



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1977

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
MORE AMENITIES AND RECREATION FACILITIES FOR TSUEN WAN .	1
FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT CRITICISES SAN PO KONG FACTORY OWNERS AND WORKERS FOR IGNORING FIRE DANGER WARNINGS ...	2
SLIGHT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES RECORDED	3
WATER CUT IN CAUSEWAY BAY AREA	4
URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS ON TO KWA WAN ROAD	5
DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS TO VISIT KWONG WAH HOSPITAL ...	5
FEBRUARY BANKING STATISTICS RELEASED	6
UNOFFICIALS TO COMMENT ON BUDGET PROPOSALS ON WEDNESDAY	7
EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS GENERALLY ACCEPT PRINCIPLE OF PAID ANNUAL LEAVE FOR WORKERS	8

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1977

- 1 -

MORE AMENITIES AND RECREATION FACILITIES FOR TSUEN WAN
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EFFORTS WILL BE STEPPED UP IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS TO PROVIDE MORE AMENITIES AND RECREATION FACILITIES IN TSUEN WAN TO MAKE THE FAST-GROWING NEW TOWN A MORE ATTRACTIVE PLACE TO LIVE IN.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE TSUEN WAN TOWN MANAGER AND DISTRICT OFFICER, MR. JAMES HAYES, WHEN HE ADDRESSED A LUNCH PARTY HE HOSTED FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND PUBLIC ORGANISATIONS TODAY.

MR. HAYES SAID WORK ON THE \$19.2 MILLION MULTI-PURPOSE AUDITORIUM IN TSUEN WAN WOULD START NEXT MONTH AND BE READY FOR USE IN 1979 TO PROVIDE MUCH-NEEDED FACILITIES FOR THE INCREASING CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA.

OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS, HE SAID, INCLUDED A SPORTS GROUND IN NORTH KWAI CHUNG, AN INDOOR GAMES HALL IN SOUTH KWAI CHUNG, THE CONVERSION OF THE YEUNG UK ROAD SPORTS GROUND TO A 10,000-SEAT STADIUM, THE TSO KUNG TAM RECREATION AND SPORTS CENTRE WHICH WILL BE OPERATIONAL IN 1978-79, AND THE CONVERSION OF THE 60-ACRE GIN DRINKERS BAY REFUSE TIP TO AMENITY USE.

+IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, A COUNTRY CLUB WILL BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS, AND THERE WILL BE ADDITIONS TO THE FAMOUS MONASTERY BELT IN NORTH TSUEN WAN, WITH ITS PRIVATELY-PROVIDED RECREATIONAL AMENITIES,+ HE SAID.

MR. HAYES SAID THAT WITH ALL THESE PROJECTS, TOGETHER WITH MANY MORE MINOR AMENITIES, +THE NET RESULT WILL BE THE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN WHICH WILL BECOME A MORE ATTRACTIVE PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE AND BRING UP YOUNG FAMILIES.+

IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, HE SAID SOME NEW GOVERNMENT-BUILT AMENITIES WERE COMPLETED TO MATCH THE +MASS OF CONCRETE+ THAT HAD GONE UP IN TSUEN WAN.

+THESE INCLUDE A TSUEN WAN SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX, THREE COMMUNITY HALLS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AND A NUMBER OF OTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES,+ HE SAID.

BY THE +MASS OF CONCRETE+, MR. HAYES WAS REFERRING TO THE THREE NEW HOUSING ESTATES AND SOME MAJOR ADDITIONS TO EXISTING ONES WHICH HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTED IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, PROVIDING ACCOMMODATION FOR 100,000 PERSONS.

+IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THESE YEARS HAVE SEEN THE COMPLETION OF 22 NEW COMMERCIAL RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS (WITH 382 FLOORS) AND 41 NEW FACTORY BUILDINGS (WITH 258 FLOORS), WITH MANY OTHER UNDER CONSTRUCTION,+ HE ADDED.

ON THE COMMUNITY-BUILDING SIDE, MR. HAYES FELT THERE WAS THE NEED FOR AN INCREASING INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL PEOPLE IN THE PROCESS OF PLANNING AND MANAGING THE NEW TOWN.

