



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

CONTROLS ON SPENDING WORKING WELL, FS SAYS	1
1983-84 DEFICIT \$100 MILLION BELOW ESTIMATE	1
NAMES WILL NOT BE DISCLOSED	2
NO LOSS OF 'RIGHT TO LAND' IN HK	3
CASE NOT HANDLED IN SATISFACTORY MANNER -- AG	3
NEW FORM OF PUNISHMENT PROPOSED	5
ACTION TAKEN OVER FIRE THREAT	6
CLEARING WAY FOR DENTAL GRADUATES	7
JOB PROSPECTS	8
CIVIL LIABILITY BILL INTRODUCED	9
SAFETY CONTROLS ON LARGE LORRIES EXPLAINED	10
TV PROGRAMMES GETTING BETTER	11
+FLOOR AREA+ IN PLACE OF +VOLUME+ PROPOSED	13
BILL TO REMOVE LEGAL RELIC	14
REVISED FEE FOR PRIVATE BILLS PROPOSED	14
WIDER ELECTION CHOICE SOUGHT	15
BILL ON NEW NAME OF BANK	15
'NO GENERAL EXPLANATION NEEDED ON COMPANIES LAWS'	16
DEMAND FOR TECHNICAL TRAINING CONTINUES	17
BILL TO MERGE TWO DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES	18
HOUSING AUTHORITY BREAKS RECORDS, SETS NEW TARGETS	19
'MODERN STENOGRAPHY METHODS' FOR COURTS	21
MP'S TOUR YUEN LONG DISTRICT	22
RESIDENTS TO SPEAK UP ON WHITE PAPER	22
COMMUNITY SUPPORT NEEDED FOR CAREERS EDUCATION	23
MAINS WORK IN TUEN MUN	24

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1984

- 1 -

CONTROLS ON SPENDING WORKING WELL, FS SAYS
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CONTROLS ON PUBLIC EXPENDITURE WERE WORKING WELL, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE MADE THE COMMENT WHEN TABLING THE SCHEDULE OF SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION FOR THE FINAL QUARTER OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1983-84, COVERING A TOTAL OF \$12.8 MILLION.

SIR JOHN EXPLAINED THAT OF THE AMOUNT, \$10.5 MILLION WAS FOR VARIOUS SALARY ADJUSTMENTS ARISING MAINLY FROM THE 1983 PAY INCREASE FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, AND \$1.5 MILLION WAS FOR A LOAN TO THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE.

THERE WAS NO NET INCREASE IN EXPENDITURE RESULTING FROM THE SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION COVERED BY THE SCHEDULE, HE SAID.

+IT WAS OFFSET EITHER BY SAVINGS UNDER THE SAME HEAD OF EXPENDITURE OR BY THE DELETION OF FUNDS UNDER THE ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS VOTES.

+THE CONTROLS ARE WORKING WELL,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

ALL EXCEPT ONE OF THE ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE SCHEDULE HAD BEEN APPROVED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY AND RESULTING CHANGES TO THE APPROVED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE HAD BEEN REPORTED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE. THE REMAINDER HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, HE SAID.

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1983-84 DEFICIT \$100 MILLION BELOW ESTIMATE
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THE FINAL DEFICIT FOR FISCAL 1983-84 WAS MORE THAN \$100 MILLION BELOW HIS APRIL ESTIMATE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

ACTUAL REVENUE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR WAS \$30 400 MILLION AND THE FINAL DEFICIT WAS \$2 993 MILLION, COMPARED WITH AN ESTIMATED DEFICIT OF \$3 100 MILLION, SIR JOHN SAID, IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1983-84) BILL 1984.

THE BILL SEEKS TO GIVE FINAL LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY FOR THE AMOUNT OF SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION APPROVED IN RESPECT OF PARTICULAR HEADS OF EXPENDITURE BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OR UNDER POWERS DELEGATED BY IT.

THE TOTAL NET SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION REQUIRED WAS \$537.7 MILLION UNDER 31 HEADS.

/SIR JOHN

SIR JOHN SAID THE EXCESS WAS LARGELY ACCOUNTED FOR BY THE 1983 SALARIES REVISION FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE (\$186 MILLION) AND GOVERNMENT SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS (\$193 MILLION) AND FOR THE PAYMENT OF PENSIONS, RETIRING ALLOWANCES AND GRATUITIES TO CONTRACT OFFICERS (\$55 MILLION).

OTHER MAJOR CONTRIBUTING FACTORS INCLUDED THE APPROVED INCREASES IN RATES AND INCREASED CASELOADS IN RESPECT OF CHILD CARE CENTRES FEE ASSISTANCE, PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE AND THE GRANT TO THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL TO MEET CASH FLOW REQUIREMENTS WHICH COULD NOT BE REALISTICALLY ASSESSED AT THE TIME OF PREPARING THE ESTIMATES, HE SAID.

HE REPORTED THAT THE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE ON GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE WHOLE OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR WAS \$2 082 MILLION LESS THAN THE TOTAL APPROVED ESTIMATE OF \$35 475 MILLION IN THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE 1983.

THE EXPENDITURE CHARGED TO THE 31 HEADS, HOWEVER, EXCEEDED THE SUM APPROPRIATED FOR THOSE HEADS BY THE ORDINANCE, AS SUFFICIENT OFFSETTING SAVINGS COULD NOT BE FOUND WITHIN THE HEADS CONCERNED.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE, THIS EXCESS HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE PRESENT BILL.

+SAVINGS MADE IN OTHER SUBHEADS ARE DUE TO CONTINUED TIGHT CONTROL OVER PUBLIC EXPENDITURE,+ SIR JOHN SAID, +I WOULD AGAIN LIKE TO THANK THE MANY CIVIL SERVANTS WHO HAVE SO SIGNALLY CONTRIBUTED TO RESTRAINT.+

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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NAMES WILL NOT BE DISCLOSED
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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON DENIS BRAY, SAID TODAY THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE THAT THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO WROTE TO THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE WOULD NOT BE PUBLISHED OR DISCLOSED, ALTHOUGH THE CONTENTS OF SUCH LETTERS WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE ASSESSMENT.

IT WAS THE COMMISSIONER'S INTENTION TO PUBLISH THE TEXT OF SUBMISSIONS FROM MAIN ORGANISATIONS AS ANNEXES TO THE ASSESSMENT REPORT UNLESS THEY SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED OTHERWISE, HE SAID, REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON K.C. CHAN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE ASSESSMENT REPORT TOGETHER WITH ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS WOULD BE SUBMITTED BY THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

THE COMMISSIONER OF THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE HAD CONFIRMED THAT NO RECORDS WOULD BE KEPT IN THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE, MR BRAY SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1984

- 3 -

NO LOSS OF 'RIGHT TO LAND' IN HK
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PERSONS WHO HAD THE +RIGHT TO LAND+ IN HONG KONG WOULD NOT LOSE THAT RIGHT AFTER THEY HAD ACQUIRED A FOREIGN NATIONALITY, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+RIGHT TO LAND+, UNDER THE HONG KONG IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE, WAS A ROUGH EQUIVALENT TO THE EXPRESSION +RIGHT OF ABODE+ IN THE UK IMMIGRATION ACT, HE SAID.

+A PERSON WHO HAS THE 'RIGHT TO LAND' IS FREE FROM IMMIGRATION CONTROL AND MAY REMAIN IN HONG KONG FREE OF ANY LIMIT OR CONDITION OF STAY,+ HE SAID, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHAN YING-LUN.

MR CHAN HAD WANTED TO KNOW THE POLICY REGARDING THE +RIGHT OF ABODE+ OF HONG KONG RESIDENTS WHO RETURNED TO HONG KONG FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY AFTER HAVING ACQUIRED THE NATIONALITY OF THAT COUNTRY.

