



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1976

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
DETAILS OF PLANS TO IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS AND STANDARDS ANNOUNCED	1
NEW HOMES FOR SOME 600,000 PEOPLE BY 1981	5
GOVERNOR OPENS THE FESTIVAL OF ASIAN ARTS	7
REGIONALISATION PLAN TO EASE OVERCROWDING IN HOSPITALS ...	8
SAFEGUARDS FOR PROPOSED EXTENSION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME	10
EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PUBLIC SECTOR	12
NEED TO EXAMINE DEVELOPMENT IN TECHNICAL EDUCATION	14
EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL-1976	16
PUBLIC OMNIBUS SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976	17
WATER CUTS IN WESTERN AND TSUEN WAN	18

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1976

- 1 -

PLANS TO IMPROVE LABOUR STANDARDS AND CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT
* * * * *

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON. IAN PRICE, TODAY GAVE DETAILS OF PLANS TO IMPROVE LABOUR STANDARDS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE WELCOMED THE EXPANSION OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD AS BOTH THE WORKERS' AND EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE INCREASED FROM FOUR TO SIX.

HE SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO THE EXPANDED BOARD'S ASSISTANCE AND COUNSEL FROM JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR.

MR. PRICE SAID THIS YEAR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S MAIN EFFORT AGAIN MUST BE IN THE AREA OF LABOUR LEGISLATION.

ON THE SOCIAL SIDE OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME, MR. PRICE SAID THIS WOULD MAINLY TAKE THE FORM OF A SERIES OF AMENDMENTS TO THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE WHICH HE POINTED OUT WAS DELIBERATELY DRAWN UP TO ALLOW FOR FUTURE EXPANSION.

THE FOREMOST IMPROVEMENT WAS THAT ALL EMPLOYEES SHOULD HAVE A RIGHT TO SEVEN DAYS CONSECUTIVE PAID LEAVE EACH YEAR IN ADDITION TO THE TEN INDIVIDUAL STATUTORY PAID HOLIDAYS.

+THIS WILL REPRESENT A CONSIDERABLE SOCIAL EVOLUTION AND ITS IMPACT ON THE LIFE AND HABITS OF THE POPULATION WILL BE CONSIDERABLE,+ SAID MR. PRICE.

REFERRING TO THOSE WHO WONDERED WHAT WORKERS WOULD DO WITH ALL THE ENFORCED LEISURE, MR. PRICE SAID: +I ASK THEM TO CAST THEIR MINDS BACK TO 1970, THE TIME OF A PREVIOUS SOCIAL CHANGE ARISING FROM THE INTRODUCTION OF FOUR REST DAYS A MONTH.

+SIMILAR DOUBTS WERE EXPRESSED THEN. THE RESOUNDING ANSWERS TO THESE DOUBTS ARE TO BE FOUND ON ANY SUNDAY OR PUBLIC HOLIDAY WHEN BEACHES, HILLS, SPORTS FIELDS, TRAINS, FERRIES, RESTAURANTS, AND ALL PLACES OF AMENITY, RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT ARE CROWDED.+

HE SAID: +GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE SOCIAL ADVANTAGES OF PAID ANNUAL LEAVE OUTWEIGH THE SLIGHT RISK OF CREATING DIFFICULTIES FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF SMALLER EMPLOYERS.+

/ANOTHER

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1976

- 2 -

ANOTHER PROPOSAL WAS TO PROVIDE ONE REST DAY IN EVERY SEVEN DAYS FROM JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR.

+THIS WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF INCREASING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REST DAYS A YEAR FROM THE PRESENT 48 TO 52,+ HE SAID.

MR. PRICE ALSO PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO SEVERANCE PAY AND SICKNESS BENEFITS.

ON SEVERANCE PAY, HE PROPOSED TO INCREASE THE BASIC RATE FROM ONE THIRD OF A MONTH'S WAGES TO ONE-HALF FOR EACH YEAR OF QUALIFYING SERVICE AND TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF YEARS THAT COUNTED AS QUALIFYING SERVICE.

THE COMMISSIONER SAID THE CURRENT SEVERANCE PAY SCHEME COULD MILITATE AGAINST LONGER-SERVING EMPLOYEES WHO SHOULD BENEFIT MORE BECAUSE REDUNDANCY TENDED TO HAVE A MORE DISRUPTIVE EFFECT ON THEM.

WITH REGARD TO SICKNESS BENEFITS HE PROPOSED THAT THE RATE OF PAYMENT FOR DAYS OF SICKNESS SHOULD BE INCREASED FROM HALF PAY TO TWO-THIRDS PAY BRINGING IT INTO LINE WITH THE INTERIM PAYMENT RATE UNDER THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE.

IN ADDITION, MR. PRICE ALSO PROPOSED TO INCREASE FROM 24 TO 36 THE NUMBER OF SICKNESS DAYS THAT COULD BE ACCUMULATED.

TWO OTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSIONER WERE THE IMPOSITION OF A VICARIOUS LIABILITY ON PRINCIPAL CONTRACTORS IN THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, IN ORDER TO PROTECT WAGES OF WORKERS OF DEFAULTING SUB-CONTRACTORS. THE OTHER AMENDMENT WOULD INCREASE THE SCOPE OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE BY RAISING THE WAGE LIMIT FOR NON-MANUAL WORKERS FROM \$2,000 A MONTH TO, PERHAPS, \$5,000 A MONTH.

MR. PRICE SAID DURING THE LAST SESSION 26 ITEMS OF LABOUR LEGISLATION WERE PASSED BRINGING THE TOTAL TO 129 SINCE 1967.

SOME OF THESE, HE SAID, WERE NOT OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE BUT ALL WERE NECESSARY AND ALL REQUIRED TIME AND EFFORT.