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/2

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1977

- 2 -

OVER 100 FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT NOTICES ISSUED
AFTER VISIT TO SAN PO KONG FACTORIES
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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY CRITICISED A NUMBER OF FACTORY PROPRIETORS AND WORKERS IN SAN PO KONG FOR FAILING TO KEEP THE COMMON MEANS OF ESCAPE IN THEIR BUILDINGS FREE OF OBSTRUCTION DESPITE AN ADVANCE NOTICE OF AN INSPECTION VISIT TO THE AREA LAST WEEK BY FIRE OFFICERS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT DESCRIBED THE RESULT OF THE INSPECTION AS +DEPLORABLE+.

HE POINTED OUT THAT SAN PO KONG HAD IN FACT A BAD RECORD AS FAR AS THE NUMBER AND SEVERITY OF FIRES WERE CONCERNED.

DURING THE EXTENSIVE TWO-DAY INSPECTION, MORE THAN 20 FIRE OFFICERS CALLED ON 240 FACTORIES IN TSAT PO AND PAT TAT STREETS.

THEY DISCOVERED THAT THE COMMON MEANS OF ESCAPE IN THE MAJORITY OF THESE FACTORIES WERE OBSTRUCTED EITHER BY RAW MATERIAL OR FINISHED PRODUCTS.

OTHER PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY THE OFFICERS INCLUDED UNAUTHORISED ALTERATIONS OR EXTENSIONS, OBSTRUCTION TO FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATIONS AND THE USE OF LIFT LOBBIES OR CENTRAL COMMON CORRIDORS AS STORAGE AREAS.

AS A RESULT, 115 FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT NOTICES HAVE TO BE ISSUED AND 30 SUMMONSES TAKEN OUT AGAINST THE FACTORIES FOR CONTRAVENTION OF THE REQUIREMENTS IN THE ABATEMENT NOTICES PREVIOUSLY SERVED ON THEM.

SINCE THE AREA INSPECTION SCHEME WAS FIRST INTRODUCED EARLY THIS YEAR, VISITS HAVE BEEN MADE TO FACTORIES IN WONG CHUK HANG AND KWAI CHUNG WITH ENCOURAGING RESULTS.

IN THESE BUILDINGS, IT WAS APPARENT THAT THE SUSTAINED PUBLICITY HAD ACHIEVED ITS OBJECTIVE WITH PEOPLE RESPONDING TO IT, THE SPOKESMAN COMMENTED.

+HOWEVER, THE REAL VALUE OF THESE INSPECTIONS RELIES MUCH ON THE GOODWILL OF THE OCCUPIERS OR OWNERS OF A BUILDING.

+OUR INTENTION IS TO HAVE CLEAR AND UNOBSTRUCTED MEANS OF ESCAPE AND FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT PROPERLY MAINTAINED AND EASILY REACHED.

+AS FIRE LOSSES IN INDUSTRY USUALLY MAKE UP THE GREATER PROPORTION OF TOTAL FIRE LOSSES IN ANY YEAR IN HONG KONG, WE ONLY HOPE THAT THE MANAGEMENT AND WORKERS WILL COME TO ACCEPT THAT SAFETY FROM FIRE IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERYONE,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN WARNED THAT IN VIEW OF THE MOST UNSATISFACTORY SITUATION FOUND IN SAN PO KONG, OFFICERS OF THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU, TO BE SUPPORTED BY PERSONNEL FROM THE OPERATIONAL UNITS OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, WOULD BE CARRYING OUT FURTHER INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA SHORTLY.

+DETAILS OF THE FORTHCOMING VISIT WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN DUE COURSE,+ HE ADDED.

SLIGHT INCREASE IN NUMBER OF VEHICLES

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THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES REGISTERED IN HONG KONG LAST YEAR STOOD AT 191,746 — AN INCREASE OF 1.98 PER CENT OVER 1975, THOUGH FAR BELOW THE 1973 ALL-TIME HIGH OF 202,953.

ACCORDING TO FIGURES PUBLISHED TODAY BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, 1976 WAS A RECORD YEAR IN TERMS OF REGISTRATION OF GOODS VEHICLES, WITH 6,986 NEW ENTRIES RECORDED.

THIS BROUGHT THE OVERALL FIGURE OF GOODS VEHICLES TO 36,553 AS COMPARED WITH 31,660 IN 1975.

THE INCREASE WAS LARGELY DUE TO WORKS ON THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY AND MAJOR PUBLIC PROJECTS WHICH REQUIRED A LARGE FLEET OF GOODS VEHICLES.

