



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1975

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SECONDARY SCHOOLS URGED TO MAKE
POSITIVE SUGGESTIONS TO E.D.

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THE RETIRING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (ADMINISTRATION), MR. CHARLES LOWE, TODAY CALLED ON SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE COMMON CORE COURSE AND MAKE POSITIVE SUGGESTIONS TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FOR IMPROVEMENT.

+WITHOUT FEEDBACK NOTHING CAN SUCCEED OR BE IMPROVED AND THE SCHOOLS MUST SUPPLY IT,+ MR. LOWE TOLD THE GATHERING AT THE SPEECH DAY OF ST. PAUL'S CONVENT SCHOOL.

THE NEW SYLLABUSES WOULD NEED A GREAT DEAL OF MODIFICATION AND IMPROVEMENT.

IN STATING THAT SCHOOLS SHOULD AIM AT MORE CURRICULAR AUTONOMY, MR. LOWE SAID : +IT IS THERE FOR THE ASKING, AVAILABLE ON DEMAND. THESE REMARKS ARE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COMMON CORE COURSE. THERE ARE GROUNDS FOR BELIEF THAT THE TRADITIONAL THREE-YEAR JUNIOR MIDDLE COURSE AND TWO-YEAR SENIOR MIDDLE COURSE TO WHICH WE HAVE REVERTED MAY NOT BE THE BEST EDUCATIONAL DECISION.+

PERSONALLY, MR. LOWE PREFERRED A TWO-YEAR JUNIOR AND A THREE-YEAR SENIOR COURSE. HE WOULD CERTAINLY SUPPORT SCHOOLS WHICH PREFERRED TO TAKE THE COMMON CORE FOR TWO YEARS.

BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT +OTHER EDUCATIONISTS WANT A FIVE-YEAR PRIMARY AND A FOUR NOT FIVE-YEAR SECONDARY COURSE FOR ALL. THIS GETS OVER THE JUNIOR CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION HURDLE.+

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR STATED THAT THE WORKING PARTY ON THE ABOLITION OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION HAD COMPLETED ITS REPORT AND HE HOPED IT WOULD GO TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION SOON FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL TO PUBLICISE.

+INFORMED AND COMMON REACTION IS ESSENTIAL TO EVALUATE THE PROPOSALS. IN MY VIEW, IT IS ILLOGICAL TO ABOLISH S.S.E.E. WHICH SERIOUSLY DAMAGED THE SIXTH YEAR OF THE PRIMARY COURSE IF ONLY TO REPLACE IT WITH J.C.E. WHICH IS LIKELY TO RUIN THREE YEARS OF THE JUNIOR MIDDLE COURSE AND IMPOSE AN INTOLERABLE BURDEN ON CHILDREN AT A CRUCIAL STAGE OF THEIR DEVELOPMENT.

+THE J.C.E. MAY INDEED HAVE A BACKLASH AS DOES MATRICULATION. WHAT THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG RECENTLY SAID WAS ENTIRELY CORRECT. THE PLAIN FACT IS THAT THE 6TH FORMS SHOULD NOT AND CANNOT CATER JUST FOR POTENTIAL UNIVERSITY ENTRANTS.

+THE UNIVERSITY SHOULD NOT MAKE THE 6TH FORMS A KIND OF ANTE-CHAMBER TO THE FACULTIES NOR SHOULD THE UNIVERSITY EXPECT 6TH FORMS TO CARRY OUT UNIVERSITY LEVEL WORK FOR THEM. IF WE HAD THE IMAGINATION TO DEPART FROM SLAVISHLY COPYING U.K. PRACTICE, WE COULD HAVE MORE GENERAL AND LESS NARROW 6TH FORM COURSES,+ HE SAID.

/MR. LOWE

MR. LOWE STRESSED THAT THE 6TH FORMS SHOULD BE USED AS PREPARATION FOR A WIDE VARIETY OF FAIRLY GENERALISED CAREER AND TRAINING OPTIONS. THERE SHOULD NOT BE TWO SORTS OF 6TH FORMS.

THE J.C.E. PROPOSAL, HE SAID, IN SPITE OF FREQUENT PROMISES OF OPEN DEBATE HAD NEVER BEEN FAIRLY PUT TO THE PUBLIC.

+IF THE PEOPLE WANT IT, THEY CAN HAVE IT. BUT I THINK ALL THE PEOPLE REALLY WANT ARE MORE SECONDARY PLACES, PROBABLY MORE THAN THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY AND HOUSING.+

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE ABSURD AMOUNT OF HOMEWORK CHILDREN WERE GIVEN.