MR JEAFFRESON EXPLAINED ALSO THAT PERSONS WHO HAD THE +RIGHT TO LAND+ UNDER THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE INCLUDED BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES (HONG KONG) CITIZENS, AND CHINESE RESIDENTS, (I.E. PERSONS WHOLLY OR PARTLY OF CHINESE RACE WHO HAVE AT ANY TIME BEEN ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG FOR A CONTINUOUS PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN SEVEN YEARS).

IN PRACTICE, HE SAID, PERSONS COULD OBTAIN A +RIGHT TO LAND+ ENDORSEMENT IN THEIR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS ENABLING THEM TO RE-ENTER HONG KONG FREELY.

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CASE NOT HANDLED IN SATISFACTORY MANNER -- AG
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INVESTIGATIONS BY HIS CHAMBERS SHOWED THAT PROCEEDINGS AGAINST A MAN CHARGED IN APRIL LAST YEAR WITH POSSESSING DANGEROUS DRUGS HAD NOT BEEN HANDLED IN A SATISFACTORY MANNER, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHARGE, AND AS A RESULT OF +A SERIES OF MISHAPS+, THE MAN HAD SPENT ANOTHER 24 DAYS IN CUSTODY AND HAD LOST THE CHANCE OF RETAINING HIS JOB AS A STONEMASON, MR THOMAS SAID.

+IT WAS AN ERROR THAT COULD, AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN SORTED OUT BY THE PROSECUTION,+ MR THOMAS TOLD THE COUNCIL.

HE WAS SATISFIED THAT THIS WAS +A WHOLLY EXCEPTIONAL CASE WHERE A SERIES OF ERRORS AS UNFORTUNATE AS THEY WERE UNINTENDED, RESULTED IN INJUSTICE AND ECONOMIC LOSS+, MR THOMAS SAID.

/THE ADMINISTRATION

- 4 -

THE ADMINISTRATION HAD, THEREFORE, ACKNOWLEDGED THESE SHORTCOMINGS AND WAS PAYING AN EX GRATIA SUM OF \$12 000 TO CHOI YUK-FAI, CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF HIS LOSSES.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON JOHN SWAINE CONCERNING THE CASE, IN WHICH THE MAN WAS ACQUITTED ON MAY 30 LAST YEAR ON A CHARGE OF POSSESSING DANGEROUS DRUGS, AFTER SPENDING 55 DAYS IN CUSTODY.

THE MAN, MR SWAINE SAID, HAD NOT BEEN ALLOWED BAIL BECAUSE OF CERTAIN IRREGULARITIES IN THE WAY HE HAD BEEN CHARGED.

THE CASE, MR SWAINE SAID, HAD BEEN REPORTED TO THE ADMINISTRATION BY INTERESTED PERSONS INCLUDING THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE LAW SOCIETY SCHEME AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION FOR ENQUIRY AND POSSIBLE COMPENSATION, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD PROMISED TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORT ON IT.

MR SWAINE HAD ASKED THAT THE COUNCIL BE INFORMED OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S INVESTIGATIONS.

MR THOMAS SAID THAT CHOI, WHO HAD A CRIMINAL RECORD AND WAS AN ADDICT, WAS ARRESTED ON APRIL 6 LAST YEAR, ALLEGEDLY AS THE BUYER AND INTENDED USER OF A SMALL QUANTITY OF HEROIN.

BY THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF MISHAPS, MR THOMAS SAID, THE MAN WAS CHARGED BEFORE TSUEN WAN MAGISTRATES' COURT WITH AN INAPPROPRIATE CHARGE, THAT OF TRAFFICKING IN DANGEROUS DRUGS RATHER THAN POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS DRUGS.

ON APRIL 13, AFTER THE CHARGES HAD BEEN PROPERLY AMENDED, A SECOND MISHAP OCCURRED IN THAT THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES WERE MISINFORMED BY THE CLERK AT THE MAGISTRACY THAT CHOI WAS REMANDED ON BOTH TRAFFICKING AND THE POSSESSION CHARGE, ALTHOUGH BY THEN THE PROSECUTION HAD DROPPED THE TRAFFICKING CHARGE AGAINST HIM.

+THIS RESULTED IN A SERIES OF INJUSTICES BECAUSE ON MAY 6, 1983, ON A REVIEW OF WHETHER BAIL SHOULD BE GRANTED, THE MAGISTRATE WAS QUITE WRONGLY INFORMED THAT CHOI FACED ANOTHER CHARGE OF UNLAWFUL TRAFFICKING IN DRUGS, FOR WHICH HE WOULD HAVE TO BE REMANDED IN CUSTODY IN ANY EVENT.

+THE TRUTH WAS, OF COURSE, THAT THIS REFERRED TO THE CHARGE THAT HAD ALREADY BEEN DROPPED,+ HE SAID.

THIS STATEMENT REMOVED ALL PROSPECT OF GETTING BAIL.

+IF THE APPLICATION FOR BAIL HAD BEEN DEALT WITH, AS IT OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN, WITH REFERENCE TO THE POSSESSION CHARGE ALONE, THEN I BELIEVE THE MAGISTRATE WOULD HAVE GRANTED BAIL,+ HE SAID.

THIS INCIDENT WAS NOT THE FAULT OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES IN ANY WAY, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID.

/REFERRING TO

REFERRING TO THE INVESTIGATIONS BY HIS CHAMBERS, MR THOMAS SAID THAT THEY HAD ALSO RESULTED IN RECOMMENDATIONS BEING MADE FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SYSTEM.

+THESE ARE BEING PURSUED WITH THE POLICE, THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT AND OTHER RELEVANT PEOPLE AND BODIES,+ HE SAID.

HE WAS GRATEFUL, MR THOMAS SAID, TO MR JOHN MILLER, THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE LAW SOCIETY'S SCHEME, MR HENRY LITTON, OF THE BAR, AND PROFESSOR PETER WILLOUGHBY FOR HAVING RAISED THE MATTER.

+I HOPE THAT THE MISHAPS OF CHOI YUK-FAI WILL REMAIN UNIQUE AND EXCEPTIONAL, AND THAT HIS CASE HAS SERVED TO REMIND ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN THE PROSECUTION PROCESS AND IN THE COURTS OF THE IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF PERSONAL LIBERTY,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

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NEW FORM OF PUNISHMENT PROPOSED

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THE OBJECT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS BILL 1984 WAS TO INTRODUCE INTO HONG KONG A NEW FORM OF PUNISHMENT OF OFFENDERS, FILLING A VACUUM BETWEEN A JAIL SENTENCE AND A PROBATION ORDER, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+IT WILL GIVE THE COURT THE OPPORTUNITY TO ALLOW THE OFFENDER HIS FREEDOM IF HE IS PREPARED INSTEAD DURING HIS LEISURE TIME TO DO UNPAID WORK THAT IS USEFUL TO THE COMMUNITY.

+IN THAT WAY, BY DISCIPLINED EFFORT UNDER SUPERVISION, HE WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO REHABILITATE HIMSELF AND ACKNOWLEDGE HIS WRONGDOING IN A CONSTRUCTIVE WAY,+ MR THOMAS SAID, IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL.

THIS ADDITIONAL SENTENCING OPTION HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY INTRODUCED IN SUCH COUNTRIES AS BRITAIN, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

FOR THIS REASON, THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING IT INTO HONG KONG WAS REFERRED TO THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION IN NOVEMBER 1981.

MR THOMAS SAID THE BILL INCORPORATED RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY A SUB-COMMITTEE AND ACCEPTED BY THE COMMISSION.

HE MENTIONED, IN PARTICULAR, THE RECOMMENDATION THAT COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS SHOULD BE INTRODUCED AS A PILOT SCHEME.

HE SAID THESE ORDERS WOULD ONLY BE MADE:

* FOR OFFENCES PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT WHERE THE OFFENDER IS OVER 14 YEARS OF AGE.

- * WHERE HE AGREES TO COOPERATE,
- * IF HE IS RECOMMENDED BY A PROBATION OFFICER TO BE A SUITABLE PERSON TO UNDERTAKE COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND
- * IF SUITABLE WORK IS AVAILABLE NEAR THE OFFENDER'S HOME AND FAMILY.