DURING THE YEAR, THE NUMBER OF PRIVATE CARS CONTINUED TO DROP TO 113,665, COMPARED WITH 114,260 IN 1975.

HOWEVER, WITH THE ECONOMY BACK ON ITS FEET, THE NUMBER OF PRIVATE CARS ROSE TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR. NEW REGISTRATIONS IN THE LAST QUARTER EXCEEDED THE NUMBER OF CARS TAKEN OFF THE ROAD BY 633.

THUS, THE UNUSUAL SITUATION BETWEEN 1974 AND 1976 WHEN, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES WAS ON THE DECREASE, CHANGED DURING THE LATTER HALF OF LAST YEAR.

COMMENTING ON THE FIGURES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID THE DECLINE IN VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS IN THESE YEARS WAS CONFINED TO MOTOR CARS AND MOTOR CYCLES WHILE THE NUMBER OF PUBLIC AND COMMERCIAL VEHICLES CONTINUED TO RISE.

AT THE END OF LAST YEAR, THERE WERE 21,285 MOTOR CYCLES AND SCOOTERS ON THE ROAD, COMPARED WITH 22,290 IN 1975.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE NUMBER OF TAXIS STOOD AT 4,994, 240 MORE THAN IN 1975. THE INCREASE WAS DUE TO THE INTRODUCTION LAST OCTOBER OF A NEW TAXI SERVICE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

UNDER THE FIRST STAGE OF THE EXPANSION PROGRAMME FOR TAXI SERVICES, 240 LICENCES WERE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE YEAR FOR VEHICLES PERMITTED TO PLY FOR HIRE IN THE NORTHERN AND MORE RURAL PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

MORE NEW TERRITORIES TAXI LICENCES, UP TO A TOTAL OF 750, WILL BE ISSUED THIS YEAR.

AS FOR PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, THE FIGURE ROSE FROM 4,307 IN 1975 TO 4,346 LAST YEAR.

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1977

- 4 -

THE NUMBER OF PUBLIC HIRE CARS ALSO GREW FROM 1,283 IN 1975 TO 1,322.

AT THE SAME TIME, AN INCREASE OF 209 WAS RECORDED IN THE NUMBER OF BUSES, ~~BRINGING THE TOTAL TO 3,919.~~

THE TOTAL REVENUE FROM VEHICLE LICENCE FEES AND REGISTRATION TAX AMOUNTED TO \$283.8 MILLION LAST YEAR -- \$67.9 MILLION UP ON THE 1975 FIGURE.

OF THIS, \$91.8 MILLION WAS FROM THE FIRST REGISTRATION TAX AND \$192 MILLION FROM LICENCE FEES AND OTHERS.

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WATER CUT
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN CAUSEWAY BAY WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 30) TO ENABLE THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TO CARRY OUT A NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY LAN FONG ROAD, LEE GARDEN ROAD, FOO NING STREET AND PERCIVAL STREET FROM HENNESSY ROAD TO LEIGHTON ROAD.

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/5

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1977

- 5 -

URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS ON TO KWA WAN ROAD
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URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS WILL BE IMPOSED ON TO KWA WAN ROAD BETWEEN MOK CHEONG STREET AND SAN MA TAU STREET ON SATURDAY (APRIL 2).

FROM 10 A.M. ON THAT DAY, ALL MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES, WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STOP ON THE ROAD TO PICK UP OR SET DOWN PASSENGERS AND TO LOAD OR UNLOAD GOODS BETWEEN 7 A.M. AND 10 A.M. AND BETWEEN 4 P.M. AND 7 P.M. DAILY.

THE RESTRICTIONS ARE AIMED AT IMPROVING TRAFFIC CONDITIONS ALONG THAT SECTION OF TO KWA WAN ROAD.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS TO VISIT KWONG WAH HOSPITAL
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THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR. JOHN WALDEN, WILL TOUR THE KWONG WAH HOSPITAL TOMORROW AFTERNOON (TUESDAY) ON AN INSPECTION VISIT.

AS ONE OF THE THREE HOSPITALS IN THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, THE KWONG WAH HOSPITAL PROVIDES FREE MEDICAL AND NURSING CARE FOR THE POOR AND THE SICK IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE HOSPITAL WAS BUILT IN 1911 AND LATER EXTENDED IN SIX PHASES TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING NEEDS OF THE PUBLIC. THE EXTENSION PROJECT STARTED IN 1956 AND WAS COMPLETED IN 1965. IT NOW COMPRISES 28 WARDS WITH A TOTAL OF 1,542 BEDS.