HE EMPHASISED THAT +THE ROLE OF HOMEWORK IS FAIRLY CLEAR - CONSOLIDATION. IT CAN BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. IF SET IN VAST QUANTITIES, CONFUSION AND EXHAUSTION SETS IN. IF A GREAT DEAL OF HOMEWORK IS NECESSARY TO COVER THE SYLLABUS, THE ANSWER IS NOT TO SET MORE AND MORE BUT FOR HEADS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO INSIST ON A SHORTER SYLLABUS.+

MR. LOWE CAUTIONED THAT TOO MUCH HOMEWORK WAS PARTICULARLY BAD AT THE PRIMARY LEVEL.

SAYING THAT HE WAS A STRONG ADVOCATE OF THE EDUCATION OF GIRLS, MR. LOWE SAID GIRLS NEEDED EDUCATION MORE THAN BOYS BECAUSE THEY AS MOTHERS WERE THE EDUCATORS OF THE FAMILY. THE SCHOOL'S ROLE WAS LESS IMPORTANT EDUCATIONALLY THAN THE FAMILY'S.

+FAMILY EDUCATION IS VITAL FOR COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT,+ HE ADDED.

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION OF THE TEACHERS IN HONG KONG.

+FORMAL EDUCATION,+ HE SAID, +BEGINS AND MAY WELL END WITH THE TEACHER IN THE CLASSROOM WITH 40 TO 45 PUPILS. IT IS WHAT THE TEACHER DOES, HIS INTERACTION WITH THE PUPILS THAT COUNTS, NOT SO MUCH THE PRECISE TEACHING TECHNIQUES.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE VITAL THING WAS THAT ALL CHILDREN OF ALL ABILITIES MUST BE GIVEN THE ASPIRATION AND EXPECTATION OF DOING REASONABLY WELL.

+GIVEN THAT EXPECTATION THEY WILL DO WELL. FAR TOO MANY CHILDREN ARE WRITTEN OFF IN PRIMARY BECAUSE THEY ARE WEAK IN, SAY MATHS OR WITHOUT EXPLORING AND FOSTERING THEIR OTHER ABILITIES.+

MR. LOWE ALSO CONGRATULATED THE PUPILS OF HONG KONG AND IN PARTICULAR THOSE OF ST. PAUL'S CONVENT SCHOOL.

HE WISHED THE SENIOR PUPILS OF THE SCHOOL EVERY SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS WHEN THEY VENTURED OUT INTO WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS +THAT STRANGE, ALARMING YET EXCITING OUTSIDE WORLD WHICH IS ADULT LIFE+ AND FOR WHICH SCHOOLS EXISTED TO PREPARE THEM.

FIRE PREVENTION EXHIBITION OPENED BY FIRE CHIEF

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TOP MANagements SHOULD PERSONALLY INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN A DETERMINED AND SUSTAINED EFFORT TO PROTECT EMPLOYEES AND PROPERTY FROM FIRE - IN THEIR OWN INTEREST AS MUCH AS ANYONE ELSE'S.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR. FRED WATSON, WHEN OPENING A FIVE-DAY FIRE PREVENTION EXHIBITION AT THE OCEAN TERMINAL.

MR. WATSON SAID THAT OWNERS AND MANAGERS OF FACTORIES HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF RESPONSIBILITY IN SEEING THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE HAS BEEN DONE TO MINIMISE THE CHANCES OF FIRE OCCURRING IN THEIR PREMISES AND THAT, IF FIRE DOES OCCUR, HARM TO PERSONS AND MATERIAL DAMAGE IS KEPT TO A MINIMUM. +IT IS NOT A RESPONSIBILITY TO BE REGARDED AS BOTHERSOME AND OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE AND WHICH CAN BE DELEGATED TO SOME JUNIOR EMPLOYEE,+ MR. WATSON EMPHASISED.

MR. WATSON SAID THAT, LIKE OTHER FIRES, MOST OF THOSE IN INDUSTRY COULD BE AVOIDED BY COMMON SENSE AND BY FOLLOWING GOOD HOUSEKEEPING RULES.

+EXCEPT IN A FEW EXCEPTIONAL CASES,+ HE STATED, +FIRE CAN ONLY OCCUR WHEN A SOURCE OF IGNITION COMES INTO CONTACT WITH MATERIAL WHICH WILL BURN, AND THIS MAY BE EITHER SOLID, LIQUID, GAS OR VAPOUR.

