



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1975

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CALL FOR MORE PRACTICAL APPROACH TO LEARNING

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THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS), MR. ARTHUR BROWN, TODAY STRESSED THE NEED FOR A MORE PRACTICAL APPROACH TO LEARNING IN JUNIOR SECONDARY FORMS BY USING, FOR EXAMPLE, ACTIVITY METHODS.

ADDRESSING A Y'S MEN'S CLUB LUNCHEON MEETING, MR. BROWN REFERRED TO PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE CURRICULUM FOR HONG KONG'S SECONDARY SCHOOLS, ESPECIALLY IN THE LOWER SECONDARY FORMS.

THE CONCEPT OF A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO THE WHOLE OF THE CURRICULUM IS IMPLICIT IN THE WHITE PAPER ON SECONDARY EDUCATION POLICY. +THIS IS WHAT WE ARE NOW TRYING TO ACHIEVE,+ HE SAID.

FOR WELL OVER A YEAR THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HAS BEEN RE-FRAMING THE CURRICULUM FOR FORMS I - III IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH EMPHASIS ON +EDUCATION FOR LIVING+, THE TITLE OF MR. BROWN'S TALK.

THE NEW COMMON CORE CURRICULUM, TACKLING VITAL TOPICS AFFECTING OUR EVERYDAY LIVES, WILL BE THE OUTCOME OF THAT THINKING.

CRITICS OF THIS +COMMON CORE CURRICULUM+ SAID THAT THIS WAS FINE FOR THE EARLY SCHOOL LEAVERS BUT WOULD WRECK THE PROSPECTS OF POTENTIAL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.

+THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERS THAT THIS IS NONSENSE, AND MOST OF OUR UNIVERSITY FRIENDS AGREE WITH US. (THEY ARE WELL REPRESENTED ON OUR COMMITTEES AND ARE THEMSELVES CONCERNED AT THE EXTENT TO WHICH UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS AT PRESENT TEND TO DICTATE THE CURRICULUM),+ MR. BROWN SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT POTENTIAL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, WHO IN ANY CASE FORMED A VERY SMALL MINORITY, NEEDED THE SAME BASIC BACKGROUND EDUCATION AS EVERYONE ELSE, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD BECOME NARROW AND LIMITED IN THEIR HORIZONS.

+HENCE THE CONCEPT OF A COMMON CORE CURRICULUM AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE IN THE LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL,+ MR. BROWN SAID.

HE WENT ON TO SAY HOWEVER THAT +IT IS NOT JUST THE CONTENT THAT MATTERS BUT HOW IT IS TACKLED.+

THE BURDEN OF CHANGE WOULD FALL ON THE TEACHERS BECAUSE IT WAS IN THE APPROACH TO LEARNING RATHER THAN IN THE CONTENT TO BE COVERED THAT THE BIGGEST CHANGES WERE REQUIRED.

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+THE OLD STYLE OF LEARNING PASSAGES FROM TEXTBOOKS FOR HOMEWORK AND BEING TESTED ON THEM THE NEXT DAY AT SCHOOL MUST GO AWAY PERMANENTLY AND BE REPLACED BY A NEW TEAM SPIRIT, A RELAXED CLASSROOM ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH THE TEACHER IS A PARTICIPANT, AS WELL AS A LEADER, AND ENCOURAGES RATHER THAN DOMINATES THE STUDENTS.

+THIS IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE, AND TEACHERS WILL NEED A GREAT DEAL OF HELP, HELP WHICH WE SHOULD DO OUR BEST TO PROVIDE IN MANY FORMS, SUCH AS PAMPHLETS, COURSES, SEMINARS AND VISITS BY INSPECTORS,+ HE SAID.

TURNING TO TEXTBOOKS, MR. BROWN SAID MORE IMAGINATIVE TEXTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE MEDIUM OF CHINESE, WERE NEEDED.

+WE NEED TEXTS THAT STIMULATE THOUGHT RATHER THAN PROVIDE ALL THE ANSWERS, THAT PROVIDE IDEAS FOR TEACHERS TO FOLLOW UP, THAT SUGGEST PROJECTS AND RESEARCHES. THIS MEANS WE NEED CLOSE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN PUBLISHERS AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPERS AND THERE ARE SIGNS THAT PUBLISHERS ARE AS MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT THIS AS WE ARE.

+JUST AFTER CHINESE NEW YEAR WE HAVE ARRANGED A MEETING WITH EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHERS TO DISCUSS FRANKLY THE PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH THE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY OF TEXTBOOKS TO MEET CURRICULUM NEEDS.