ACCOMPANIED BY DR. CHARM HOI-SANG, CHAIRMAN OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS AND MR. WILLIAM MA, CHAIRMAN OF THE KWONG WAH HOSPITAL SUB-COMMITTEE, MR. WALDEN WILL INSPECT THE VARIOUS FACILITIES OF THE HOSPITAL.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO COVER THE VISIT. THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS WILL ARRIVE AT THE KWONG WAH HOSPITAL, WATERLOO ROAD AT 3.30 P.M.

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/6

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1977

- 6 -

FEBRUARY BANKING STATISTICS

BANKING DEPOSITS AT THE END OF FEBRUARY STOOD AT \$45,347 MILLION, COMPRISING \$11,274 MILLION IN DEMAND DEPOSITS, \$17,490 MILLION IN TIME DEPOSITS AND \$16,583 MILLION IN SAVINGS DEPOSITS.

THERE WERE 74 LICENSED BANKS IN HONG KONG AT THE END OF LAST MONTH.

THE FOLLOWING TABLES RELEASED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING TODAY GIVES A DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF BANK LIABILITIES AND ASSETS AND MONEY SUPPLY FOR THE MONTH: -

<u>LIABILITIES</u>	<u>\$MILLION</u>
1. DEPOSITS	45,347
2. AMOUNT DUE TO BANKS ABROAD	28,465
3. OTHER LIABILITIES	<u>8,471</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$ 82,283</u>

<u>ASSETS</u>		<u>\$MILLION</u>
1. CASH		1,104
2. AMOUNT DUE FROM BANKS ABROAD:		
(I) DEMAND AND SHORT TERM CLAIMS	21,804	
(II) TIME DEPOSITS	<u>3,754</u>	25,558
3. LOANS AND ADVANCES:		
(I) HONG KONG	30,818	
(II) ABROAD	<u>14,157</u>	44,975
4. INVESTMENTS:		
(I) HONG KONG	3,257	
(II) ABROAD	80	3,337
5. OTHER ASSETS:		
(I) HONG KONG	3,955	
(II) ABROAD	<u>3,354</u>	<u>7,309</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>\$82,283</u>

AVERAGE LIQUIDITY DURING MONTH

43.89 PER CENT

MONEY SUPPLY

<u>MONEY SUPPLY</u>	<u>\$MILLION</u>
1. LEGAL TENDER COINS AND NOTES IN CIRCULATION (A)	
(I) COMMERCIAL BANK ISSUES	5,386
(II) GOVERNMENT ISSUES	558
	<u>5,944</u>
2. LICENSED BANKS' HOLDINGS OF LEGAL TENDER COINS AND NOTES (B)	1,104
3. LEGAL TENDER COINS AND NOTES IN HANDS OF NON-BANK PUBLIC (A) - (B) = C	4,840
4. DEMAND DEPOSITS WITH LICENSED BANKS (D)	11,274
5. MONEY SUPPLY (DEFINITION 1) (C) + (D) = (E)	16,114
6. TIME DEPOSITS WITH LICENSED BANKS (F)	17,490
7. SAVINGS DEPOSITS WITH LICENSED BANKS (G)	16,583
8. MONEY SUPPLY (DEFINITION 2) (E) + (F) + (G) = (H)	50,187

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BUDGET DEBATE RESUMES ON WEDNESDAY
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THE BUDGET DEBATE WILL BE RESUMED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 30) WHEN SEVEN UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL SPEAK ON THE BUDGET PROPOSALS.

THE DEBATE WILL BE CONTINUED ON THURSDAY WITH EIGHT MORE UNOFFICIALS SPEAKING.

SPEAKERS ON WEDNESDAY WILL BE THE HON. Q.W. LEE, THE HON. ROGER LOBO, THE HON. JAMES WU, THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, THE HON. LI FOOK-WO, THE HON. JOHN BREMRIDGE AND DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG.

ON THURSDAY THE UNOFFICIAL SPEAKERS WILL BE THE HON. KO SIU-WAH, THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN, THE HON. S.L. CHEN, THE HON. LYDIA DUNN, DR. THE HON. HENRY HU, REV. THE HON. PATRICK MCGOVERN, THE HON. WONG LAM AND DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG.