MR THOMAS POINTED OUT THAT VIOLENT OFFENDERS, PSYCHOPATHS AND THE LIKE WOULD NOT IN GENERAL BE RECOMMENDED.

+THERE WILL BE POWER TO ENABLE COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS TO BE MADE ONLY BY THOSE COURTS WHICH HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE THAT FACILITIES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF SUCH ORDERS EXIST IN THEIR AREA. THIS WILL ENABLE THE SCHEME TO BE INTRODUCED IN HONG KONG GRADUALLY,+ HE SAID.

IT WAS INTENDED THAT THE PILOT SCHEME, LIMITED TO CERTAIN MAGISTRATES' COURTS, WOULD RUN FOR TWO YEARS AND WOULD BE MONITORED BY A STANDING COMMITTEE TO BE SET UP FOR THE PURPOSE, HE EXPLAINED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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ACTION TAKEN OVER FIRE THREAT

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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAD SERVED A TOTAL OF 30 FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT NOTICES ON PROPRIETORS OF VARIOUS FACTORIES IN THE BLUE BOX INDUSTRIAL BUILDING OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

WHEN THE PROPRIETORS DID NOT REMOVE THE HAZARDS, OR WHEN THEY PUT THEM BACK AGAIN, THE DEPARTMENT PROSECUTED THE OFFENDERS, HE SAID.

MR JEAFFRESON WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LYDIA DUNN AS TO WHETHER IT WAS TRUE THAT THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN ALERTED ABOUT FIRE HAZARDS AT THE BUILDING BY THE FIRE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION ONE YEAR BEFORE THE FIRE IN THAT BUILDING LAST MONTH, AND IF SO, WHAT PREVENTIVE MEASURES HAD BEEN TAKEN.

HE CONFIRMED THAT IN 1983 THE DEPARTMENT HAD RECEIVED A COMPLAINT FROM THE ASSOCIATION ABOUT A FIRE HAZARD IN THE BUILDING.

IT WAS A SPECIFIC COMPLAINT ABOUT AN OBSTRUCTION IN THE 13TH FLOOR LIFT LOBBY.

+THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT DEALT WITH THE COMPLAINT PROMPTLY AND THE PROPRIETOR CLEARED THE OBSTRUCTION. NO LEGAL ACTION WAS REQUIRED,+ MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

THIS COMPLAINT, HE SAID, WAS ONLY ONE OF MANY GOING BACK SOME YEARS.

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CLEARING WAY FOR DENTAL GRADUATES
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THE DENTISTS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, DESIGNED TO GIVE DUE RECOGNITION TO THE FACULTY OF DENTISTRY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, WAS GIVEN A SECOND READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+FIRST, IT PROVIDES FOR THE DENTAL DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY TO BE ACCEPTABLE AS A QUALIFICATION FOR REGISTRATION TO PRACTISE DENTISTRY. THIS IS TIMELY AS THE UNIVERSITY WILL PRODUCE ITS FIRST DENTAL GRADUATES IN JANUARY 1985.

+SECOND, IT PROVIDES FOR A MEMBER OF THE FACULTY OF DENTISTRY TO SIT ON THE DENTAL COUNCIL, AND IT EXTENDS TO DENTISTS ON THE FULL-TIME TEACHING STAFF OF THE FACULTY CERTAIN PRIVILEGES AND EXEMPTIONS ENJOYED BY OTHER DENTISTS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE,+ THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON HENRY CHING, EXPLAINED.

THE BILL ALSO SEEKS TO LIMIT THE RECOGNITION GIVEN IN HONG KONG TO DENTISTS REGISTERED WITH THE GENERAL DENTAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

+AT PRESENT, ANY PERSON WHO IS REGISTERED WITH THE GENERAL DENTAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED KINGDOM IS QUALIFIED TO BE REGISTERED TO PRACTISE IN HONG KONG.

+AS THE GENERAL DENTAL COUNCIL IS NOW OBLIGED TO REGISTER AS DENTISTS NATIONALS OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COUNTRIES, THESE DENTISTS ARE AUTOMATICALLY QUALIFIED TO BE REGISTERED TO PRACTISE HERE,+ MR CHING SAID.

THE BILL SOUGHT TO REMOVE THIS LOOPHOLE, WHILE MAINTAINING THE POSITION IN RESPECT OF DENTISTS WHO HOLD QUALIFICATIONS AWARDED BY EXAMINING BODIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE COMMONWEALTH OR THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND, AND GIVING THE HONG KONG DENTAL COUNCIL DISCRETIONARY POWERS TO RECOGNISE OTHER OVERSEAS DENTAL DEGREES, HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

JOB PROSPECTS
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THERE WOULD BE ABOUT 50 VACANCIES FOR DENTISTS IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE FROM NOW UP TO EARLY 1986, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR THE HON K.L. THONG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MARJA TAM ABOUT THE JOB PROSPECTS FOR GRADUATES OF THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL SCHEME.

DR THONG SAID THAT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE EXISTING AND ANTICIPATED STAFF POSITIONS AND POSTS ARISING FROM PLANNED PROJECTS, THERE WOULD BE ABOUT 50 POSTS AVAILABLE FOR OPEN RECRUITMENT FROM NOW TO EARLY 1986.

THERE WOULD BE 69 GRADUATES FROM THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL NEXT YEAR, AND 71 IN 1986.

THERE WERE PLANS TO ABSORB SOME OF THESE GRADUATES INTO THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMAL RECRUITMENT PROCEDURES.

THOSE GRADUATES FOUND SUITABLE AND RECRUITED WOULD BE POSTED TO VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DENTAL CLINICS, HOSPITALS AND THE SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, THERE WERE NO PLANS TO EMPLOY THESE NEW GRADUATES IN GOVERNMENT-SUBVENTED ESTABLISHMENTS, AS THERE WERE NO VACANCIES IN THESE HOSPITALS AT PRESENT.

DR THONG SAID THAT A MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF ESTABLISHING THE DENTAL FACULTY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, WAS TO PRODUCE DENTISTS WHO WOULD BE EXPECTED TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY BY PRACTISING IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

+THIS IS STILL THE CASE WITH THE NEW DENTAL GRADUATES OF THE UNIVERSITY,+ HE SAID.

THE ACTUAL PLACEMENT OF THE NEW GRADUATES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR WOULD LARGELY DEPEND ON CIRCUMSTANCES AND MARKET FORCES WHICH COULD ONLY BE APPARENT AFTER THEY HAD GRADUATED.

HE TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE SITUATION WOULD BE MONITORED ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO PREDICT WITH ANY DEGREE OF ACCURACY THE EXTENT OF THE ACTUAL PLACEMENT AT THIS STAGE.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1984

- 9 -

CIVIL LIABILITY BILL INTRODUCED

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THE CIVIL LIABILITY (CONTRIBUTION) BILL 1984, INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, SEEKS TO CHANGE THE LAW DEALING WITH THE WAY IN WHICH WRONGDOERS CAN BE MADE TO CONTRIBUTE TO AN AWARD OF DAMAGES BY THE COURT.

+THIS ARISES WHEN A PLAINTIFF HAS SUSTAINED LOSS OR DAMAGE AS A RESULT OF THE ACT OR OMISSION OF TWO OR MORE OTHER PERSONS IN CIRCUMSTANCES THAT ARE SO CONNECTED THAT BOTH OR ALL THE WRONGDOERS CAN BE SAID TO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE PLAINTIFF'S LOSSES,+ THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, EXPLAINED.

THE LAW ON THIS TOPIC IS CURRENTLY CONTAINED IN SECTION 19 OF THE LAW AMENDMENT AND REFORM (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE WHICH IS BASED ON AN ENGLISH STATUTE OF 1935. THE LAW OF ENGLAND WAS FOUND TO BE DEFECTIVE AND WAS AMENDED THERE BY STATUTE IN 1978.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR THOMAS SAID IT CONTAINED RECOMMENDATIONS ENDORSED BY THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION.

