOGNISED STANDARD AND MANUFACTURERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO HAVE THEIR PRODUCTS ANALYSED.

PROVISION HAS ALSO BEEN MADE FOR THE DETAILS OF THE COMPOSITION OF MEDICINES TO BE PRINTED ON THEIR CONTAINERS.

+THIS IS TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF MEDICINES OF UNSPECIFIED CONTENT AND IS AN ADDITIONAL MEASURE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC,+ SAID DR. CHOA.

NO CHANGE HAS BEEN MADE REGARDING THE SALE OR MANUFACTURE OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINES AS LISTED IN THE CHINESE HERBAL MATERIA MEDICA.

HOWEVER, IF A PRODUCT CONTAINS MEDICINE NOT LISTED IN THIS CHINESE HERBAL MATERIA MEDICA, IT WILL BE SUBJECT TO CONTROL UNDER THE NEW REGULATIONS, AND IT WILL BE AN OFFENCE FOR ANY PERSON TO SELL SUCH AN UNREGISTERED PRODUCT.

IN THE CASE OF LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, THE BOARD WILL HAVE THE POWER TO ISSUE CERTIFICATES TO THE EFFECT THAT THESE PRODUCTS ARE UP TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION'S RECOMMENDED STANDARDS.

DR. CHOA SAID THIS WOULD BE A SERVICE TO MANUFACTURERS WHICH HE HOPED WOULD ASSIST IN PROMOTING AND FACILITATING EXPORT.

TURNING TO THE POISONS LIST REGULATIONS, THE DIRECTOR SAID THEY HAVE BEEN EXTENDED TO COVER A MUCH WIDER RANGE OF SUBSTANCES AND DRUGS AS IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY TO INCLUDE MANY SUBSTANCES AND NEW DRUGS WHICH ARE ON THE MARKET AND WHICH MAY GIVE RISE TO UNDERSIRABLE EFFECTS IF USED WITHOUT PROPER SAFEGUARDS.

BUT ON THE ADVICE OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE PROPOSED AN AMENDMENT TO THE POISONS LIST TO EXEMPT ORAL CONTRACEPTIVE PILLS FROM PRESCRIPTION AND CONTROL OF SALE, AND HE WENT ON TO EXPLAIN WHY IT WAS NECESSARY TO DO SO.

AMONG A VERY WIDE RANGE AND VARIETY OF SUBSTANCES INCLUDED IN THE POISONS LIST IS A GROUP OF POTENT THERAPEUTIC AGENTS KNOWN AS HORMONES, OF WHICH THERE ARE NO LESS THAN SIX DIFFERENT CATEGORIES.

THESE HORMONAL SUBSTANCES BY REASON OF THEIR EFFECTS ON THE PHYSIOLOGY OF THE HUMAN BODY COULD HARDLY BE REGARDED AS INNOCUOUS AND BE TREATED AS SUCH, DR. CHOA SAID.

TWO OF THESE HORMONES, ESTROGEN AND PROGESTERONE, ARE NORMALLY USED IN THE CONTRACEPTIVE PILL.

THE DIRECTOR SAID WHILE THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD IS AWARE OF UP-TO-DATE CHANGES OF AUTHORITATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL OPINION IN BOTH THE U.K. AND U.S.A. WHERE THE CONTRACEPTIVE PILL IS AVAILABLE ONLY ON A PHYSICIAN'S PRESCRIPTION, THE FACT REMAINS THAT RISKS IN THE FORM OF COMPLICATIONS AND SIDE EFFECTS DO EXIST, PARTICULARLY IF THESE SUBSTANCES ARE TAKEN IN HIGH DOSAGES.

+WHEN ONE CONSIDERS FURTHER THAT THE PILL IN ORDER TO BE EFFECTIVE HAS TO BE TAKEN REGULARLY DAY AFTER DAY ON A LONG TERMS BASIS CAUTION SHOULD BE EXERCISED,+ HE SAID.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SAID, IT IS ACCEPTED ON BALANCE THAT, IN THE PECULIAR CIRCUMSTANCES IN HONG KONG, THE USUAL LOW DOSAGE CONTRACEPTIVE PILLS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE WITHOUT THE NEED FOR A PRESCRIPTION.