+IF SOURCES OF IGNITION WERE STRICTLY CONTROLLED AND REGULARLY MAINTAINED AND INSPECTED, THE DANGER OF FIRE OCCURRING WOULD BE LESSENED.+

MR. WATSON SAID REDUCING THE CHANCES OF FIRE SIMPLY INVOLVED KEEPING PREMISES CLEAR OF RUBBISH AND MAINTAINING EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY IN A RELIABLE AND CLEAN CONDITION.

+A THOROUGH CHECK OF ALL ELECTRICAL WIRING SHOULD BE MADE FROM TIME TO TIME AND NOT JUST LEFT UNTIL IT BREAKS DOWN AND CAUSES A FIRE,+ HE DECLARED. OBSERVATION OF WORK METHODS SOMETIMES REVEALED BAD AND DANGEROUS PRACTICES ADOPTED OVER MONTHS AND YEARS BY EMPLOYEES WITHOUT THINKING OF THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES.

+FROM TIME TO TIME, MANAGEMENT SHOULD STAND BACK AND TAKE A CRITICAL LOOK AT THE WHOLE OF THEIR FACTORY AND CONSIDER THE CHANGES WHICH ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL HAVE TAKEN PLACE OVER THE YEARS, POSSIBLY IN PRODUCTION METHODS OR IN STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS,+ MR. WATSON SUGGESTED. +BECAUSE OF THESE CHANGES,+ HE CONTINUED, +FIRE PROTECTION STANDARDS WHICH ORIGINALLY APPLIED MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED AND REQUIRE TO BE REVIEWED.+

/THE CONSEQUENCES

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THE CONSEQUENCES OF A FIRE IN A FACTORY WERE USUALLY SERIOUS AND MORE FAR REACHING THAN MOST OWNERS IMAGINED, MR. WATSON WENT ON. +FIRES DESTROY RAW MATERIALS AND FINISHED PRODUCTS. THEY DAMAGE MACHINERY OR AFFECT THE VERY STRUCTURE OF BUILDINGS, OFTEN MAKING THEM UNSAFE FOR FUTURE USE.

+WITH NO FACTORY OR PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY - AND POSSIBLY NO GOODS TO SELL - COMPETITORS TAKE YOUR BUSINESS AND THE CHANCES OF GETTING IT BACK ARE REMOTE.

+EMPLOYEES ARE THROWN OUT OF WORK AND THE COMMUNITY SUFFERS THROUGH LOSS OF CIRCULATION OF THEIR PAY. THERE IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE AN EXTRA BURDEN ON WELFARE AGENCIES= BUSINESS TAXES ARE LOST. BUT POSSIBLY THE MOST DAMAGING CONSEQUENCE IS THAT A BUSINESS WHICH SUFFERS A SERIOUS FIRE MAY FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO START UP AGAIN, OR IT WILL FAIL WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD.+

MR. WATSON SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH HONG KONG LIVES BY ITS INDUSTRY AND EXPORTS, FIRES COST LOCAL INDUSTRY A HARD EARNED \$30 - \$40 MILLION IN AN AVERAGE YEAR, +LARGELY BECAUSE OF CARELESSNESS OR NEGLIGENCE AND LACK OF INTEREST BY MANY MANAGERMENTS IN PREVENTION AND PROTECTION FROM FIRE IN THEIR FACTORIES.+

THE EXHIBITION, WHICH IS PART OF THIS YEAR'S WINTER FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN, IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND TO BE HELD IN HONG KONG, ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT BECOME AN ANNUAL EVENT IN THE FUTURE. THERE ARE 16 STANDS TAKEN BY 10 LOCAL FIRMS OR AGENTS DISPLAYING A WIDE RANGE OF DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL FIRE FIGHTING AND PROTECTION EQUIPMENT. ONE STAND HAS BEEN TAKEN BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT. THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN EACH DAY UNTIL LATE IN THE EVENING. IT CLOSES ON MONDAY.

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PUPILS URGED TO THINK FOR THEMSELVES

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THE MAIN PURPOSE OF A SCHOOL IS TO TEACH ITS PUPILS TO THINK, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (SECONDARY), MR. ROBERT CAMERON, SAID THIS EVENING AT THE SPEECH DAY OF ST. BONAVENTURE COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL.