+I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IT WILL SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVE THE LAW IN HONG KONG AND GIVE THE COURT GREATER POWER TO DO JUSTICE BETWEEN THOSE WHO ARE FOUND LIABLE IN RESPECT OF THE SAME DAMAGE,+ MR THOMAS TOLD THE COUNCIL.

BY WAY OF EXAMPLE, HE SAID, +SUPPOSE A PURCHASER BUYS A TELEVISION SET FROM A SHOP AND IT BLOWS UP THE FIRST TIME IT IS USED. THE PURCHASER MAY SUE THE SHOP FOR BREACH OF CONTRACT, AND WOULD PROBABLY SUCCEED BECAUSE THERE IS AN IMPLIED CONDITION IN SUCH CONTRACTS OF SALE THAT THE TELEVISION IS FIT FOR ITS PURPOSE.

+ALTHOUGH THE PURCHASER COULD ALSO SUE THE MANUFACTURER OF THE TELEVISION SET, HE WOULD HAVE TO PROVE NEGLIGENCE WHICH MIGHT BE MORE DIFFICULT. SO HE MIGHT ONLY SUE THE SHOP.+

MR THOMAS EXPLAINED THAT IF THE PURCHASER WON UNDER THE PRESENT LAW, THE SHOP PROPRIETOR COULD NOT THEN CLAIM A CONTRIBUTION FROM THE MANUFACTURER TOWARDS THE DAMAGES HE HAD TO PAY THE PURCHASER.

THE BILL WOULD NOW ENABLE THE PROPRIETOR TO DO THIS, HE SAID.

AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE BILL PROVIDES THAT EVEN WHERE A DEFENDANT IN GOOD FAITH SETTLES A CLAIM BY PAYING UP ON IT WITHOUT WAITING FOR A COURT JUDGEMENT, HE CAN STILL RECOVER A CONTRIBUTION TO THE DAMAGES FROM ANOTHER WRONGDOER WHO WOULD BE LIABLE IN RESPECT OF THE SAME LOSS.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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SAFETY CONTROLS ON LARGE LORRIES EXPLAINED
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GOVERNMENT POLICY RECOGNISED THAT THE USE OF HEAVIER AND LARGER LORRIES HAD TO BE CAREFULLY CONTROLLED IN THE INTEREST OF SAFETY OF OTHER ROAD USERS, INCLUDING PEDESTRIANS, THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+IN PRACTICE, THIS MEANS THAT NEW ROADS ARE DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED TO ACCOMMODATE SUCH VEHICLES; RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN ROADS ARE SET ACCORDING TO THE TYPES AND CLASSES OF HEAVY AND LARGE VEHICLES; AND THE SIZE, WEIGHT AND POSITIONING OF LOADS ARE REGULATED FOR ALL GOODS VEHICLES,+ MR SCOTT EXPLAINED.

+IN ADDITION, THERE ARE SPECIAL CONTROLS ON THE TIMING, ROUTE AND MANNER FOR THE CARRIAGE OF CERTAIN SPECIAL OR OVER-SIZE LOADS,+ HE SAID.

MR SCOTT WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION ON THE SUBJECT FROM DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI.

HE SAID THAT THE ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION PRESCRIBED CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING MINIMUM BRAKING EFFICIENCY.

+PROPER MAINTENANCE OF ALL LORRIES IS ENCOURAGED AND ENFORCED BY THE VEHICLE EXAMINATION WHICH ALL GOODS VEHICLES MANUFACTURED BEFORE 1976 MUST TAKE BEFORE THEY CAN BE RELICENSED AT FOUR MONTHLY OR ANNUAL INTERVALS,+ MR SCOTT SAID.

THE POLICE ALSO PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN ENFORCING THE TRAFFIC LEGISLATION, MR SCOTT SAID.

HE REPORTED THERE WERE 4 072 PROSECUTIONS FOR OVERLOADING IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, COMPARED WITH 6 714 FOR THE WHOLE OF 1983.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MARIA TAM ABOUT SHORT AND LONG TERM MEASURES TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC SAFETY IN THE EASTERN STREET AREA IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT, MR SCOTT SAID THAT WORK HAD STARTED ON LAYING SKID RESISTANT MATERIAL AND WIDENING THE FOOTPATHS ON THIS STREET BETWEEN QUEEN'S ROAD WEST AND SECOND STREET.

+OTHER SHORT TERM MEASURES INCLUDE ERECTING SIGNS WITH THE WARNING 'STEEP HILL/KEEP IN LOW GEAR' ON EASTERN STREET BETWEEN HIGH STREET AND SECOND STREET, AND 'GIVE WAY' SIGNS AND MARKINGS WHICH HAVE BEEN PLACED AT THE JUNCTION OF EASTERN STREET, SECOND STREET AND HOSPITAL ROAD,+ HE SAID.

/SKID RESISTANCE

SKID RESISTANCE TESTS WERE BEING CARRIED OUT ON THE REMAINING SECTION OF EASTERN STREET, AND ON CENTRE AND WESTERN STREETS, TO ESTABLISH WHETHER FURTHER SAFETY MEASURES WERE NECESSARY.

NEVERTHELESS, MR SCOTT NOTED THAT THE SCOPE FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS WAS LIMITED IN THESE NARROW, STEEP STREETS WITH RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS WHICH HAD TO BE SERVED BY GOODS VEHICLES.

+LONGER TERM IMPROVEMENT DEPENDS UPON THE LARGE SCALE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA,+ HE SAID.

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TV PROGRAMMES GETTING BETTER

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THE QUALITY AND RANGE OF TELEVISION PROGRAMMES ON THE TWO TELEVISION STATIONS HAVE CONTINUED TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND IN A COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT.

THIS IS STATED IN THE TENTH REPORT OF THE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD TABLED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (WEDNESDAY).

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW -- FROM JANUARY 1983 TO JUNE 1984 -- WAS ONE OF SATISFACTORY EXPANSION AND INNOVATION. ALSO, THE REGULATORY PROBLEMS NOTED IN THE PREVIOUS REPORT WERE REDUCED.

LOCALLY-PRODUCED PROGRAMMES CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS AND SIX LOCAL PRODUCTIONS HAD WON INTERNATIONAL AWARDS.

THE BOARD FINDS THAT BOTH TELEVISION STATIONS HAVE CONTINUED TO IMPROVE THEIR INTERNAL MONITORING SYSTEMS AND THE NUMBER OF BREACHES OF PROGRAMME STANDARDS REMAINS AT A LOW LEVEL.

THERE HAVE BEEN ISOLATED CASES OF EXCESSIVE VIOLENCE, UNDESIRABLE LANGUAGE, POLEMIC DRAMA THEMES, UNNATURAL COMMERCIAL BREAKS, PROGRAMME UNDER-RUNS OR OVER-RUNS AND INDIRECT ADVERTISING. THE STATIONS HAVE BEEN ADVISED TO TAKE REMEDIAL ACTIONS, THE REPORT SAYS.

THE PORTRAYAL OF VIOLENCE HAS GENERALLY BEEN WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF ACCEPTABILITY, THE DEPICTION OF SEX DISCREET, THE USE OF TRIAD TERMS UNDER CONTROL AND CONTROVERSIAL DRAMA THEMES GENERALLY PRESENTED IN A BALANCED MANNER, THE REPORT POINTS OUT.

IT SAYS THAT BOTH STATIONS HAVE EXPERIMENTED WITH NEW PROGRAMME IDEAS TO ATTRACT AND HOLD THE INTEREST OF VIEWERS. AMONG THESE WERE TRAVELOGUES ON THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE, MUSICALS AND CONTEMPORARY YOUTH SERIES.

/BESIDES EVIDENT

BESIDES EVIDENT IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES, VIEWING TIME FOR THESE PROGRAMMES HAS INCREASED.

NEVERTHELESS, THE BOARD FINDS THERE IS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT.