LOW DOSAGE CONTRACEPTIVE PILLS ARE THOSE WITH AN ESTROGENIC CONTENT OF NOT MORE THAN 50 MICROGRAMME AND PROGESTATIONAL CONTENT OF NOT MORE THAN FIVE MILLIGRAM.

HOWEVER, AS A SAFEGUARD THE BOARD INTENDS TO CONSIDER INTRODUCING A REQUIREMENT FOR SUITABLE WARNING NOTICES TO BE PROVIDED WITH EVERY PACKAGE OF ALL ORAL CONTRACEPTIVE PILLS AS IS ALREADY THE CASE WITH SOME PREPARATIONS.

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EXEMPTION OF PILL FROM PRESCRIPTION LIST WELCOMED

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UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY DESCRIBED AS +MOST BENEFICIAL+ THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO EXEMPT LOW DOSAGE CONTRACEPTIVE PILLS FROM THE PRESCRIPTION LIST AND SAID IT WOULD BE WIDELY WELCOMED.

+ANY DECISION WHICH WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN LESS GENERAL USE WOULD HAVE SERIOUS SOCIOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCE, AND PUT FURTHER STRAIN UPON THE GOVERNMENT IN PLANNING AND IN PROVIDING ADEQUATE SOCIAL SERVICES,+ THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG SAID.

HE NOTED THAT HONG KONG'S BIRTH RATE HAD FALLEN SINCE 1958 -- WHEN THE PILL FIRST BECAME AVAILABLE -- FROM A HIGH OF 37 PER THOUSAND BETWEEN 1956 AND 1958 TO JUST UNDER 20 PER THOUSAND IN THE YEARS 1970-74.

WHILE THE FALL IN BIRTH RATES AND THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PILL MAY BE A PURE COINCIDENCE, HE FELT THAT MORE LIKELY THE DECLINE WAS A DIRECT CONSEQUENCE OF GENERAL USE OF THE PILL.

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BOATING ON RESERVOIRS

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ADVICE WILL BE SOUGHT FROM THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT ON THE PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE BOATING FACILITIES ON RESERVOIRS.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. JOHN BREMBRIDGE, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. LI FOOK-KOW SAID THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER PRIORITY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BOATING FACILITIES ON RESERVOIRS AND ELSEWHERE AND TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF THE WATER AUTHORITY.

HE SAID THE SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL HAD DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF SUCH FACILITIES WITH THE INTERESTED PARTIES, INCLUDING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG CANOE UNION, THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, THE CHIEF RECREATION AND SPORTS OFFICER AND INDIVIDUAL CANOEISTS WHO EXPRESSED DIVERGENT VIEWS ON THE PROPOSAL.

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MAJOR INDUSTRIAL TRAINING SCHEMES PLANNED

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TWO BILLS AIMED AT LAUNCHING MAJOR TRAINING SCHEMES FOR THE CLOTHING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES WERE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE BILLS, SPONSORED BY THE TWO INDUSTRIES THEMSELVES, PROVIDE FOR THE SETTING UP OF SEPARATE STATUTORY BODIES TO BUILD AND ADMINISTER SPECIAL CENTRES TO TRAIN SKILLED PERSONNEL FOR THE INDUSTRIES.

THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING SCHEME WILL BE FINANCED BY A LEVY ON ALL EXPORT CLOTHING ITEMS, AND THE CONSTRUCTION SCHEME BY A LEVY ON THE VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

INTRODUCING THE BILLS INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON. NEIL HENDERSON, SAID THE AMOUNT OF THE LEVIES WOULD BE RECOMMENDED BY THE INDIVIDUAL STATUTORY AUTHORITY AND DECIDED BY RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR. HENDERSON PRAISED THE PROVISIONAL CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY, CHAIRED BY MR. FRANCIS Y.H. TIEN, AND THE PROVISIONAL CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY, CHAIRED BY MR. WONG TIN-SUNG, FOR THEIR HARD WORK IN GIVING BIRTH TO THE TWO BILLS.