+THIS, TO ME, IS THE BEST PREPARATION OF ALL FOR ENTRY INTO THE COMMUNITY. A COMMUNITY CAN ASK FOR NO BETTER SERVICE FROM ITS SCHOOLS THAN THAT THEY PRODUCE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO CAN SEE PROBLEMS CLEARLY, EVALUATE OBJECTIVELY AND MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS - IN OTHER WORDS YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE LEARNED TO THINK,+ HE SAID.

MR. CAMERON ADVISED PUPILS WHILE STUDYING THEIR VARIOUS SUBJECTS TO KEEP ASKING +WHY?+

HE ADDED : +DON'T TAKE EVERYTHING FOR GRANTED. THINK FOR YOURSELF. THAT IS REALLY WHAT SCHOOL IS ALL ABOUT - NOT TO FILL YOUR MINDS WITH FACTS AND FIGURES, THOUGH THESE HAVE THEIR IMPORTANCE, BUT TO GIVE YOU EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN TO THINK THINGS OUT FOR YOURSELF.

+YOU'LL BE GIVEN CHANCES TO DO THIS NOT ONLY IN THE CLASSROOM BUT IN THE OTHER ACTIVITIES ORGANISED WITHIN THE SCHOOL. THESE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES CAN BE JUST AS IMPORTANT - DON'T THINK OF THEM AS JUST AMUSEMENTS, PLAYING GAMES. YOU CAN LEARN A LOT ABOUT YOURSELF AND ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE BY JOINING IN AND TAKING PART.+

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SUGGESTED THAT +OLD BOYS+ OF ST. BONAVENTURE MIGHT THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT THE TYPE OF ACTIVITIES WHICH WOULD ATTRACT FORMER STUDENTS TO JOIN A FORMER STUDENTS CLUB OR ASSOCIATION.

+YOU COULD, PERHAPS, TRY TO ORGANISE HOBBIES GROUPS OR EVEN SOME FURTHER EDUCATION OR INTEREST CLASSES. I AM SURE THE SCHOOL WOULD BE PLEASED TO HELP WITH ACCOMMODATION. YOU MIGHT GET THE TEACHING STAFF AND EVEN PARENTS INVOLVED. I AM SURE THAT MANY YOUNG PEOPLE WHEN THEY LEAVE SCHOOL WANT TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION.

+WHAT BETTER PLACE TO DO IT THAN THEIR OWN SCHOOL, AND WITH THEIR OLD COLLEAGUES? THIS IS MERELY A SUGGESTION WHICH I OFFER TO YOU TO THINK ABOUT,+ MR. CAMERON SAID.

HE PRAISED THE SCHOOL FOR HAVING ESTABLISHED A FAIR REPUTATION.

ST. BONAVENTURE HAD CERTAINLY MADE ITS MARK EARLY IN THE LOCAL MUSIC FESTIVAL, IN THE +KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN+ CAMPAIGN AND IN THE FIELD OF SPORT.

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PLAY STREET FOR CHILDREN IN WANCHAI

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STONE NULLAH LANE IN WAN CHAI WILL BECOME A TRAFFIC-FREE PLAY AREA EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING THIS WEEK.

THE +PLAY STREET+ SCHEME IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, WANCHAI, THE PLAYGROUNDS ASSOCIATION AND THE COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WITH A VIEW TO PROVIDING CHILDREN IN THE AREA WITH MORE SPACE FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

THE STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 2.30 P.M. AND 5.30 P.M. EVERY SUNDAY DURING WHICH TIME CHILDREN CAN PARTICIPATE IN GAMES ARRANGED BY THE PLAYGROUNDS ASSOCIATION.

MR. BOWEN LEUNG, CITY DISTRICT OFFICER, WANCHAI, AND MR. CHAM SIU-LEUN, PRESIDENT OF THE WANCHAI CITY DISTRICT RECREATION COUNCIL, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING OF THE PLAY STREET AT 2.30 P.M. ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 16).

THE PLAYGROUNDS ASSOCIATION WILL BE THROWING A FUN FAIR FOR CHILDREN AFTER THE OPENING CEREMONY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY.

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ACTING GOVERNOR TO ATTEND RICS ANNUAL DINNER
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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DENYS ROBERTS, WILL BE THE GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE 25TH ANNUAL DINNER OF THE HONG KONG BRANCH OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF CHARTERED SURVEYORS TO BE HELD AT THE HONG KONG HILTON TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR. DAVID MCDONALD, WILL BE ADDRESSING THE DINNER AND PROPOSING THE TOAST OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTION.

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