HE HOPED TO BRING BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL DURING THE CURRENT SESSION THREE SETS OF REGULATIONS, DEALING WITH THE PROTECTION OF EYES, THE USE OF CARTRIDGE OPERATED FIXING TOOLS, AND THE USE OF ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES IN FACTORIES.

/MR. PRICE

MR. PRICE POINTED OUT THAT MUCH REMAINED TO ENCOURAGE PRACTICAL SAFETY MEASURES TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE BASIC PROTECTIVE REGULATIONS.

+INDEED,+ HE SAID, +THESE ARE A LAUNCHING-PAD FOR FURTHER PROGRESS RATHER THAN AN END IN THEMSELVES.+

HE DISCLOSED THAT HE HAD OBTAINED SOME USEFUL GUIDELINES FOR THIS PROGRESS FROM THE LABOUR ADVISER'S REPORT.

MR. PRICE SAID HE WOULD NOT RULE OUT FURTHER SAFETY REGULATIONS IN APPROPRIATE CASES BUT THAT THESE WERE LIKELY TO BE CONFINED TO THE REVISION OF EXISTING ONES.

HE ADDED THAT IT MIGHT ALSO BE NECESSARY TO DEAL WITH NEW HAZARDS ARISING FROM THE INTRODUCTION OF MORE SOPHISTICATED PROCESSES.

WITH REGARD TO SAFETY IN THE WORK-PLACE, MR. PRICE SAID THIS WAS A MATTER OF ATTITUDE OF MIND BOTH ON THE PART OF THE EMPLOYER AND THE EMPLOYEE AND THEREFORE MUCH OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S ENERGIES WOULD BE EXPANDED IN THE TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL ASPECTS OF SAFETY. +BUT, I MUST WARN THAT PROSECUTION WILL BE USED WHERE NECESSARY.+

HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT FUNDS WOULD BE FORTHCOMING FOR A SPECIAL SAFETY EXHIBITION AND CAMPAIGN ON THE GUARDING OF MACHINERY IN MARCH NEXT YEAR BEFORE THE RELEVANT NEW REGULATIONS CAME INTO FORCE.

TURNING TO THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE, MR. PRICE SAID FINAL PROPOSALS HAD BEEN DRAWN UP IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ACCIDENT INSURANCE ASSOCIATION FOR A SILICOSIS INSURANCE SCHEME TO PROTECT WORKERS.

BUT, HE SAID, IF THERE WAS ANY IMPEDIMENT TO PROGRESS HE WOULD ADVISE THAT THE EXISTING PROPOSALS BE ABANDONED AND A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SOLUTION BE SOUGHT.

+THIS SCHEME HAS ALREADY BEEN DELAYED TOO LONG AND WE OWE IT TO WORKERS TO FIND, IN THE COURSE OF THIS SESSION, A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS, WHETHER BY THE METHOD ALREADY PROPOSED OR BY AN ALTERNATIVE,+ HE SAID.

AND AS PART OF A CONTINUING REVIEW OF THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE, HE SAID, HE WOULD BE PROPOSING A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS. THESE INCLUDE REDUCING DELAYS IN PAYMENTS AND EXTENDING THE SCOPE OF THE ORDINANCE, WHICH AT PRESENT IN THE CASE OF NON-MANUAL WORKERS IS RESTRICTED TO THOSE EARNING \$2,000 A MONTH OR LESS, BY PUTTING FORWARD A NEW LIMIT, PROBABLY OF \$5,000 A MONTH.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1976

- 4 -

MR. PRICE ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE COST OF RENEWAL OF PROSTHESES AND SURGICAL APPLIANCES FOR WORKMEN INJURED AT WORK SHOULD BECOME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EMPLOYERS INSTEAD OF MERELY THE INITIAL COST AS AT PRESENT.

FURTHER, HE FELT THAT THE COST OF MEDICAL TREATMENT ARISING FROM INJURY AT WORK SHOULD BE RECOVERABLE BY A WORKER FROM HIS EMPLOYER.

REFERRING TO TWO OTHER LEGISLATIVE MATTERS, MR. PRICE SAID THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD HAD PROPOSED SOME AMENDMENTS TO THE TRADE UNIONS ORDINANCE TO ALTER CERTAIN PROVISIONS WHICH COULD BE REGARDED AS RESTRICTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNIONS.

THE COMMISSIONER SAID HE WOULD INTRODUCE REGULATIONS TO ABOLISH OVERTIME FOR YOUNG PERSONS AGED 16 AND 17 BY THE BEGINNING OF 1980, BY A PHASED PROGRAMME OF REDUCTION OF HOURS OF PERMITTED OVERTIME.

HE ADDED: +EMPLOYERS WILL HAVE AMPLE TIME OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS TO PLAN THEIR PRODUCTION WITHOUT RELYING ON OVERTIME FROM THIS GROUP.+

SUMMING UP MR. PRICE SAID: +IN COMPARISON WITH OUR ASIAN NEIGHBOURS IT CAN BE SAID THAT IN SOME MATTERS HONG KONG IS MORE ADVANCE AND THAT IN OTHER IT LAYS BEHIND. THE MEASURES WHICH I HAVE DESCRIBED WILL GO FAR TO REDRESS THE BALANCE, BUT I AM SURE THAT HONOURABLE MEMBERS WILL AGREE THAT WE SHOULD NOT REST UNTIL WE ARE SATISFIED THAT HONG KONG IS SECOND TO NO COMPARABLE COMMUNITY IN ASIA IN THE PROVISION OF DECENT WORKING STANDARD.+

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1976.