HE SAID THE TWO STATUTORY BODIES TO BE SET UP UNDER THE BILLS WOULD FOLLOW THE COMPOSITION OF THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITIES, COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS INTERESTS IN THE TWO INDUSTRIES, PUBLIC OFFICIALS IN CONCERNED DEPARTMENTS, TRADE UNION OFFICIALS AND LAY MEMBERS.

THE TRAINING CENTRES PROPOSED IN THE BILLS WOULD AIM TO PRODUCE 600 CRAFTSMEN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY EVERY YEAR, AND 3,600 OPERATIVES FOR THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY.

MR. HENDERSON SAID PROCEDURES FOR COLLECTION OF THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY LEVY WOULD FOLLOW THE LINES OF THE COLLECTION PROCEDURES FOR THE TAX ON ALL EXPORT GOODS WHICH FINANCED THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.

THIS WOULD MEAN THE MINIMUM INCONVENIENCE TO EXPORTERS.

+I MUST EMPHASISE,+ HE SAID, +THAT ALTHOUGH THE PROCEDURE AND MECHANICS OF COLLECTION WILL BE SIMILAR, THE TRAINING LEVY WILL BE ENTIRELY SEPARATE AND DISTINCT FROM THE AD VALOREM CHARGES CURRENTLY COLLECTED FOR THE SUBVENTION OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND, OF COURSE, WILL ONLY BE APPLIED TO EXPORTED CLOTHING ITEMS.+

MR. HENDERSON SAID .....

MR. HENDERSON SAID IT WAS THOUGHT THAT THE LEVY WOULD PROBABLY BE OF THE ORDER OF 0.03 PER CENT OF THE F.O.B. VALUE OF CLOTHING ITEMS EXPORTED.

THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY WOULD BE THE STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR COLLECTION OF THE LEVY, AND THE PROCEEDS WOULD THEN BE PAID TO THE AUTHORITY.

THE BILL PROVIDED FOR THE IMPOSITION OF A SURCHARGE ON EXPORTERS WHO FAILED TO LODGE A DECLARATION ON EXPORT CLOTHING ITEMS.

MR. HENDERSON SAID : +WHILE THE LEVY WILL FALL, FOR PRACTICAL REASONS, ON TO THE EXPORTERS TO PAY, NO DOUBT THIS WILL BE PASSED BACK TO THE MANUFACTURERS WHO WILL ULTIMATELY BE THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE SCHEME, WHICH IN THE LONG RUN WILL HELP HONG KONG MAINTAIN ITS EXPORTS COMPETITIVENESS BY ENSURING THE SUPPLY OF TRAINED OPERATIVES.+

HE SAID THAT UNDER THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING SCHEME : CONTRACTORS, AND THE AUTHORISED PERSON UNDER THE BUILDING ORDINANCE (SUCH AS THE ARCHITECT), WOULD BE REQUIRED TO GIVE NOTICE TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE START AND FINISH OF EACH PROJECT AND CONTRACTORS WOULD HAVE TO NOTIFY THE PAYMENTS THEY RECEIVED.

SURCHARGES WOULD BE IMPOSED ON PEOPLE FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THESE MEASURES, AND THE AUTHORITY WOULD SET A MINIMUM VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORKS BELOW WHICH THE LEVY WOULD NOT BE EXACTED.

IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE LEVY WOULD BE SOME 0.2 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF EACH PROJECT.

+I SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE BILL ALSO BINDS THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THEIR CONTRACTS,+ SAID MR. HENDERSON.

+IT IS RIGHT THAT THIS SHOULD BE SO, SINCE, AS A MAJOR EMPLOYER, THEY ALSO BENEFIT FROM IMPROVED INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

+IN OVERALL TERMS, FOR BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, THERE MAY BE A FRACTIONAL RISE IN CONSTRUCTION WORK CONTRACT COSTS, BUT THIS FALLS EQUALLY ON ALL CONTRACTORS AND THROUGH THEM TO THE WIDE VARIETY OF CLIENTS, SO THAT ALL MUST TAKE THIS LEVY INTO ACCOUNT WHEN TENDERING.