A HONG KONG BROADCASTING POLICY REVIEW BOARD WAS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR TO CONDUCT AN OVERALL REVIEW OF TELEVISION AND RADIO BROADCASTING IN HONG KONG AFTER 1988, WHEN THE LICENCES OF THE TWO STATIONS ARE DUE TO EXPIRE.

THE REVIEW BOARD WILL DEAL WITH A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS, INCLUDING THE NEEDS OF HONG KONG, THE ROLE OF RTHK, RESOURCES OF COMMERCIAL TELEVISION AND RADIO, ADVERTISING CONTROL, THE HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS, CENSORSHIP AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS, TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS CABLE TELEVISION, DIRECT BROADCASTING BY SATELLITE, MULTIPLEX SOUNDCASTING AND TELETEXT SERVICES, AND TENDER PROCEDURES FOR BROADCASTING LICENCES.

THE BOARD IS EXPECTED TO SUBMIT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL BY MID-1985, THE REPORT SAYS.

THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TELEVISION HOME VIEWING GROUPS HAS RECENTLY BEEN EXPANDED TO 500. THEY PROVIDE AN ON-GOING FLOW OF PUBLIC OPINION ON TELEVISION PROGRAMMING AND HELP THE BOARD TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARDS PROGRAMME AND ADVERTISING STANDARDS.

MAIN CONCERNS VOICED BY MEMBERS OF THESE GROUPS RELATED TO UNDERSIRABLE TELEVISION STORY THEMES, VIOLENCE AND LANGUAGE, THE REPORT SAYS.

THEIR VIEWS WERE ASSESSED VERY CAREFULLY AND VALID POINTS FOLLOWED UP. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE TWO STATIONS HAD RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO FEEDBACK FROM THESE GROUPS.

THE THIRD FULL-SCALE TELEVISION AUDIENCE ATTITUDE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED BY THE TELEVISION AUTHORITY IN JULY 1983.

ALTHOUGH RESPONDENTS WERE IN THE MAIN SATISFIED WITH THE FREQUENCY OF MOST TYPES OF PROGRAMMES, THERE WAS A SIZABLE DEMAND FOR MORE DOCUMENTARIES AND MUSICAL PROGRAMMES.

THE SURVEY SHOWED THAT MOST RESPONDENTS, HOWEVER, WERE SCEPTICAL ABOUT THE VARIOUS SUPERLATIVE AND COMPARATIVE CLAIMS IN ADVERTISEMENTS.

TO FULLY GUIDE THE ADVERTISER AND PROTECT CONSUMER INTERESTS, THE BOARD, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE ADVERTISING INDUSTRY, FORMULATED A NOTE OF GUIDANCE ON 'NO. 1 SALES, BEST SELLING AND SPECIAL CLAIMS' WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ADOPTED BY THE TELEVISION AUTHORITY IN 1983.

RESPONDENTS FOUND TELEVISION ADVERTISEMENTS FOR CIGARETTES, LIQUOR AND PERSONAL PRODUCTS TO BE GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE, BUT MOST OF THEM CONSIDERED THAT TIME RESTRICTIONS WERE NECESSARY.

/IN ADDITION,

IN ADDITION, MORE THAN HALF OF THE RESPONDENTS BELIEVED THAT MANDATORY HEALTH WARNING IN CIGARETTE ADVERTISEMENTS WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1983 WAS EFFECTIVE.

THE REPORT SAID THAT TELEVISION CONTINUES TO BE THE MAJOR LEISURE ACTIVITY FOR MOST PEOPLE IN HONG KONG. AT THE END OF JUNE 1984, IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT 95 PER CENT OF ALL HOMES POSSESSED ONE OR MORE TELEVISION SETS.

THE BOARD FINDS THAT THE OVERALL FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE INDUSTRY IS BETTER SINCE THE PREVIOUS REPORT.

ALTHOUGH ONE OF THE STATIONS CONTINUED TO INCREASE ITS PROFITS, THE OTHER SUCCEEDED IN REDUCING ITS LOSSES AND ACHIEVING A SMALL PROFIT.

THE BOARD, HOWEVER, BELIEVES THAT GIVEN THE PRESENT STATE OF THE INDUSTRY, THE LICENSING OF FURTHER TELEVISION STATIONS SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED UNTIL A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF FUTURE BROADCASTING POLICY HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT.

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+FLOOR AREA+ IN PLACE OF +VOLUME+ PROPOSED
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A BILL SEEKING TO ENABLE REPLACEMENT BUILDINGS TO BE MEASURED IN +GROSS FLOOR AREA,+ RATHER THAN IN THE SAME +GROSS VOLUME+ AS THE BUILDINGS DEMOLISHED, WAS READ A SECOND TIME IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (RE-DEVELOPMENT OF SITES) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, DR THE HON CHAN NAI-KEONG, EXPLAINED THAT OLD BUILDINGS NORMALLY HAD FAIRLY HIGH FLOOR-TO-CEILING HEIGHTS, AND HENCE LARGE VOLUME, WHILE MODERN BUILDINGS WITH LOWER CEILING HEIGHTS HAD LESS VOLUME FOR AN EQUIVALENT GROSS FLOOR AREA.

THIS HAD RESULTED IN RECENT RE-DEVELOPMENT CASES WHERE THE VOLUME REQUIREMENT COULD NOT BE FULFILLED EXCEPT BY UNNECESSARILY RAISING THE FLOOR-TO-CEILING HEIGHT BEYOND THAT REQUIRED IN THE BUILDING (PLANNING) REGULATIONS.

FOR THESE REASONS, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR +GROSS FLOOR AREA,+ INSTEAD OF +VOLUME,+ TO BE REFERRED TO IN RE-DEVELOPMENT ORDERS, THUS BRINGING THE ORDINANCE INTO LINE WITH CURRENT BUILDING LEGISLATION AND PRACTICE, DR CHAN SAID.

THE BILL WAS INTENDED TO MAKE THE APPROPRIATE AMENDMENT TO SECTION 4(1) OF THE DEMOLISHED BUILDINGS (RE-DEVELOPMENT OF SITES) ORDINANCE, HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILL TO REMOVE LEGAL RELIC
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THE PUBLIC BUS SERVICES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1984, SEEKING TO REPEAL A PROVISION THAT PUBLIC BUSES USED BY FRANCHISED COMPANY MUST BE OF COMMONWEALTH MANUFACTURE, WAS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON E.P. HO, SAID THE PROVISION WAS A RELIC OF THE COMMONWEALTH PREFERENCE SCHEME WHICH WAS DISMANTLED IN 1975.

UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE, UNLESS THE GOVERNOR PERMITS OTHERWISE, BUSES USED BY A FRANCHISED COMPANY FOR PROVIDING A PUBLIC BUS SERVICE MUST BE OF COMMONWEALTH MANUFACTURE.

+ALTHOUGH NO APPLICATION FOR THE PURCHASE OF A BUS MADE OUTSIDE THE COMMONWEALTH HAS EVER BEEN REFUSED, THIS SECTION NEVERTHELESS REPRESENTS A NON-TARIFF BARRIER TO TRADE WHICH IS INCONSISTENT WITH HONG KONG'S POLICY OF FREE TRADE AND FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE GATT,+ MR HO SAID.

+AS OUR STANDING IN GATT IS WHOLLY DEPENDENT ON THE CONSISTENCY OF OUR POLICY, AND THE EXAMPLE WE SET, THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DELETION OF THIS OFFENDING CLAUSE IS ESSENTIAL,+ HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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REVISED FEE FOR PRIVATE BILLS PROPOSED
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THE MAIN AMENDMENT IN THE PRIVATE BILLS (AMENDMENT) BILL WAS TO INCREASE THE FEE PAYABLE BY THE PROMOTERS OF A PRIVATE BILL, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS SAID TODAY.

THE PRESENT FEE OF \$500 HAD BEEN FIXED AS LONG AGO AS 1915, WHEN THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE WAS FIRST ENACTED, HE SAID.

+WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, IT HAS BECOME A DERISORY SUM IN VIEW OF THE RESOURCES THAT ARE INCURRED AT PUBLIC EXPENSE BY THE LAW DRAFTING DIVISION IN PROCESSING A PRIVATE BILL,+ MR THOMAS SAID, MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE PROPOSED FIGURE OF \$25 000 WAS NOT COST-RELATED AS THE AMOUNT OF LEGAL DEPARTMENT WORK REQUIRED IN EACH CASE VARIED CONSIDERABLY. BUT IT SEEMED A REASONABLE SCALE FEE FOR THE TIME AND EFFORT INVOLVED IN THIS IMPORTANT WORK, HE SAID.

+IN FACT, THE MAJORITY OF THE PRIVATE BILLS ARE FOR A CHARITABLE PURPOSE AND IN SUCH CASES THE CHIEF SECRETARY IS EMPOWERED TO WAIVE PAYMENT OF THE WHOLE OR ANY PART OF THE FEE,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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WIDER ELECTION CHOICE SOUGHT
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THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE BOARD INCORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 WAS TO DELETE FROM THE ORDINANCE THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD TO BE APPOINTED FROM AMONG UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON HENRY CHING, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

BUT IT WOULD STILL BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE SUCH AN APPOINTMENT SHOULD THIS BE DESIRED, HE SAID.

WHILE THE EXISTING REQUIREMENT GAVE AN ASSURANCE OF QUALITY, IT COULD POSE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS BY RESTRICTING THE CHOICE OF VICE-CHAIRMAN TO A RELATIVELY SMALL FIELD OF BUSY PEOPLE. THERE WAS CLEAR ADVANTAGE IN A LESS RESTRICTIVE ARRANGEMENT, MR CHING SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILL ON NEW NAME OF BANK
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A BILL AMENDING CERTAIN LAWS TO REFLECT A CHANGE OF NAME OF THE CHARTERED BANK TO THE STANDARD CHARTERED BANK WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE CHARTERED BANK (CHANGE OF NAME) BILL 1984, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID, +THERE WILL BE BANK NOTES IN CIRCULATION BEARING THE NAME OF THE CHARTERED BANK WHEN THE CHANGE OF NAME COMES INTO EFFECT (ON JANUARY 1, 1985), AND IN ADDITION THERE WILL BE UNISSUED STOCKS OF SUCH NOTES ON HAND, THE COST OF WHICH FALLS ON GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE EXCHANGE FUND.

+ACCORDINGLY, CLAUSE 5 OF THE BILL MAKES PROVISION FOR THE CHARTERED BANK TO CONTINUE TO ISSUE BANK NOTES BEARING ITS PRESENT NAME, NOTWITHSTANDING THE CHANGE OF NAME, FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS FROM JANUARY 1, 1985 OR TO SUCH LATER DATE AS MAY BE FIXED BY THIS COUNCIL.+

HE SAID THAT THIS WOULD ENABLE THE BANK TO USE UP EXISTING STOCKS OF PARTICULAR DENOMINATIONS.

+ALL OLD STYLE NOTES, WHICH WILL REMAIN LEGAL TENDER, WILL NATURALLY BE WITHDRAWN FROM CIRCULATION WHEN THEY ARE UNFIT FOR FURTHER CIRCULATION,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

HE ALSO TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT A NEW SERIES OF NOTES WOULD BE INTRODUCED SHORTLY BY BOTH NOTE ISSUING BANKS.

THE NEW NOTES WILL BE SMALLER THAN THOSE NOW IN CIRCULATION, PLUS PROVIDING A SAVING IN PAPER COSTS.

+BECAUSE THE NOTES WILL BE PRODUCED BY THE SAME PRINTER, THEY WILL INCORPORATE FEATURES WHICH WILL BE STANDARD FOR THE NOTES ISSUED BY BOTH NOTE ISSUING BANKS,+ HE SAID.

SOME OF THE NEW NOTES WOULD BE PROCESSED AT DE LA RUE'S NEW FACTORY IN TAI PO WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN OPERATION IN NOVEMBER.

+SOON AFTER OPENING, IT WILL BE USED TO PRODUCE ALL HONG KONG'S BANK NOTE REQUIREMENTS,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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'NO GENERAL EXPLANATION NEEDED ON COMPANIES LAWS'
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THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT TAKING MEASURES TO PROVIDE ANY GENERAL EXPLANATION OF THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1984, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IT WOULD ALSO BE IMPRACTICAL TO PRODUCE A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE, MR JACOBS SAID, IN REPLY TO THE HON PETER POON WHO WANTED TO KNOW WHAT MEASURES WERE BEING TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO EXPLAIN THE COMPLEX PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE TO THE PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS.

+THE REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES DOES, HOWEVER, ISSUE CIRCULARS TO PROFESSIONAL BODIES ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, AND NOTES ON CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO DOCUMENTS WHICH HAVE TO BE FILED IN THE COMPANIES REGISTRY ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON REQUEST,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THESE NOTES WERE BEING UPDATED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ANY AMENDMENTS TO THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE.

MR JACOBS EXPLAINED THAT COMPANIES LEGISLATION WAS OF INTEREST PRIMARILY TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, AND THE AMENDMENTS INTRODUCED BY THE ORDINANCE HAD BEEN THE RESULT OF MANY YEARS OF CONSULTATION WITH PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

THE BILL HAD BEEN FIRST PUBLISHED FOR INFORMATION IN JULY 1980 AND HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT SEMINARS ORGANISED BY VARIOUS BODIES, HE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1984

- 17 -

DEMAND FOR TECHNICAL TRAINING CONTINUES
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ENROLMENT AND JOB PLACEMENT AT THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE WERE SATISFACTORY DESPITE THE ECONOMIC RECESSION LAST YEAR.

THE TWO CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRES ALSO EXPERIENCED NO DIFFICULTY IN RECRUITING TRAINEES AND PLACING THEM IN THE INDUSTRY UPON COMPLETION OF THEIR TRAINING LAST YEAR.

THESE FACTS ARE CONTAINED IN THE 1983 ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE CLOTHING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES TRAINING AUTHORITIES, TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY BY DR THE HON FRANCIS Y.H. TIEN.

LAST YEAR, ABOUT 4 700 TRAINEES COMPLETED THE COURSES OFFERED BY THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE AT LAI KING. THE TOTAL TRAINING CAPACITY WAS ESTIMATED TO HAVE INCREASED TO MORE THAN 6 000 WHEN THE SECOND TRAINING CENTRE AT KOWLOON BAY BEGAN OPERATIONS IN JULY THIS YEAR, SAID DR TIEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY.

+IT WAS NOT DIFFICULT FOR THE TRAINEES TO FIND JOBS OR FOR THE TRAINING CENTRES TO RECRUIT TRAINEES AT A TIME WHEN THE CLOTHING INDUSTRY QUICKLY RESPONDED TO AN UPSWING IN EXPORTS, PARTICULARLY TO THE UNITED STATES,+ DR TIEN SAID.

THE TOTAL VALUE OF CLOTHING EXPORTS FROM HONG KONG INCREASED BY 18.6 PER CENT TO ABOUT HK\$35 180 MILLION IN 1983.

ACCORDING TO THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY 1983 ANNUAL REPORT, THERE WERE SOME 1 400 TRAINEES ENROLLED IN THE EXISTING TWO CONSTRUCTION TRAINING CENTRES. THIS NUMBER EXCEEDED THE TOTAL CAPACITY OF THE TWO CENTRES BY 6.4 PER CENT.

BY THE END OF 1983, 85 PER CENT OF THESE TRAINEES HAD BEEN PLACED IN THE INDUSTRY AND BY MID-1984, VIRTUALLY ALL HAD BEEN EMPLOYED.

+THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING RESULT IN VIEW OF THE SLUGGISHNESS OF THE OVERALL CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN 1983, PARTICULARLY IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR,+ THE REPORT SAYS.