- 5 -

NEW HOMES FOR 580,000 PEOPLE BY 1981
* * * * *

BUILDING WORK IS NOW GOING AHEAD ON 11 PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES TO HOUSE ABOUT 200,000 PEOPLE, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, MR. IAN LIGHTBODY, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

ALSO, HE SAID, CONTRACT PLANNING WAS IN HAND FOR 16 OTHER SCHEMES TO BE COMPLETED BY 1981 AT THE LATEST AND TO HOUSE A FURTHER 380,000 PEOPLE.

DISCUSSING HOUSING STANDARDS IN THESE FUTURE ESTATES, MR. LIGHTBODY SAID: +IT SEEMS TO ME THE TIME HAS COME TO ABANDON THE SPACE STANDARD OF 35 SQUARE FEET OF NET LIVEABLE AREA PER HEAD, AND TO GO FOR THE 50 SQUARE FOOT STANDARD WHICH THE AUTHORITY DECIDED ON IN LATE 1973 BUT WHICH HAD TO BE DEFERRED BECAUSE OF THE RECESSION AND FINANCIAL UNCERTAINTIES.

+AT THE SAME TIME, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE RENTS FOR THESE IMPROVED FLATS WILL REMAIN WITHIN THE MEANS OF THE AUTHORITY'S TENANTS.+

ON HOUSING IN GENERAL, MR. LIGHTBODY SAID THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME HAD PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE LAST 20 YEARS IN CREATING +A SETTLED AND CONTENTED COMMUNITY.+

HE SAID: +IT HAS OPERATED AS A MAJOR AGENT FOR SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT, PROVIDING SECURITY OF TENURE FOR UP TO TWO MILLION PEOPLE AT VERY MODEST RENTS.

+THE SOCIAL SERVICE REPRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME CONTINUES TO EXPAND, AND I AM SURE THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE A SOURCE OF STABILITY AND SATISFACTION FOR HONG KONG'S LOWER-INCOME GROUPS.+

MR. LIGHTBODY SAID THAT THE AIM REMAINED TO PROVIDE MODEST BUT DECENT HOUSING, AT RENTS THEY COULD AFFORD, TO THE MANY FAMILIES WHO COULD NOT AFFORD FLATS OF A MINIMUM STANDARD IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY STILL PROVIDED HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SMALL FLATS AT MINUTE RENTS - +INDEED, IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT THESE RENTS, IN THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE OLDER PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, HAVE LOST TOUCH WITH REALITY BY HAVING REMAINED UNCHANGED FOR MANY YEARS,+ HE SAID.

GIVING PROOF OF THIS POINT, HE SAID 60 PER CENT OF THE AUTHORITY'S FLATS WERE LET AT RENTS BELOW \$50 A MONTH, 75 PER CENT AT BELOW \$100 AND ABOUT 90 PER CENT AT BELOW \$150.

REPEATING THE ASSURANCE GIVEN BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE COUNCIL LAST MONTH, MR. LIGHTBODY SAID: +FOR THE FUTURE, I CAN GIVE A CATEGORICAL ASSURANCE THAT PUBLIC HOUSING DOMESTIC RENTS WILL ALWAYS REMAIN VERY LOW IN RELATION TO PRIVATE RENTS.+

/MR. LIGHTBODY

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1976

- 6 -

MR. LIGHTBODY REVEALED THAT A WORKING PARTY HAD BEEN SET UP TO STUDY THE PROBLEMS FACED BY LOW-INCOME FAMILIES JUST ABOVE THE ELIGIBILITY LIMITS FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE WHICH FACE DIFFICULTIES IN PAYING RENT AND MEETING OTHER EXPENSES. THIS WORKING PARTY WOULD SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE TO PROVIDE MORE RELIEF FOR SUCH FAMILIES WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME.

OTHER POINTS ON WHICH HE TOUCHED INCLUDED:

- * FLATS-FOR-SALE - THERE HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT FOR THE CONCEPT OF HELPING THE LOWER-MIDDLE INCOME GROUP TO ACQUIRE DECENT HOUSING ON APPROPRIATE MORTGAGE TERMS. PEOPLE IN THIS GROUP ARE MAINLY INELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING BECAUSE THEIR INCOME MAKES THEM INELIGIBLE BUT THEY CANNOT AFFORD A FLAT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

- * EMPTY FLATS - THE HOUSING AUTHORITY KEEPS A CAREFUL WATCH ON THE NUMBER OF UNOCCUPIED FLATS AND ALLOCATES ALL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER COMPLETION, THE ONLY EXCEPTION BEING THAT SOME FLATS MUST BE KEPT VACANT TO MEET KNOWN FUTURE COMMITMENTS WHICH CANNOT BE MET IN ANY OTHER WAY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/7

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1976.

- 7 -

GOVERNOR OPENS FESTIVAL OF ASIAN ARTS

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, THIS EVENING PAID SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE CITY HALL FOR PLAYING A MAJOR ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTS IN HONG KONG.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE FESTIVAL OF ASIAN ARTS AT THE CITY HALL IN WHICH HE WELCOMED THE VISITING ARTISTS AND ORGANISERS, SIR MURRAY SAID THE CONCEPT OF HONG KONG AS A CULTURAL CENTRE WAS BEGINNING TO EMERGE.

+IN RECENT YEARS, WE HAVE SEEN A GREAT INCREASE IN INTEREST IN THE ARTS IN HONG KONG AND IN THIS, THE CITY HALL HAS PLAYED A MAJOR PART,+ HE SAID.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

+THIS EVENING WE BEGIN SOMETHING NEW IN HONG KONG, A FESTIVAL OF ASIAN ARTS.