+IT IS, HOWEVER, AN INVESTMENT IN OUR HUMAN RESOURCES, AND IN THE LONG TERM WILL LEAD TO MORE EFFICIENT PERFORMANCE IN THE INDUSTRY, TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL.+

HE ADDED : +I EARNESTLY ENJOIN THE FUTURE AUTHORITY TO ENSURE THAT THE TRAINING EMPHASISES INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND INCULCATES SAFETY CONSCIOUSNESS INTO ITS TRAINEES.+

MID-LEVELS BUILDING FREEZE EXTENDED  
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED A TWO-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE TEMPORARY RESTRICTION ON BUILDING DEVELOPMENT IN THE MID-LEVELS UNTILL JULY 31, 1977.

THE EXTENSION WAS RELUCTANTLY SUPPORTED BY THE HON. JAMES WU, WHO MADE IT CLEAR THAT THIS WAS THE LAST TIME HE WOULD SUPPORT AN EXTENSION. HE ALSO ASKED FOR AN ASSURANCE THAT THE RESTRICTION WOULD NOT BE EXTENDED FURTHER.

IN REPLY, THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD SAID HE COULD NOT GIVE AN ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE AT THIS TIME THAT NO FURTHER EXTENSION WOULD BE REQUIRED.

+I CAN HOWEVER SAY THAT IF THE WORKS ON THE HIGHWAYS PROJECTS REQUIRED TO ALLEVIATE THE TRAFFIC PROBLEM IN THE AREA PROCEED AS CURRENTLY PROGRAMMED, SUFFICIENT PROGRESS WILL HAVE BEEN MADE BY JULY 1977 TO ALLOW THE EASING OF RESTRICTIONS AND CONTROLS,+ HE SAID.

+ONLY THEN,+ HE ADDED, +CAN SUBMISSIONS OF PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS BE ACCEPTED AND CONSTRUCTION WORKS SUBSEQUENTLY PUT IN HAND SO THAT THE COMPLETION AND OCCUPATION OF THESE PROJECTS WILL COINCIDE APPROXIMATELY WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE ESSENTIAL HIGHWAYS WORKS.+

IN HIS SPEECH, MR. JAMES WU RECALLED THAT HE AND THREE OTHER UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS HAD BEEN AGAINST THE RESTRICTIONS FROM THE START, AND HAD POINTED OUT THAT PROLONGED RESTRICTION WAS NOT THE ANSWER.

THE RESTRICTIONS, HE NOTED, HAD TWICE BEFORE BEEN EXTENDED FOR A TOTAL OF 18 MONTHS.

RECENT REPORTS IN MAJOR CHINESE NEWSPAPERS, HE SAID, INDICATED THAT REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS WERE BECOMING INCREASINGLY VOCAL ON WHAT THEY CONSIDERED TO BE A RESTRICTIVE ATTITUDE AND UNENTHUSIASTIC, IF NOT INCONSIDERATE, RESPONSE ON PRIVATE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

+IT IS,+ HE STRESSED, +HIGH TIME FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO SHOW GOODWILL AND CREDIBILITY BY ANNOUNCING THAT THIS WOULD BE THE LAST EXTENSION AND TO FURTHER SHOW FAITH BY ACCEPTING SUBMISSION OF BUILDING PLANS FOR APPROVAL PENDING CONSENT TO COMMENCE WORK AT THE EXPIRY OF THE MORATORIUM.+

SUCH A MEASURE, HE ADDED, +WOULD GREATLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE MUTUAL TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE DEVELOPERS AND TO THE BEST PUBLIC INTEREST, AS IT WOULD RESULT IN INCREASED INVESTMENT, INCREASED EMPLOYMENT, INCREASED EXECUTIVE-TYPE ACCOMMODATION AND INCREASED PUBLIC REVENUE.+

MR. WU NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALL ALONG ARGUED THE NECESSITY OF THE RESTRICTION ON THE POINT OF TRAFFIC CONGESTION. BUT HE REITERATED HIS BELIEF, SHARED BY SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES, THAT TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN THE MID-LEVELS IS FAR LESS SEVERE THAN IN SOME OTHER PARTS OF HONG KONG, AND COMPARES FAVOURABLY WITH MAIN APPROACHES TO OTHER BIG CITIES.