BEFORE THE START OF THE DEBATE, THE HON. T.S. LO WILL ASK THE GOVERNMENT IF IT IS YET IN A POSITION TO MAKE A STATEMENT ABOUT THE DEATH OF MRS. PONG CHEUNG SHING-HA WHICH OCCURRED IN QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL IN JULY LAST YEAR.

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MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1977

- 8 -

PRINCIPLE OF PAID ANNUAL LEAVE
GENERALLY ACCEPTED BY FOUR MAIN EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS
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THE PHILOSOPHY THAT A WORKER NEEDS SEVEN DAYS' CONSECUTIVE LEAVE A YEAR TO "RECHARGE HIS BATTERIES" HAS SO FAR GONE UNCHALLENGED SINCE THE SUBJECT WAS MENTIONED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. IAN PRICE TODAY (MONDAY) WHEN HE ADDRESSED THE HONG KONG COTTON SPINNERS' ASSOCIATION AT A LUNCHEON HELD AT THE MANDARIN HOTEL.

EXPLAINING THE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND THE CONCEPT OF PAID ANNUAL LEAVE, HE SAID IT WAS SIMPLY THAT EVERY EMPLOYEE SHOULD RELAX FOR SEVEN CONSECUTIVE DAYS EACH YEAR WITHOUT CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OF PAY SO THAT HE COULD RECHARGE HIS BATTERIES AND RETURN TO WORK PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY REFRESHED.

MR. PRICE SAID: +IN EARLY OCTOBER 1976 I CONSULTED THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD AND THE FOUR MAIN EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS. I SENT THEM FOR THEIR VIEWS AN INFORMAL DRAFT BILL PREPARED FOR THE PURPOSE OF STIMULATING DISCUSSION ON HOW THE PRINCIPLE OF PAID ANNUAL LEAVE COULD BE PUT INTO EFFECT BY WAY OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

+THIS DOCUMENT SUCCEEDED ADMIRABLY IN ITS OBJECTIVE AND I RECEIVED MANY IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS -- SOME CONTRADICTORY AND MANY IGNORING THE BASIC PHILOSOPHY WHICH I HAVE STATED EARLIER, BUT NONE CHALLENGING IT.

+ALTHOUGH IN GENERAL THE PRINCIPLE OF PAID ANNUAL LEAVE WAS ACCEPTED BY THE FOUR ASSOCIATIONS, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM OF THE DETAILS AS ORIGINALLY DRAFTED, PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT OF THE CONCEPT OF SEVEN CONSECUTIVE DAYS' ANNUAL LEAVE,+ MR. PRICE ADDED.

HE SAID CONSULTATIONS CONTINUED AND THAT IT WAS NOT UNTIL MARCH 3 THAT HE RECEIVED THE JOINT VIEWS OF THE FOUR EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

HE REITERATED THAT HIS CURRENT THINKING WAS THAT SEVEN DAYS' PAID ANNUAL LEAVE SHOULD BE GRANTED TO EMPLOYEES IN RESPECT OF EACH PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS CONTINUOUS EMPLOYMENT TO BE FIXED BY THE EMPLOYER AFTER CONSULTATION WITH HIS EMPLOYEES, AND THAT THE SEVEN CONSECUTIVE DAYS SHOULD BE TAKEN EN BLOCK, OR PARTLY COUPLED WITH STATUTORY HOLIDAYS OR REST DAYS IN WHICH CASE THE BALANCE OF THE ANNUAL LEAVE SHOULD BE GRANTED LATER AS INDIVIDUAL PAID HOLIDAYS.

/PAYMENT

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1977

- 9 -

PAYMENT FOR THE ANNUAL LEAVE, THE COMMISSIONER SAID, SHOULD BE ON THE SAME RATE AS ORDINARY WAGES AND NO PAYMENT WOULD BE ALLOWED IN LIEU OF GRANTING SUCH ANNUAL LEAVE.

AS A TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENT, HE ADDED, THERE WOULD BE A CLAUSE IN THE DRAFT BILL TO STATE THAT ALL EMPLOYEES UNDER A CONTINUOUS CONTRACT WOULD, ON JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR, BE DEEMED TO HAVE COMPLETED 12 MONTHS' CONTINUOUS EMPLOYMENT AND HENCE WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR ANNUAL LEAVE DURING THE 12 MONTHS OF 1978.

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