+IN RECENT YEARS WE HAVE SEEN A GREAT INCREASE IN INTEREST IN THE ARTS IN HONG KONG AND IN THIS CITY, THE CITY HALL HAS PLAYED A MAJOR PART. THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE LARGER HALL PLANNED FOR TSIMSHATSUI ARE OBVIOUS.

+WE HAVE SEEN THE INCEPTION OF NUMEROUS ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED WITH THE ARTS, THE ESTABLISHMENT ON A FIRM BASIS OF OUR OWN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, THE BEGINNINGS OF OUR OWN BALLET, AND AN ARTS CENTRE NEARING COMPLETION.

+WE HAVE FOLLOWED WITH JUSTIFIABLE PRIDE THE SUCCESSES OF OUR YOUTH ORCHESTRA, CHILDREN'S CHOIR, AND YOUNG DANCERS IN THEIR PERFORMANCES ABROAD, TOGETHER WITH THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MANY TALENTED YOUNG INDIVIDUALS STUDYING OVERSEAS.

+ABOVE ALL MANY MORE PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, AT ALL INCOME LEVELS, ARE FINDING A NEW SOURCE OF INTEREST AND ENJOYMENT.

+THANKS TO THE ENERGY AND ENTERPRISE OF ALL THE COMMITTEES AND ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED WITH THE ARTS, THE CONCEPT OF HONG KONG AS A CULTURAL CENTRE IS BEGINNING TO EMERGE.

+IN THIS PROCESS THE URBAN COUNCIL HAS PLAYED ITS ALLOTTED ROLE WITH IMAGINATION, ENTHUSIASM AND LEADERSHIP.

+IN ADDITION TO THE SUPPORT OF THE PHILHARMONIC AND A WIDE PROGRAMME OF EVENTS ALL OVER HONG KONG, IT HAS GIVEN MAJOR AND INVALUABLE BACKING TO THE ANNUAL HONG KONG FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS, WHICH HAS BEEN BOTH THE FOCUS AND THE STIMULANT OF SO MUCH OF THIS NEW BURGEONING OF ARTISTIC EFFORT- AND WE ARE NOW INDEBTED TO THE COUNCIL FOR INVITING TO HONG KONG THIS NEW EVENT, THIS FESTIVAL OF ASIAN ARTS.

+I EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO ALL THE ARTISTS AND ORGANISERS WHO WILL BE WITH US DURING THIS EXCITING WEEK AND HAVE GREAT PLEASURE IN DECLARING OPEN THE FESTIVAL OF ASIAN ARTS.+

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1976

- 8 -

REGIONALISATION PLAN TO RELIEVE OVERCROWDING IN HOSPITALS
* * * * *

THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. THE HON. GERALD CHOA TODAY ANNOUNCED A REGIONALISATION PLAN TO RELIEVE OVERCROWDING IN MAJOR HOSPITALS AND A PILOT SCHEME TO SUBVENT THE COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICE.

SPEAKING AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, DR. CHOA SAID THAT BOTH PROGRAMMES WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED FROM APRIL NEXT YEAR.

ELABORATING ON THE REGIONALISATION PLAN, DR. CHOA SAID THE BASIC IDEA WAS TO DIVIDE THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES INTO FOUR, LATER ON FIVE, REGIONS, EACH WITH A REGIONAL HOSPITAL SUPPORTED BY ONE OR MORE DISTRICT HOSPITALS, POLYCLINICS AND GENERAL OUTPATIENT CLINICS.

+WITHIN EACH REGION THERE WILL BE AN INTEGRATED STRUCTURE PROVIDING MEDICAL CARE AT ALL LEVELS,+ HE SAID.

DR. CHOA EXPLAINED THAT A REGIONAL HOSPITAL WILL BE A MAJOR ACUTE HOSPITAL EQUIPPED TO TREAT PATIENTS REQUIRING THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF SPECIALIST CARE WHILE A DISTRICT HOSPITAL WILL RECEIVE PATIENTS WHOSE CONDITION IS NOT SUCH AS TO WARRANT REFERRAL DIRECTLY TO THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL.

A DISTRICT HOSPITAL WILL REFER PATIENTS TO THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL FOR THE MORE SPECIALISED LEVEL OF TREATMENT AND WILL RECEIVE PATIENTS BACK FROM THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL FOR THE LATER STAGES OF THEIR TREATMENT.

DR. CHOA SAID THE SYSTEM WILL HELP TO RELIEVE OVERCROWDING AT THE REGIONAL HOSPITALS AND WILL INCREASE THE UTILISATION OF SUBVENTED HOSPITALS WHICH WILL BE MAINLY USED AS DISTRICT HOSPITALS.

HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE SYSTEM WAS TO WORK A UNIFORM SCALE OF FEES MUST BE CHARGED BY BOTH GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED HOSPITALS.

HE THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT THE HOSPITAL MAINTENANCE CHARGES IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS BE RAISED TO \$5 PER DAY FOR GENERAL WARD PATIENTS AND THAT SIMILAR CHARGES BY SUBVENTED HOSPITALS BE ALSO LEVELLED AT \$5.

ON COMMUNITY NURSING, THE DIRECTOR SAID THAT THE EXISTING SERVICE RENDERED BY SIX ORGANISATIONS WILL BE SUBVENTED FOR AN EVALUATION PERIOD OF THREE YEARS BEGINNING NEXT APRIL.

AT THE END OF THE PERIOD, HE SAID, THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WOULD BE ASKED TO ADVISE WHETHER THE SERVICE SHOULD CONTINUE AS A SUBSIDISED PROGRAMME AND WHETHER ANY IMPROVEMENTS OR MODIFICATIONS SHOULD BE MADE.