+THE RESPONSE FROM PUBLISHERS HAS BEEN EXCELLENT AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO A STIMULATING AND PRODUCTIVE MEETING,+ HE SAID.

MR. BROWN EMPHASISED THE NEED FOR CO-OPERATION BY EVERYONE CONCERNED, PARENTS AS WELL AS TEACHERS AND PUBLISHERS IN THIS CHALLENGING TASK.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF THE FULL TEXT OF MR. BROWN'S SPEECH IN ENGLISH ARE DISTRIBUTED SEPARATELY IN THE G.I.S. PRESS BOXES.

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ADDITIONAL TRAM SERVICE PROPOSED
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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAS ENDORSED A PROPOSAL TO BUILD A TRAM TURNING LOOP AT THOMPSON ROAD IN WAN CHAI FOR A PROPOSED ADDITIONAL TRAM SERVICE BETWEEN WAN CHAI AND SHAU KEI WAN DISTRICTS ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

THE PROPOSED NEW SERVICE IS TO PROVIDE IMPROVED TRAM FACILITIES FOR THE INCREASING NUMBER OF OFFICE WORKERS IN WAN CHAI AREA.

EARLY LAST YEAR, THE HONGKONG TRAMWAYS COMPANY OPERATED THE SERVICE ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS, WITH THE WESTBOUND TRAMS TERMINATING AND REVERSING AT A CROSSOVER NEAR THOMPSON ROAD. THE TRIAL SERVICE PROVED POPULAR.

HOWEVER, THE METHOD FOR TRAMS REVERSING AT A CROSSOVER IS CONSIDERED TIME-CONSUMING AS THE CONDUCTOR HAS MANUALLY TO SHIFT THE TROLLEY BOOM FROM ONE OVERHEAD WIRE TO THE OTHER FOR GOING INTO THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.

IT WOULD ALSO RESULT IN THE TRAM TRAVELLING IN REVERSE DIRECTION TO THE ONE FOR WHICH IT WAS DESIGNED, AND WITH THE SEATED CONDUCTOR SYSTEM, THIS WOULD PRESENT DIFFICULTIES IN FARE COLLECTION, SEATING AND PASSENGER CIRCULATION.

WITH A VIEW TO INTRODUCING THE NEW SERVICE ON A PERMANENT BASIS, WITHOUT CAUSING DELAY TO OTHER TRAMS AND TRAFFIC IN GENERAL, THE COMPANY HAS APPLIED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT FOR A TRAM TURNING LOOP TO BE BUILT IN THOMPSON ROAD AND LUARD ROAD TO SERVE AS A TERMINUS AT THE WAN CHAI END.

THE MATTER WAS BROUGHT UP FOR DISCUSSION BY THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT A RECENT MEETING, DURING WHICH IT WAS INDICATED THAT RESIDENTS AT THOMPSON ROAD IN GENERAL HAD NO STRONG FEELING AGAINST THE PROPOSALS, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD MEAN THE CANCELLATION OF SOME METERED PARKING SPACES IN THE AREA.

FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE'S ENDORSEMENT, THE APPLICATION WILL NOW BE TREATED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AS ONE FOR STREET ALTERATION, AND RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS WHO MAY BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED SCHEME WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE ANY OBJECTION THEY MAY HAVE.

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THAI SECURITIES EXCHANGES OFFICIALS
HERE FOR TALKS
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FIVE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEWLY FORMED SECURITIES EXCHANGE OF THAILAND HAVE ARRIVED IN HONG KONG FOR A BRIEF VISIT.

AMONG THE VISITORS IS THE DIRECTOR AND MANAGER OF THE EXCHANGE, MR. SUKRI KAOCHARERN.

DURING THEIR STAY THEY WILL DISCUSS THE WORKING OF THE HONG KONG MARKET WITH THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES AND SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE STOCK EXCHANGES.

THEY WILL BE HERE FOR THREE DAYS.

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NEW POST OFFICE OPENING AT JARDINE'S LOOKOUT
POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS ANNOUNCED

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A NEW POST OFFICE WILL BE OPENED THIS SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 8) AT THE JUNCTION OF TAI HANG ROAD AND PERKINS ROAD AT JARDINE'S LOOKOUT.

THE FULL RANGE OF POSTAL FACILITIES, EXCEPT ACCEPTANCE OF INSURED LETTERS AND BOXES, WILL BE AVAILABLE THERE AND TWO STAMP VENDING MACHINES HAVE BEEN INSTALLED TO SUPPLY 10-CENT AND 50-CENT STAMPS AT ALL HOURS.

A POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THE OPENING OF THE NEW OFFICE IS PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OF THE DEPARTMENT AND SHOULD BE OF BENEFIT TO RESIDENTS IN THE VICINITY OF JARDINE'S LOOKOUT.

+IT BRINGS TO 69 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF POST OFFICES OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING A MOBILE POST OFFICE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ HE SAID.

BUSINESS HOURS OF THE PERKINS ROAD POST OFFICE ARE FROM 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M. AND FROM 2.15 P.M. TO 5 P.M. ON WEEKDAYS, AND FROM 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M. ON SATURDAYS. IT WILL BE CLOSED ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

MEANWHILE, THE POST OFFICE HAS ANNOUNCED SPECIAL POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

POST OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON LUNAR NEW YEAR DAY (FEBRUARY 11) AND ON FEBRUARY 13 AND THERE WILL BE NO MAIL DELIVERIES.

ON FEBRUARY 12, THERE WILL BE ONE DELIVERY OF MAIL AND 32 POST OFFICES, INCLUDING THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, THE KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE AND THE TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE, WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 A.M. TO 12 NOON.

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+MR. INDUSTRIAL SAFETY+ RETIRES
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NICK CARTER -- HONG KONG'S +MR. INDUSTRIAL SAFETY+ -- WAS FAREWELLED BY HIS LABOUR DEPARTMENT COLLEAGUES TODAY.

MR. CARTER WILL GO ON PRE-RETIREMENT LEAVE ON FEBRUARY 16 AFTER 19 YEARS' SERVICE WITH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

HE HAS BEEN THE DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING OFFICER SINCE 1967. DURING THAT TIME HE BECAME A WELL-KNOWN AND RESPECTED FIGURE IN HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL CIRCLES.

THE FAREWELL CEREMONY WAS HELD AT THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE AT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S KOWLOON OFFICE -- A CENTRE WHICH MR. CARTER BUILT UP TO ITS PRESENT HIGH STANDARD OVER THE LAST SEVEN YEARS.

OFFICIALLY FAREWELLING MR. CARTER, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. IAN PRICE, SAID MR. CARTER AND HIS STAFF COULD TAKE MUCH PRIDE FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTRE.

HE SAID THE CENTRE HAD RECENTLY MARKED COMPLETION OF THE 500TH SAFETY TRAINING COURSE, BRINGING TO MORE THAN 10,000 THE NUMBER OF PERSONS TRAINED BY THE CENTRE.

MR. PRICE PRESENTED MR. CARTER A FILM PROJECTOR AND A ROSEWOOD CABINET AS A FAREWELL GIFT FROM HIS COLLEAGUES.

MR. CARTER AND HIS WIFE WILL BE TAKING AN OVERSEAS HOLIDAY BEFORE RETURNING TO THEIR HOME IN BRITAIN.

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LUNAR NEW YEAR FIRE WARNING

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MANAGEMENTS OF PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT, RESTAURANTS AND STORES WERE TODAY REMINDED TO TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTIONS TO PREVENT FIRE DURING CHINESE NEW YEAR.

THE HEAD OF THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU, MR. MAURICE LANE SAID THE RISK OF FIRE DURING THE HOLIDAY WOULD INCREASE DUE TO CROWDING IN PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT.

+BECAUSE OF THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT,+ HE SAID, +PEOPLE TEND TO BECOME FORGETFUL ABOUT FIRE PREVENTION. CONSEQUENTLY, MANAGEMENTS SHOULD BE WELL PREPARED.+

HE DREW ATTENTION TO A CIRCULAR SENT OUT IN DECEMBER WHICH EMPHASISED THE DANGERS OF FIRE IN PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT, RESTAURANTS AND STORES DURING HOLIDAY PERIODS, AND MEASURES WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN TO MINIMISE RISKS.

THESE INCLUDED: APPOINTING A SENIOR STAFF MEMBER TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR FIRE PREVENTION= ENSURING THAT THE +FIRE SERVICE REQUIREMENTS+ LAID DOWN ORIGINALLY BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT ARE BEING MAINTAINED AND COMPLIED WITH= REMINDING STAFF TO BE SPECIALLY ALERT FOR ANY SIGN OF FIRE, OR THE POSSIBILITY OF FIRE= ENSURING THAT ALL STAFF, INCLUDING THOSE TAKEN ON TEMPORARILY, KNOW THE LOCATION OF FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT AND HOW TO OPERATE IT= MAKING SURE EXIT SIGNS ARE NOT HIDDEN AND THAT EXIT ROUTES ARE CLEAR AT ALL TIMES= AND PROMINENTLY DISPLAYING +FULL HOUSE+ SIGNS TO PREVENT OVERCROWDING.