THE AUTHORITY HAD ALSO LAUNCHED A CONSTRUCTION SAFETY OFFICER COURSE IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE BUILDING CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

THE BUILDING OF THE THIRD CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE WAS UNDER WAY FOLLOWING THE GRANT OF A PIECE OF LAND ON HONG KONG ISLAND BY THE GOVERNMENT LAST YEAR, THE REPORT STATES.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1934

- 18 -

BILL TO MERGE TWO DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES
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AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER'S BILL TO MERGE TWO LOCAL DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES WAS GIVEN ITS SECOND READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE HON JOHN SWAINE SAID THE BILL PROVIDED FOR THE VESTING IN STANDARD CHARTERED ASIA LIMITED OF THE UNDERTAKING OF MAIBL BERMUDA (FAR EAST) LIMITED.

BOTH COMPANIES WERE REGISTERED AS DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES IN HONG KONG ENGAGED IN THE WHOLESALE LENDING BUSINESS, AND BOTH WERE SUBSIDIARIES OF THE STANDARD CHARTERED BANK GROUP.

+THEIR PROPOSED MERGER IS WITH A VIEW TO GROUP RATIONALISATION,+ MR SWAINE SAID.

HE SAID UNDER NORMAL COMMERCIAL PRACTICE THE PROPOSED MERGER WOULD HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED BY AN EXCHANGE OF SHARES.

BUT THIS METHOD WAS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE OF THE RESTRICTION CONTAINED IN THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES' ORDINANCE WHICH PREVENTS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY FROM INVESTING MORE THAN 25 PER CENT OF ITS CAPITAL AND RESERVES IN THE SHARES OF ANOTHER COMPANY.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED MERGER BY MEANS OF A PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING AND THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, AND THE BILL ITSELF HAD BEEN CLEARED WITH THE LAW DRAFTSMAN'S OFFICE, MR SWAINE SAID.

HE SAID UNDER THE TERMS OF THE BILL, MAIBL BERMUDA (FAR EAST) LIMITED WOULD CEASE TO BE A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD RETAIN ITS LEGAL EXISTENCE WITH A SMALL NOMINAL CAPITAL AND BECOME A SUBSIDIARY OF STANDARD CHARTERED ASIA LIMITED.

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/19

HOUSING AUTHORITY BREAKS RECORDS, SETS NEW TARGETS

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WITH THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S BUILDING PROGRAMME MOVING FULL STEAM AHEAD, THERE ARE AT PRESENT OVER 120 000 FLATS UNDER VARIOUS STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION, THUS ENSURING THE CONTINUED HIGH LEVEL OF PRODUCTION FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

THIS IS STATED BY THE AUTHORITY'S CHAIRMAN, MR DONALD LIAO, IN THE AUTHORITY'S 1983/84 ANNUAL REPORT PUBLISHED TODAY, AND TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THERE ARE FIRM SITE RESERVATIONS FOR ABOUT EIGHT YEARS OF HOUSING REQUIREMENTS WITH STUDIES UNDERWAY TO OBTAIN A FULL 10 YEARS SUPPLY, HE ADDS.

IN THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW, MR LIAO CONTINUES, THE AUTHORITY BROKE OLD RECORDS AND SET NEW TARGETS.

DURING THE YEAR, A TOTAL OF 36 441 RENTAL AND HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FLATS WERE COMPLETED - THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF PRODUCTION EVER RECORDED BY THE AUTHORITY. IT ALSO REPRESENTED THE FOURTH YEAR THAT THE AUTHORITY HAD SUCCEEDED IN EXCEEDING THE ANNUAL PRODUCTION TARGET OF 35 000 FLATS A YEAR.

WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME NOW IN FULL SWING, ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF FLATS FOR RENTAL AND SALE WILL BE INCREASED TO MORE THAN 40 000 IN 1985/86, HE ADDS.

MR LIAO'S REVIEW OF THE AUTHORITY'S WORK DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW ALSO TOUCHES UPON, AMONG OTHERS, CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, REDEVELOPMENT OF OLD ESTATES, ALLOCATION OF PUBLIC HOUSING, THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME, TEMPORARY HOUSING AND REHOUSING OF SQUATTERS.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ON RENTAL HOUSING FOR 1983/84 TOTALLED \$2 350 MILLION. THE ECONOMIES OF SCALE IN DESIGN AND PRODUCTION, TOGETHER WITH LOWER TENDER PRICES, ENABLED THE AUTHORITY TO BUILD MORE AND BETTER QUALITY FLATS AT A REDUCED LEVEL OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

THE YEAR ALSO SAW THE COMPLETION OF THE REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME FOR SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE, THE FIRST PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE BUILT IN HONG KONG. SIMILAR SCHEMES ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED WITH VIGOUR AND IMAGINATION IN ALL THE 12 MARK 1 AND 11 ESTATES, AND IT IS ENVISAGED THAT ALL THESE BLOCKS WILL BE COMPLETELY REDEVELOPED OR SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED BY 1990.

CONCERNING TEMPORARY HOUSING, MR LIAO STATES THE ABSENCE OF MAJOR NATURAL DISASTERS AND FIRES DURING THE YEAR GAVE THE AUTHORITY A WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO CLEAR ITS COMMITMENTS IN REHOUSING THE LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE STAYING IN TRANSIT CENTRES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR AND TO ORGANISE THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY HOUSING.

- 20 -

AT THE END OF THE YEAR, THERE WERE ONLY 1 700 PEOPLE STAYING IN TRANSIT CENTRES AS COMPARED WITH 4 000 IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

CONSTRUCTION WAS STEPPED UP ON TEMPORARY HOUSING UNITS AND THIS RESULTED IN AN ADDITIONAL 25 000 PERSON SPACES BEING MADE AVAILABLE DURING THE YEAR. THE AUTHORITY HAD ENDORSED HIGHER SPACE ALLOCATION STANDARDS TO PROVIDE BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS IN TEMPORARY HOUSING UNITS.

DURING THE SAME YEAR, MR LIAO CONTINUES, A TOTAL OF 64 000 SQUATTERS WERE REHOUSED MAINLY AS A RESULT OF DEVELOPMENT CLEARANCES.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE WERE STILL SOME 500 000 SQUATTERS IN THE TERRITORY ALTHOUGH ONLY 160 000 ARE ESTIMATED TO BE LIVING IN THE URBAN AREA. VARIOUS MEASURES TO HELP SPEED UP THE PROCESS OF REHOUSING SQUATTERS WERE UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR. THE AUTHORITY HOPES TO REDUCE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SQUATTERS BY HALF WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

MEANWHILE, THE SQUATTER AREA IMPROVEMENTS DIVISION CONTINUED TO PROVIDE FIREBREAKS AND OTHER BASIC AMENITIES TO SQUATTER SETTLEMENTS WHICH ARE NOT SCHEDULED FOR CLEARANCE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. MORE SITES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR IMPROVEMENT WORKS IN A PROGRAMME THAT WILL ULTIMATELY BENEFIT 100 000 SQUATTERS.

IN REFERRING TO THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME, MR LIAO STATES THAT ITS POPULARITY REMAINED HIGH AND A RECORD NUMBER OF 19 000 FLATS WERE SOLD DURING THE YEAR.

SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE SCHEME IN 1978 AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME IN 1979, OVER 12 000 PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS HAD PURCHASED HOS AND PSPS FLATS, INDICATING THE IMPORTANT ROLE THE SCHEMES PLAYED IN ATTRACTING BETTER-OFF TENANTS TO MOVE OUT OF RENTAL HOUSING FOR BENEFIT OF THOSE ON THE PUBLIC HOUSING WAITING LIST.

TO ENSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLY, A FURTHER STOCK OF OVER 25 000 HOS FLATS ARE NOW AT VARIOUS STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION AND TOGETHER WITH ANOTHER 15 000 FLATS IN THE PLANNING STAGES, WILL GUARANTEE AN ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF AT LEAST 5 000 FLATS FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, MR LIAO ADDS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S 1983/84 ANNUAL REPORT, IS NOW ON SALE.