/THE COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1976

- 9 -

THE COMMITTEE HAD EARLIER APPOINTED A WORKING PARTY TO STUDY THE WORK OF ORGANISATIONS ENGAGED IN COMMUNITY NURSING, TO SEE HOW THE SERVICES THEY PROVIDE COMPARE WITH THE GOVERNMENT DEFINITION OF THE SCOPE AND NATURE OF COMMUNITY NURSING AND TO CONSIDER WHAT MEASURES WOULD BE NECESSARY IN THE EVENT OF THE SERVICES BEING SUBVENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT AS A PILOT SCHEME.

AFTER STUDYING THE WORKING PARTY'S REPORT, THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD, IN COOPERATION WITH THESE ORGANISATIONS, EVALUATE THE SERVICES BEING PROVIDED AND ASSESS HOW THEY COULD BEST BE ORGANISED TO COMPLEMENT AND SUPPLEMENT OTHER SERVICES ALREADY BEING PROVIDED UNDER THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH PROGRAMMES.

DR. CHOA SAID ALL THESE STEPS MIGHT SEEM UNDULY CAUTIOUS BUT THEY WERE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF SERVICES WHICH HAS BEEN REPORTED BY THE WORKING PARTY, SUCH AS POST-NATAL CARE.

ON DENTAL SERVICE, THE DIRECTOR SAID THE PLAN FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN OUTLINED IN THE MEDICAL WHITE PAPER, WAS NOW BEING CARRIED OUT STEP BY STEP.

IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR, THE FOUNDATION OF THE MACLEHOSE DENTAL CENTRE, WHICH WILL HOUSE A DENTAL NURSE TRAINING SCHOOL AND A DENTAL CLINIC FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN, WILL BE LAID BY THE GOVERNOR.

DENTISTS WOULD NEXT BE TRAINED LOCALLY, AT THE DENTAL SCHOOL TO BE SET UP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, SAID DR. CHOA.

A PROPOSAL THAT THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR ADMISSION INTO THE FUTURE TEACHING DENTAL CLINIC WILL BE SYMPATHETICALLY CONSIDERED, HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/10

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1976.

- 10 -

SAFEGUARDS FOR PROPOSED EXTENSION OF P.A. SCHEME

* * * * *

THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME TO COVER ABLE-BODIED PEOPLE AGED BETWEEN 15 AND 55 WHO ARE UNABLE TO FIND WORK WOULD NOT ENCOURAGE IDLENESS, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, THE HON. THOMAS LEE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON A MOTION OF THANKS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S OPENING ADDRESS, MR. LEE STRESSED THERE WOULD STILL BE A SIGNIFICANT GAP BETWEEN THE LEVEL OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND THE PREVAILING WAGE RATES.

ALL NECESSARY SAFEGUARDS TO PREVENT ABUSE WOULD ALSO BE BUILT INTO THE EXTENDED SCHEME, HE ADDED.

MR. LEE AGREED WITH DR. THE HON. HENRY HU THAT ACTIVE SOCIAL SERVICES MUST BE COMPLEMENTARY WITH CASH AID PROGRAMMES, AND THAT NO MATTER HOW MUCH WERE BEING PAID OUT IN SOCIAL SECURITY, PROBLEMS REQUIRING THE SKILL OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS WOULD ALWAYS ARISE.

+IN OTHER WORDS, CASH IS NOT A COMPLETE ALTERNATIVE TO PERSONAL CONCERN FOR THE POOR, THE OLD AND THE DISABLED,+ HE SAID.

REGARDING THE PROPOSAL TO LOWER THE MINIMUM AGE OF 75 LAID DOWN TO QUALIFY FOR INFIRMITY ALLOWANCE, MR. LEE SAID THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO REDUCING THE AGE LIMIT.

HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT THE SCHEME WAS NON-CONTRIBUTORY AND IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES ANY REDUCTION IN THE QUALIFYING AGE MIGHT HAVE TO DEPEND ON THE APPLICANTS' PROVING THAT THEY NEED SUCH SUPPORT.

+THIS WOULD, OF COURSE, INVOLVE A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THE DISABILITY AND INFIRMITY ALLOWANCE SCHEME WHICH AT PRESENT IS NOT MEANS TESTED.+

MR. LEE AGREED WITH THE PROPOSAL THAT THE CHRONICALLY SICK, THE DISABLED, THE WIDOWED AND THE OLD SHOULD BE TREATED MORE GENEROUSLY AS SPECIAL CATEGORIES OF PERSONS WITH GREATER NEED, AND ASSURED THE COUNCIL THAT THE PROPOSAL WOULD RECEIVE 'THE MOST CAREFUL STUDY'.

TURNING TO THE CARE FOR THE ELDERLY, MR. LEE SAID THAT IN THIS AND THE FOLLOWING FINANCIAL YEAR, ANOTHER 919 PLACES IN HOMES AND HOSTELS FOR THE AGED WOULD BE PROVIDED BY THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF OLD PEOPLE BEING LOOKED AFTER TO OVER 4,000.

+IN THE SAME TWO YEARS, FURTHER INITIATIVE BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WILL PROVIDE ANOTHER 600 PLACES IN TRAINING CENTRES, SHELTERED WORKSHOPS AND OTHER CENTRES FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED.

/+IN THE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1976

- 11 -

+IN THE NEW TOWNS, FIVE COMMUNITY HALLS TO SERVE THE PEOPLE IN THE SMALLER PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES HAVE BEEN BUILT AND ANOTHER FIVE WILL SOON BE UNDERWAY TO PROVIDE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY WORK TO THE RESIDENTS IN THESE NEW COMMUNITIES.+ HE SAID.