THE CIRCULAR ALSO STRESSES THAT ANY ADDITIONAL WIRING FOR DECORATIONS MUST BE DONE BY COMPETENT ELECTRICIANS, AND FLIMSY DECORATIONS MUST BE KEPT WELL AWAY FROM LIGHT BULBS.

IT ALSO ADVISES MANAGEMENTS TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH SURVEY OF PREMISES TO ELIMINATE ALL POSSIBLE FIRE RISKS.

MR. LANE APPEALED FOR CO-OPERATION FROM MANAGEMENTS IN TAKING APPROPRIATE PREVENTIVE MEASURES WHICH HE SAID WOULD GREATLY REDUCE THE FIRE RISK DURING THE THREE-DAY HOLIDAY PERIOD.

PRECAUTIONS SHOULD ALSO BE TAKEN AT HOME, HE STRESSED, SUCH AS KEEPING MATCHES, CANDLES AND LIGHTERS OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN, PLACING PORTABLE HEATERS IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY CANNOT BE KNOCKED OVER OR SET CURTAINS OR BEDDING ON FIRE; NOT LEAVING HEATERS OR ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES ON WHEN GOING OUT AND USING ASH TRAYS TO DISPOSE OF CIGARETTE ENDS.

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LUNAR NEW YEAR ACTIVITIES FOR MENTALLY RETARDED

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A SERIES OF LUNAR NEW YEAR ACTIVITIES TO ENTERTAIN THE MENTALLY RETARDED TRAINEES OF THE WORK ACTIVITIES GROUP IN THE ABERDEEN REHABILITATION CENTRE WILL BE HELD OVER THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.

TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTERNOON, A GROUP OF 20 OF THEM WILL BE TAKEN TO SEE +DISNEY ON PARADE+ AT THE HONG KONG FOOTBALL STADIUM. TICKETS FOR THE SHOW AND TRANSPORTATION HAVE BEEN PROVIDED BY MEMBERS OF THE POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL IN ABERDEEN.

ON SATURDAY MORNING, ANOTHER GROUP OF 45 WILL BE TAKEN TO SEE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR BAZAAR AT VICTORIA PARK.

ON FEBRUARY 14, THERE WILL BE A LUNAR NEW YEAR PARTY FOR ALL TRAINEES AT THE CENTRE, FEATURING LION DANCES, GROUP SINGING AND GAMES.

TO END THE CELEBRATIONS, TWO GROUPS OF TRAINEES WILL BE TREATED TO LUNCH AT A CHINESE RESTAURANT ON FEBRUARY 18 AND 19.

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AUCTION OF LAI CHI KOK INDUSTRIAL LOT POSTPONED

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ONE OF THE FOUR LOTS OF CROWN LAND SCHEDULED FOR AUCTION ON FEBRUARY 21 HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN TO ENABLE THE CONDITIONS OF SALE TO BE REVISED SO AS TO PERMIT PAYMENT OF THE PREMIUM BY INSTALMENTS.

PREVIOUSLY THE FACILITY OF PAYING LAND PREMIA BY INSTALMENTS WAS CONFINED TO THE MORE DISTANT INDUSTRIAL AREAS IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WISHED TO ENCOURAGE THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW FACTORIES, AND VERY VALUABLE COMMERCIAL SITES IN THE CENTRAL AREAS OF HONG KONG AND KOWLOON.

THE GOVERNMENT RECENTLY DECIDED TO APPLY THIS POLICY TO SALES OF INDUSTRIAL LAND IN ALL PARTS OF HONG KONG, AND TO ALL SALES OR TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING COMMERCIAL OR RESIDENTIAL LAND WHERE THE PREMIUM IS ESTIMATED TO EXCEED \$10 MILLION.

THE WITHDRAWN LOT, COVERING AN AREA OF 10,670' SQUARE FEET, IS SITUATED BETWEEN CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD AND LAI CHI KOK ROAD IN KOWLOON. IT IS RESERVED FOR INDUSTRIAL OR GO-DOWN PURPOSES. IT WILL BE PUT UP FOR SALE AGAIN LATER THIS YEAR.

THE SALE OF THE REMAINING THREE LOTS, ALL FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, WILL BE HELD IN THE LECTURE ROOM, CITY HALL, AT 2.30 PM ON FEBRUARY 21 AS SCHEDULED.

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