HE VIEWED THE LATEST EXTENSION AS +OVER CAUTIOUS+ AND RECALLED A PREVIOUS WARNING BY THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG THAT THE MORATORIUM DELAYS THE PROVISION OF MUCH-NEEDED HOUSING.

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VIOLENCE ON TV KEPT TO MINIMUM

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THE TELEVISION AUTHORITY IS VERY MUCH CONCERNED TO ENSURE THAT THE INCIDENCE OF VIOLENCE ON TELEVISION DOES NOT REACH EXCESSIVE PROPORTIONS, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. LI FOOK-KOW, TOLD LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE AMOUNT OF PROGRAMMES PORTRAYING VIOLENCE, HE SAID, IS KEPT TO A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL PARTICULARLY DURING PEAK VIEWING HOURS OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE PROGRAMMES, WHICH ATTRACT ABOUT 95 PER CENT OF ALL VIEWERS.

MR. LI WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN WHO WANTED TO KNOW WHAT STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THE LEVEL OF TV VIOLENCE IN HONG KONG WOULD NOT BE HIGHER THAN THAT OF BRITAIN.

MR. LI POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS NOT REALISTIC TO DRAW COMPARISONS BETWEEN BRITAIN AND HONG KONG ON THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE SCREENED ON TELEVISION AS THE IMPACT OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF PORTRAYED VIOLENCE VARIES WITH THE CULTURAL AND SOCIAL BACKGROUND OF THE VIEWER.

+INDEED, SOME PROGRAMMES WHICH HAVE BEEN BROADCAST ON TELEVISION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND WHICH ARE SUBSEQUENTLY SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL FOR LOCAL SCREENING, HAVE BEEN FOUND TO BE UNSUITABLE EITHER IN PART OR IN WHOLE,+ HE SAID.

MR. LI ADDED THAT PROGRAMME STANDARDS ARE GOVERNED BY THE TELEVISION CODE OF PRACTICE, WHICH REFLECTS WHAT THE TELEVISION AUTHORITY CONSIDERS TO BE THE STANDARDS OF ACCEPTABILITY PREVAILING IN HONG KONG.

+IN THIS CONNECTION THE AUTHORITY TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE ADVICE OF THE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD AND CONDUCTED A SURVEY IN APRIL 1974 TO ASCERTAIN THE PUBLIC'S VIEWS ON SCREENED SEX AND VIOLENCE BOTH IN THE CINEMA AND ON TELEVISION,+ HE SAID.

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TRAFFIC WARDENS WIN PUBLIC RESPECT  
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TRAFFIC WARDENS AND MOTORISTS IN HONG KONG APPEAR TO BE GETTING ALONG MUCH BETTER THAN BEFORE, DESPITE THE POPULAR BELIEF THAT THEY ARE NATURAL ENEMIES.

ACCORDING TO THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE TRAFFIC WARDENS HAD WON THE RESPECT OF THE GENERAL COMMUNITY BY TRYING TO EXECUTE THEIR DUTIES BY EARNING THE PUBLIC'S CO-OPERATION RATHER THAN BY SUMMARILY ISSUING TICKETS.

+AS A RESULT OF THIS APPROACH, THE WARDENS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GAIN THE RESPECT OF THE PUBLIC AT LARGE AND THERE IS NOW LESS ANTAGONISM BETWEEN THE MOTORIST AND THE ENFORCEMENT AGENCY,+ HE TOLD COUNCIL.

MR. ROBSON MADE THE REMARKS IN A REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. ROGER LOBO ON THE TRAFFIC PROBLEMS IN THE SECTION OF CANTON ROAD BETWEEN HAIPHONG ROAD AND SALISBURY ROAD.

MR. ROBSON SAID THE POLICE WERE WELL AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS AT THIS LOCATION.

REGULAR ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL PARKING WAS AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE TAKEN, PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT OF SERIOUS BREACHES OF THE LAW, HE SAID.

IT WAS ALSO EXPECTED THAT WITH THE OPENING IN SEPTEMBER OF THE FINAL SECTION OF KOWLOON PARK DRIVE - A SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY BETWEEN PEKING ROAD AND SALISBURY ROAD - CONDITIONS WOULD IMPROVE SINCE THROUGH TRAFFIC WILL BE ABLE TO BY-PASS THIS SECTION OF CANTON ROAD.