IN ORDER TO FORESTALL WAYWARD YOUNG PEOPLE FROM TURNING TO CRIME, MR. LEE SAID THAT EFFORTS WOULD BE STEPPED UP ON FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK AND IN REACHING OUT PROGRAMMES TO YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH YOUTH GUIDANCE, PLAYLEADERSHIP SCHEMES, AND DETACHED WORK.

ON THE SUBJECT OF SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK, HE REPORTED THAT THE PRESENT PILOT SERVICE INITIATED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE AND EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS TWO YEARS AGO, HAD BEEN MAKING STEADY PROGRESS.

+IN THE LAST SCHOOL YEAR, THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS INCREASED FROM FIVE TO TEN, WITH A TOTAL ENROLMENT OF 12,000 PUPILS. IN THE PRESENT SCHOOL YEAR, ANOTHER 17 SCHOOLS, WITH A TOTAL OF 19,000 PUPILS, WERE SELECTED TO JOIN THE SERVICE.+

AT PRESENT, HE CONTINUED, PLANS WERE BEING MADE TO STRENGTHEN THE SERVICE FOR 1977-78 SCHOOL YEAR THROUGH THE EMPLOYMENT OF ADDITIONAL SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS ON A FULL-TIME BASIS, THUS INCREASING THE NUMBER OF SCHOOLS TO BE SERVED FROM 17 TO 85.

REFERRING TO THE PROGRAMME OF EDUCATION IN THE MA TAU WEI GIRLS' HOME, MR. LEE EXPLAINED: +THIS HOME IS A COMBINED INSTITUTION TO DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF GIRLS ON REMAND, ON PROBATION OR IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION WHOSE PERIOD OF RESIDENCE VARIES FROM ONE WEEK TO SEVERAL MONTHS. THEIR STANDARD OF EDUCATION ALSO VARIES WIDELY AND IT IS THEREFORE DIFFICULT TO HAVE A LONG-TERM EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME WHICH WILL SUIT ALL OF THEM.+

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION WOULD BE CONSULTED AS TO HOW TO IMPROVE THE PRESENT EDUCATION PROGRAMME, HANDWORK TRAINING, AND THE TYPE OF TEXTBOOKS USED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/12

64 MILL
HARD-SIZED

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1976.

- 12 -

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PUBLIC SECTOR

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION THROUGH THE PUBLIC SECTOR, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON. KENNETH TOPLEY TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR US TO BE BOGGED DOWN BY MAKE-SHIFT ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN THE PRIVATE INDEPENDENT SECTOR,+ HE SAID.

THE DIRECTOR WAS REPLYING TO SUGGESTIONS MADE BY BOTH THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN AND REV. THE HON. JOYCE BENNETT THAT SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF TEACHING IN PRIVATE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS BY THE PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE.

THIS QUESTION WAS FULLY CONSIDERED WHEN THE RAPID PHASING OUT OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION WAS EXAMINED.

+WE CONCLUDED THAT AT THIS TIME THE CORRECT THING TO DO WAS TO BUY PLACES IN THE PRIVATE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS FOR AS SHORT A TIME AS POSSIBLE AND THEN BY SEPARATE BUILDING PROGRAMMES TO PROVIDE PLACES IN SUBSIDISED AND NON-PROFIT-MAKING SCHOOLS.

+THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID AN ELEMENT OF SUBSIDY TO THE PRIVATE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS IF ASSISTANCE IS GIVEN TO THEIR TEACHERS,+ HE SAID.

ON MISS BENNETT'S REQUEST THAT EXAMINATIONS BE AVOIDED IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS ON SUBJECTS LIKE SOCIAL STUDIES, NATURE STUDY, HAND-WORK, MUSIC AND ART, MR. TOPLEY SAID HE SYMPATHISED WITH HER VIEWPOINT.

+I AM, IN FACT, INVESTIGATING THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE MORE PRACTICAL SUBJECTS TO THE MEASURE OF OVERALL ATTAINMENT AND AT THE SAME TIME CONSIDERING WAYS IN WHICH SOME OF THE SUBJECTS MENTIONED COULD BE ASSESSED WITHOUT FORMAL EXAMINATION,+ THE DIRECTOR STATED.

TURNING TO MISS BENNETT'S REFERENCE TO CHANGES OF SCHOOL SITES OFFERED TO SOME SPONSORING BODIES, MR. TOPLEY SAID THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, WHEN DEVELOPING THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS BUILDING PROGRAMME, HAD TO CALCULATE BOTH HOW MANY SCHOOLS TO BUILD AND WHERE THEY SHOULD BE PLACED.

+NOW THAT THE NEW TOWN PROGRAMMES ARE ON THE MOVE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT NEW SECONDARY SCHOOLS SO FAR AS POSSIBLE BE BUILT WHERE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO LIVE.

+OTHERWISE WE WOULD BE DEVELOPING NEW TOWNS WITHOUT THE APPROPRIATE SCHOOLS FOR THE CHILDREN TO GO TO.

/+THIS MEANS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1976

- 13 -

+THIS MEANS THAT A NUMBER OF SPONSORS ARE BEING ASKED TO TAKE NEW SITES FOR SCHOOLS WHICH THEY ARE SPONSORING.

+IN GENERAL SPONSORS ARE PROVING WILLING TO ACCEPT THIS SHIFT OF LOCALE,+ THE DIRECTOR SAID.

BUT THE NEW SITES OFFERED TO TWO SPONSORS - THE HOLY TRINITY CHURCH AND THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD - DID NOT FIT THEIR INTENTIONS SINCE THEIR PLANS WERE TO BUILD THE SCHOOLS WITHIN THEIR OWN PARISH BOUNDARIES.

MR. TOPLEY SAID WHILE NO FINAL DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN IN THIS MATTER HE WAS UNABLE TO AGREE TO THE BUILDING OF THESE SCHOOLS IN KOWLOON AT THIS TIME WHEN THERE WAS A FAR GREATER NEED FOR SCHOOLS ELSEWHERE.