THE 128-PAGE REPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR \$15 FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING IN CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

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'MODERN STENOGRAPHY METHODS' FOR COURTS

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED RULES WHICH KEEP THE LAW IN STEP WITH CURRENT PRACTICE CONCERNING THE KEEPING OF NOTES OF EVERY TRIAL ON INDICTMENT.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, EXPLAINED THAT THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ORDINANCE AND CRIMINAL APPEAL RULES REQUIRE THAT A NOTE SHOULD BE KEPT OF SUCH A TRIAL, RECORDING THE COURSE OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

THIS NOTE IS USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREPARING A TRANSCRIPT IN THE EVENT OF AN APPEAL.

+THE REQUIREMENT IN THE LEGISLATION IS A REQUIREMENT TO KEEP A SHORTHAND NOTE, A TERM THAT DOES NOT TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF MODERN DEVELOPMENTS IN MECHANICAL AND ELECTRONIC METHODS OF STENOGRAPHY AND TRANSCRIPTION.

+TO KEEP THE LAW IN STEP WITH CURRENT PRACTICE IN THIS FIELD, THE CHIEF JUSTICE HAS MADE THE CRIMINAL APPEAL (AMENDMENT) RULES 1984 INTRODUCING DEFINITIONS OF THE TERMS 'SHORTHAND NOTE' AND 'SHORTHAND WRITER' WHICH EMBRACE THE MODERN TECHNOLOGY, AND ENABLE THAT TECHNOLOGY TO BE PROPERLY USED IN THE COURTS,+ MR THOMAS EXPLAINED.

THE COUNCIL ALSO PASSED RULES IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1984 ENACTED LAST MAY.

THIS ORDINANCE INTRODUCED A NEW PROCEDURE TO DEAL WITH OFFENCES ATTRACTING A PENALTY NOT EXCEEDING A FINE OF \$10 000 AND IMPRISONMENT OF SIX MONTHS.

UNDER THE NEW PROCEDURE, PRESCRIBED FORMS HAD TO BE USED BY THE PROSECUTION, MR THOMAS EXPLAINED.

+THE CHIEF JUSTICE HAS PRESCRIBED THE NECESSARY FORMS IN THE MAGISTRATES (FORMS) (AMENDMENT) RULES 1984,+ HE SAID.

THESE FORMS INCLUDED A NOTICE OF PROSECUTION FOR A MINOR OFFENCE, A NOTICE OF NON-PAYMENT OF PENALTY, A NOTICE OF HEARING OF A REVIEW AND A SUMMONS TO A DEFENDANT.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1984

- 22 -

MP'S TOUR YUEN LONG DISTRICT
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THREE LABOUR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT VISITED YUEN LONG THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON TO LISTEN TO DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS' VIEWS ON THE WHITE PAPER ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE, AND TO SEE THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, THE MP'S, MR IAN MIKARDO, MR BARRY SHEERMAN AND MS JO RICHARDSON, TOURED THE WORK SITES OF THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM AND THE TIN SHUI WAI DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

DISTRICT OFFICER, MR JAMES WILSON, BRIEFED THE VISITORS ON THESE PROJECTS.

+WORK ON THE LRT, WHICH WILL SERVE YUEN LONG AND TUEN MUN, IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN MID-1985, WHILE PREPARATORY WORK ON ITS CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS, AND THE TENDERING PROCEDURES HAVE STARTED,+ MR WILSON SAID.

+THE TIN SHUI WAI AREA WILL BE DEVELOPED INTO A NEW TOWN TO HOUSE 135 000 PEOPLE,+ HE ADDED.

THE MP'S ALSO VISITED LOK MA CHAU TO SEE THE SITE FOR THE SECOND BORDER ROAD LINK WITH CHINA AND WERE BRIEFED ON ITS CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME.

AT THE LOK MA CHAU POLICE STATION, THE MP'S WERE BRIEFED ON FRONTIER ACTIVITIES AND THE MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER IN THE AREA.

THE VISITORS WERE TAKEN TO AN OLD-STYLE PAWNSHOP IN GAU HUI, ONCE A BUSTLING MARKET VILLAGE IN YUEN LONG, WHERE THEY WERE TOLD OF HOW THE CHINESE BANKING PROFESSION OPERATED IN THE OLD DAYS.

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RESIDENTS TO SPEAK UP ON WHITE PAPER
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RESIDENTS IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE WHITE PAPER ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AT A SEMINAR TOMORROW.

MEMBERS OF AREA AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATIONS, AS WELL AS HEADMASTERS AND TEACHERS, HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND THE SEMINAR.

DISTRICT OFFICER, MR EDDY CHAN SAID FORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE WHITE PAPER HAD TAKEN PLACE AT REGULAR MEETINGS OF AREA COMMITTEES HELD OVER THE PAST TEN DAYS.

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+ALL THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS COLLECTED AT THESE MEETINGS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE,+ HE SAID.

MEANWHILE, SIMILAR SEMINARS WILL BE HELD IN ABERDEEN AND WAH FU ON OCTOBER 16.

+THE WHITE PAPER WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED AT THE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING ON OCTOBER 19,+ MR CHAN SAID.

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COMMUNITY SUPPORT NEEDED FOR CAREERS EDUCATION
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THE SUCCESS OF CAREERS EDUCATION DEPENDED ON THE CO-OPERATION AND SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY, A LABOUR OFFICER OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE, MR CHOW CHEUNG-FAT, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR CHOW, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM A VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE COURSE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF READING, TOLD A LUNCHEON MEETING OF HONG KONG ISLAND EAST ROTARY CLUB THAT CAREERS WORK REQUIRED THE DETERMINED AND CONCERTED EFFORTS OF ALL QUARTERS -- THE GOVERNMENT, SCHOOLS, PARENTS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, YOUTH BODIES AND ABOVE ALL, EMPLOYERS.

HE SAID EMPLOYERS COULD HELP BY PROVIDING ACCURATE INFORMATION ON JOBS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE, ARRANGING FOR SPEAKERS TO TAKE PART IN CAREERS CONVENTIONS, OFFERING OBSERVATION VISITS FOR GROUPS OF STUDENTS, AND JOINING OR SPONSORING CAREERS PROJECTS.

MR CHOW ALSO SAID IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT CAREERS EDUCATION WAS INITIATED IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND CONTINUED FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AS THEY GREW FROM ADOLESCENCE TO ADULTHOOD.

HE SAID THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE (YEAS) OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROMOTING CAREERS EDUCATION IN HONG KONG, HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN A PLANNED PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES SINCE ITS START IN 1968.

THE ACTIVITIES INCLUDED THE PROVISION OF GROUP GUIDANCE TO SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, RUNNING A NETWORK OF CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRES, KEEPING UP-TO-DATE CAREERS INFORMATION MATERIALS AND REFERENCE, WORK ORIENTATION PROGRAMMES AND PROVISION OF IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR CAREERS TEACHERS.

/HE SAID

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HE SAID AS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT'S PLAN TO EXPAND AND STRENGTHEN THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE YEAS, APPROVAL HAD NOW BEEN GIVEN FOR FIVE ADDITIONAL CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRES TO BE SET UP IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

THE NEW CENTRES WOULD BE IN CENTRALLY LOCATED AREAS IN HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR CHOW SAID.

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MAINS WORK IN TUEN MUN
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN TUEN MUN WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM NOON ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 13) TO 8 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR MAINS WORK.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT PREMISES ALONG LUNG MUN ROAD FROM TUEN MUN KAU HUI TO TAP SHEK KOK. THEY INCLUDE CASTLE PEAK BOY'S HOME, PAK KOK TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA, BUTTERFLY ESTATE, WU KING ESTATE, MELODY GARDEN, SIU SHAN COURT, AREA 44, WU KING TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA, TAP SHEK KOK POWER STATION, CHINA CEMENT COMPANY AND ALL THE CONSTRUCTION SITES ALONG LUNG MUN ROAD AND AREA 44.

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