MR. ROBSON EXPLAINED THAT 'NO WAITING' SIGNS HAD BEEN POSTED ALONG THE STRETCH OF CANTON ROAD, BUT IT HAD PROVED DIFFICULT TO STRICTLY ENFORCE THE SIGNS AT ALL TIMES.

THIS WAS MAINLY BECAUSE OF HEAVY TOURIST TRAFFIC IN THE AREA IN THE FORM OF COACHES, TAXIS AND HOTEL CARS AND IT WAS NOT EASY TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN DRIVERS WHO WERE LEGITIMATELY PICKING UP AND SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS AND THOSE WHO WILFULLY DISOBEYED THE 'NO WAITING' SIGNS AND CAUSED OBSTRUCTION.

MR. ROBSON SAID THAT SINCE LAST MONTH, TRAFFIC WARDENS HAD STEPPED UP POLICING OF THE 'NO WAITING' RESTRICTIONS IN TSIM SHA TSUI BY REDUCING THE SIZE OF THEIR BEATS BECAUSE OF INCREASING DISREGARD OF SUCH TRAFFIC BANS IN THE AREA.

HOWEVER, LIMITED MANPOWER PREVENTED THE PERMANENT STATIONING OF A TRAFFIC WARDEN ALONG THE PARTICULAR STRETCH OF CANTON ROAD.

IN THE OPINION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR. ROBSON ADDED, THIS STRETCH OF ROAD WAS NOT BADLY CONSTRUCTED COMPARED WITH THOSE IN OTHER AREAS OF KOWLOON, NOR DID THE COMMISSIONER CONSIDER IT PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS TO MOTORISTS.

NEW BOARD TO RUN ALL LOTTERIES

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LOTTERIES TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE HONG KONG LOTTERIES BOARD WILL EVENTUALLY REPLACE ALL CASH-SWEEPS ORGANISED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB DURING THE RACING SEASON AND ALL GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES ORGANISED DURING THE NON-RACING SEASON.

HOWEVER, THE HON. LI FOOK-KOW, ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, TOLD LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON THAT THE REMAINING GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES ALREADY PLANNED FOR THIS YEAR BY THE LOTTERIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WILL NOT BE AFFECTED.

MR. LI, WHO WAS MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BETTING DUTY (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL WHICH SEEKS TO CREATE THE HONG KONG LOTTERIES BOARD, SAID IT WOULD COMPRISE SEVEN MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR. FOUR OF THE MEMBERS WILL BE STEWARDS OF THE JOCKEY CLUB NOMINATED BY THE CLUB AND THE OTHER THREE MEMBERS WILL INCLUDE TWO GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES.

THE BILL PROVIDES FOR THE LOTTERIES BOARD TO MAKE USE OF THE FACILITIES OF THE JOCKEY CLUB. IT STIPULATES THAT NOT LESS THAN 80 PER CENT OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE LOTTERY, AFTER DEDUCTING A LOTTERY DUTY OF 25 PER CENT, WILL BE ALLOCATED IN PRIZES.

MR. LI SAID THIS PERCENTAGE RETURN TO PUNTERS IS THE SAME AS THE EXISTING GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES BUT IS HIGHER IN COMPARISON WITH CASH-SWEEPS.

AFTER PAYMENT FOR PRIZES, BETTING DUTY AND OPERATING EXPENSES, SURPLUS PROCEEDS OF THE LOTTERY WILL BE PAID INTO THE LOTTERIES FUND WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO BE USED FOR SOCIAL WELFARE PROJECTS.