THE QUESTION OF GOVERNMENT'S MORAL AND LEGAL OBLIGATION TO THESE SPONSORS WAS A SEPARATE ONE AND THE DIRECTOR WAS TAKING ADVICE ON THIS.

+I DO NOT HONESTLY BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS ANY JUSTIFICATION FOR BUILDING SCHOOLS IN WHAT WOULD TODAY BE THE WRONG PLACE. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT I DO NOT FEEL A GOOD DEAL OF SYMPATHY FOR THESE SPONSORS BUT I DO NOT THINK THAT I SHOULD LET MY SYMPATHY OVERRIDE MY JUDGEMENT IN THESE MATTERS,+ MR. TOPLEY SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/14

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1976

- 14 -

NEED TO EXAMINE DEVELOPMENTS IN TECHNICAL EDUCATION
* * * *

BOTH THE PACE AND THE DIRECTION OF DEVELOPMENTS IN TECHNICAL EDUCATION AT THE POST-SECONDARY LEVEL MUST BE CRITICALLY EXAMINED, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. F.K. LI, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON A MOTION OF THANKS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S OPENING ADDRESS, MR. LI SAID PART OF THE PROBLEM MIGHT BE A NEED FOR IMPROVED CO-ORDINATION, THOUGH THERE WAS ALREADY MACHINERY FOR LIAISON BETWEEN THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND THE POLYTECHNIC IN PLANNING COURSE PROVISION.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS, HOWEVER, KEEPING IN MIND THE POSSIBLE NEED FOR A BOARD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION, TOGETHER WITH OTHER ALTERNATIVES, HE SAID.

HE SAID THE GROWTH OF VARIOUS TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS WOULD PRODUCE SUFFICIENT NUMBERS OF CRAFTSMEN, TECHNICIANS AND TECHNOLOGISTS, AS WELL AS THOSE QUALIFIED ON BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL COURSES, TO OVERCOME ANY MARKED DEFICIENCY OF SUCH QUALIFIED MANPOWER.

+THESE EXPANDED RESOURCES OF HIGHLY-SKILLED LABOUR SHOULD IMPROVE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF OUR INDUSTRIES AND SHOULD HELP US IN OUR EFFORTS TO ATTRACT NEW INDUSTRIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE THAT ARE TECHNOLOGICALLY-BASED,+ HE ADDED.

MR. LI POINTED OUT THAT A PERIOD OF CONSOLIDATION WAS NOW NECESSARY, PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT OF THE FUTURE GROWTH OF THE POLYTECHNIC.

+OVER THE THREE YEAR PERIOD 1978 TO 1981, THE POLYTECHNIC WILL EXPAND ITS STUDENT NUMBERS AT ROUGHLY FIVE PER CENT ANNUALLY,+ HE SAID. +WHEN CONSIDERING WHETHER TO PROVIDE FOR ANY FURTHER EXPANSION OF CAPACITY, WE SHALL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE EFFECT OF THE PRESENT EXPANSION PROGRAMME UPON OUR MANPOWER NEEDS.+

HE AGREED WITH THE HON. S.L. CHEN AND THE HON. MISS LYDIA DUNN THAT THE GROWTH OF TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS MUST BE SET AT A PACE +THAT WILL BOTH ENSURE THAT THE GROWTH OF OUR ECONOMY WILL NOT BE HINDERED BY A SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED MANPOWER AND ALSO THAT THE GRADUATES WILL HAVE A REASONABLE PROSPECT OF FINDING SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT IN THE INDUSTRY FOR WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN TRAINED+.

THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL, HE SAID, CONDUCTED PERIODIC SURVEYS TO MEASURE FUTURE MANPOWER DEMAND FOR TECHNICALLY-TRAINED PERSONNEL IN THE MAIN INDUSTRIES, AND THE FINDINGS OF THESE SURVEYS INFLUENCED THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANT COMMITTEE WHEN PLANNING FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

/HE EXPRESSED

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1976

- 15 -

HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THESE SURVEYS WOULD BE IMPROVED AND EXTENDED IN FUTURE YEARS.

ON THE QUESTION OF DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS BETWEEN THE POLYTECHNIC AND THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES, MR. LI SAID THE PLANNING OF CRAFT AND TECHNICIAN COURSES IN THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES WOULD BE BASED ON A RATIO OF 80:20.

+I BELIEVE THAT WE MUST USE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE THE CAPACITY IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES FOR THE TRAINING OF CRAFTSMEN,+ HE SAID. +WE SHALL ALSO LOOK TO THE POLYTECHNIC TO TAKE THE GREATER SHARE IN MEETING OUR NEEDS FOR ORDINARY TECHNICIANS, AS WELL AS FOR HIGHER TECHNICIANS AND TECHNOLOGISTS.+

MR. LI THANKED HIS UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES FOR THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE GREEN PAPER ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES IN HONG KONG, AND ASSURED THEM THAT ALL THE POINTS RAISED WOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION DURING THE PREPARATION OF THE WHITE PAPER EARLY NEXT YEAR.

HE SAID A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT POINTS HAD BEEN MADE ON PRIORITIES AND ON HOW FUTURE DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED, AND THAT NECESSARY FUNDS WOULD BE SOUGHT FOR INCLUSION IN NEXT YEAR'S DRAFT ESTIMATES FOR PROJECTS SCHEDULED TO START NEXT YEAR.

+THIS WOULD THEN ENSURE THAT THESE PROJECTS CAN COMMENCE AS SOON AS THE WHITE PAPER IS APPROVED FOR IMPLEMENTATION,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/16

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1976

- 16 -

EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1976

* * * * *

AN AMENDMENT BILL TO GIVE HONG KONG WORKERS FOUR MORE REST DAYS EACH YEAR HAD ITS SECOND READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON. IAN PRICE, TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1976 PROPOSED ONE REST DAY IN EVERY SEVEN-DAY PERIOD INSTEAD OF FOUR REST DAYS A MONTH AS PRESCRIBED AT PRESENT. THIS WOULD INCREASE THE NUMBER OF REST DAYS IN A YEAR FROM 48 TO 52.

MR. PRICE SAID: +THIS AMENDMENT WILL ENABLE HONG KONG TO IMPROVE ITS POSITION IN RESPECT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONVENTION. IT WILL BRING HONG KONG INTO LINE WITH OTHER NEIGHBOURING ASIAN TERRITORIES, AND WILL BE GIVING LEGISLATIVE BACKING TO WHAT IS ALREADY AN EXISTING AND WIDESPREAD PRACTICE.+

MR. PRICE POINTED OUT THAT, UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS REGULATIONS, WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS COULD NOT WORK FOR MORE THAN SIX DAYS IN ANY WEEK. ALL EMPLOYEES TO WHOM PART IV OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE APPLIED ARE AT PRESENT ENTITLED TO NOT LESS THAN FOUR REST DAYS IN A MONTH.

REFERRING TO HIS PREDECESSOR WHO IN 1970 INTRODUCED AN AMENDMENT TO THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOUR REST DAYS A MONTH, MR. PRICE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE SITUATION OF 1970 NO LONGER PREVAILED AND THAT OFFICERS OF HIS DEPARTMENT HAD CONDUCTED TWO SURVEYS COVERING NEARLY 1,700 VARIOUS KINDS OF ESTABLISHMENTS.

+THESE SURVEYS REVEAL THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEMS IN ADOPTING THE PROPOSED PRACTICE OF GIVING ONE REST DAY IN EVERY SEVEN DAYS,+ MR. PRICE POINTED OUT.

+I BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSED CHANGE WILL HAVE VERY LITTLE EFFECT ON PRODUCTION BUT MAY INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY AND REDUCE ABSENTEEISM.+

MR. PRICE EXPLAINED THAT THE EXISTING PROVISIONS WERE RETAINED IN THE ORDINANCE TO PERMIT FLEXIBILITY TO EMPLOYERS IN SUBSTITUTING REST DAYS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/17

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1976.

- 17 -

PUBLIC OMNIBUS SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976

* * * *

THE PRACTICE TO OPERATE PUBLIC OMNIBUS SERVICES IN THE GUISE OF TOUR SERVICES WILL BE STOPPED IF THE PUBLIC OMNIBUS SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976 IS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE BILL WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, SAID THE OBJECT OF THE BILL WAS TO REPLACE THE EXISTING DEFINITION OF +TOUR SERVICE+ WITH A NEW AND MORE PRECISE DEFINITION.

+THIS IS A TIGHTER DEFINITION WHICH INCLUDES THE CRITERIA USED IN THE U.K. ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION,+ HE SAID.

MR. JONES POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESENT DEFINITION OF +TOUR SERVICE+ HAD PROVED TO BE DEFECTIVE AS, UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, IT COULD PERMIT WHAT AMOUNTS TO REGULAR NON-FRANCHISED BUS SERVICES TO OPERATE.

+THIS IS MAINLY BECAUSE THE DEFINITION DOES NOT PROVIDE THAT ALL PASSENGERS MUST BE CARRIED FOR THE GREATER PART OF THE TOUR'S ROUTE, NOR DOES IT PROHIBIT THE CARRIAGE OF PASSENGERS WHO USE THE SERVICE FREQUENTLY, OR AS A MATTER OF ROUTINE,+ HE EXPLAINED.

MR. JONES RECALLED THAT IN 1975 A PRIVATE BUS SERVICE WAS ESTABLISHED OSTENSIBLY AS A TOUR SERVICE BUT WAS IN FACT MAINLY CARRYING COMMUTERS, MOST OF WHOM USED IT REGULARLY.

+A PROSECUTION WAS TAKEN AGAINST THE OPERATORS FOR RUNNING A PUBLIC OMNIBUS SERVICE WITHOUT A FRANCHISE BUT THIS WAS DISMISSED BY THE COURTS BECAUSE IT WAS HELD TO FALL WITHIN THE DEFINITION IN THE ORDINANCE OF A 'TOUR SERVICE',+ HE SAID.

THOUGH THE SERVICE WAS NO LONGER IN OPERATION, IT WAS PROPOSED TO REPLACE THE DEFINITION WITH A NEW ONE IN THE LIGHT OF THE COURT'S RULING, HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/18

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1976.

- 18 -

WATER CUT
* * * *

A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN WESTERN DISTRICT AND TSUEN WAN WILL BE WITHOUT WATER FOR FIVE HOURS STARTING FROM 1 A.M. ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 12).

THE TEMPORARY STOPPAGE IS TO ALLOW THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT NIGHT LEAKAGE TESTS.

IN WESTERN DISTRICT, THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY SMITHFIELD ROAD, CADOGAN STREET, FORBES STREET AND NEW PRAYA STREET, INCLUDING BELCHER'S STREET, DAVIS STREET, CATCHIK STREET, HAU WO STREET AND KWAN YICK STREET.

IN TSUEN WAN, THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY TAI WO HAU ROAD, WO TONG TSUI STREET, KWAI CHUNG ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD, INCLUDING FU UK TSUEN, KWAI CHUNG FACTORY BLOCK NOS. 1 TO 5 KWAI HING ESTATE.

----- 0 -----