MR. LI ADDED THAT IF THE REVENUE OF THE FUND DECLINED AS A RESULT OF THE CHANGES, +THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS INDICATED THAT FAVOURABLE CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO EITHER ADJUSTING THE BETTING DUTY ON LOTTERIES OR BY APPROPRIATING A SUITABLE SUM TO THE FUND FROM THE GENERAL REVENUE.+

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GOVT STUDYING OPEN UNIVERSITY METHODS  
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AN INTERNAL WORKING PARTY WILL SOON BE SET UP TO ASSESS AVAILABLE MATERIAL AND DETERMINE METHODS, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE OPEN UNIVERSITY, FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE HON. PETER WILLIAMS IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. WILLIAMS SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT, THE UNIVERSITIES AND THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING THE POSSIBLE APPLICATION TO HONG KONG OF WHAT ARE KNOWN BY EXPERTS AS 'INDEPENDENT' OR 'DISTANCE LEARNING' SYSTEMS, WHICH INCLUDES THE OPEN UNIVERSITY METHOD.

HE NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD, DURING THE PAST YEAR OR SO, COLLECTED MUCH INFORMATION ON THE OPEN UNIVERSITY AND ON UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SYSTEMS IN GENERAL.

THIS, HE SAID, INCLUDED A REPORT BY A SENIOR OFFICER OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WHO VISITED AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM TO SEE A NUMBER OF HIGHER LEARNING SYSTEMS AT WORK.

MR. WILLIAMS SAID: +HONG KONG OFFERS CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL FOR THE ADOPTION OF UNIVERSITY EXTENSION TECHNIQUES.

+EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION IS NOW WELL ESTABLISHED HERE AND IT APPEARS LOGICAL THAT THIS MEDIUM SHOULD IN DUE COURSE BE APPLIED TO OUR HIGHER EDUCATION.+

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TWO BILLS PASSED  
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TWO BILLS COMPLETED THEIR PASSAGE THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THEY WERE THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) (NO.3) BILL WHICH GIVES GREATER PROTECTION TO BUYERS OF UNCOMPLETED FLATS, AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL WHICH PROVIDES THE RIGHT TO ENTER PROPERTIES WITHIN 70 METERS OF THE RAILWAY AREA.

SEVEN OTHER BILLS WERE TABLED IN COUNCIL FOR THEIR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. THESE WERE: THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL, THE LOANS (GOVERNMENT BONDS) BILL, THE BETTING DUTY (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL, THE MULTI-STORY BUILDINGS (OWNERS INCORPORATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING (CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY) BILL AND THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING (CLOTHING INDUSTRY) BILL.

DEBATE ON THESE BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

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48,554 ALLOCATED SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES  
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A TOTAL OF 48,554 CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES, BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE 1975 SECONDARY SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THIS REPRESENTS 50.51 PER CENT OF THE 96,119 CANDIDATES WHO SAT THE EXAMINATIONS.

COMPARABLE FIGURES FOR RECENT YEARS ARE:-

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NO. OF CANDIDATES SAT</u>	<u>NO. OF PLACES ALLOCATED</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
1972	79,156	34,989	44.2
1973	87,374	41,483	47.5
1974	93,501	46,762	50.01
1975	96,119	48,554	50.51

THE TOTAL ALLOCATED IN 1975 IS MADE UP AS FOLLOWS:-

	<u>NO. OF PLACES ALLOCATED</u>
GOVERNMENT AND AIDED 5-YEAR	17,219
PRIVATE 5-YEAR	1,500
AIDED 3-YEAR	1,260
PRIVATE 3-YEAR	28,575

THESE FIGURES COVER ALL CANDIDATES IN BLOCKS XI TO X5= Y1 AND Y2 AND ALSO 244 BLOCK Z1 CANDIDATES WHO WERE OFFERED UNFILLED 3-YEAR PLACES IN SCHOOLS NEAR THEIR HOMES. THE ALLOCATIONS TO THE 244 BLOCK Z1 CANDIDATES DO NOT APPEAR IN THE FULL RESULTS LISTS ISSUED TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS= THEIR PARENTS WILL BE INFORMED INDIVIDUALLY IN WRITING.

CANDIDATES MAY INQUIRE ABOUT THEIR RESULTS AT THEIR PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO-DAY. THEY SHOULD REPORT TO THEIR PRIMARY SCHOOLS AGAIN ON TUESDAY, JULY 22, 1975 TAKING WITH THEM THEIR ADMISSION FORMS, IN ORDER THAT THEIR INDIVIDUAL RESULTS SLIPS MAY BE ATTACHED TO THE FORMS.

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