



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1977

| <u>CONTENTS</u>   | <u>PAGE NO.</u> |
|---|-----------------|
| PRINCESS ANNE THANKS HONG KONG FOR ITS CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE .....           | 1               |
| NEED FOR JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION RECOGNISED .....                  | 1               |
| BILL TO PROTECT MORE NON-MANUAL WORKERS .....                                 | 2               |
| GOVERNMENT FOLLOWS CODE OF PRACTICE ON BUILDING ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED ..... | 4               |
| NO DELAY IN TAX REFUNDS .....   | 5               |
| NEED IN SETTING STANDARD FOR WELFARE SERVICES .....                           | 6               |
| SUBSIDY TO MAC'S RECOMMENDED .....  | 6               |
| SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION FOR FIRST QUARTER OF CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR .....     | 7               |
| BILL TO AMEND COMPANIES ORDINANCE .....                                       | 7               |
| SCHEME TO IMPROVE FM RECEPTION .....  | 8               |
| TRAFFIC ACCIDENT FILES .....  | 8               |
| 'GIVE WAY' SIGNS TO BE INSTALLED ON ROADS TO ROUNDABOUTS ...                  | 9               |
| STREET LIGHTING IN SHA TAU KOK .....  | 9               |
| TWO BILLS PASSED .....  | 10              |
| CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR OCTOBER EDGED UP ONE POINT .....                   | 10              |
| PUBLIC RELATIONS SEMINAR FOR IMMIGRATION OFFICERS .....                       | 12              |
| FIRE PREVENTION CHECKS IN WESTERN .....                                       | 12              |

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1977

- 1 -

PRINCESS ANNE SAYS +THANK YOU+  
\* \* \* \* \*

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ANNE SENT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG FOR THE CONGRATULATIONS ON THE BIRTH OF HER SON:

+PLEASE CONVEY TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG OUR WARM THANKS AND APPRECIATION FOR THEIR CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD WISHES.+

- - - - 0 - - - -

NEED FOR JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION RECOGNISED  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES THE NEED FOR AN ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS ON THE LINES OF THE OTHER EXISTING ASSOCIATIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

RECENT EVENTS HAD HIGHLIGHTED A DEMAND FOR SUCH AN ASSOCIATION, MR. DAVIES SAID WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE POLICE FORCE (AMENDMENT)(NO. 3) BILL.

THE PROPOSED ASSOCIATION WILL BE FORMED BY POLICE OFFICERS OF THE RANK OF STATION SERGEANT AND BELOW.

THERE ARE THREE ASSOCIATIONS OF POLICE OFFICERS ALREADY IN EXISTENCE.

THESE ARE THE SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION, THE LOCAL INSPECTORS' ASSOCIATION AND THE EXPATRIATE INSPECTORS' ASSOCIATION. THERE IS, IN ADDITION, A JUNIOR CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL CONTAINING ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARIOUS FORMATIONS WHICH MEETS PERIODICALLY WITH THE COMMISSIONER AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICERS AND CONSIDERS MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE WELFARE OF POLICE OFFICERS BELOW THE RANK OF INSPECTOR.

MR. DAVIES SAID THAT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PROPOSED JUNIOR POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION WOULD GENERALLY FOLLOW THE PRINCIPLES ALREADY INCLUDED IN THE RULES OF THE SUPERINTENDENTS' AND INSPECTORS' ASSOCIATIONS.

+HOWEVER, A CONDITION OF RECOGNITION OF THE NEW ASSOCIATION BY THE COMMISSIONER WILL BE THAT THERE IS PROVISION IN THE ASSOCIATION'S CONSTITUTION TO BAR INTERDICTED OFFICERS FROM SERVING AS OFFICE BEARERS, OR COMMITTEE MEMBERS,+ MR. DAVIES SAID.

+I UNDERSTAND THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE PROPOSED ASSOCIATION HAVE ACCEPTED SUCH PROVISIONS.+

HE ADDED THAT THE RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION WOULD ALSO BE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSIONER AND COULD NOT BE ALTERED WITHOUT HIS CONCURRENCE.

ONCE THE NEW ASSOCIATION IS FUNCTIONING, THE NEED FOR THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE JUNIOR CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL WILL BE CONSIDERED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/2 .....

BILL TO PROTECT MORE NON-MANUAL WORKERS  
INTRODUCED IN LEGCO  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE BENEFITS OF THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE ARE TO BE EXTENDED TO COVER MORE NON-MANUAL WORKERS UNDER A BILL INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1977, IF PASSED WOULD ALSO HAVE THE EFFECT OF EXTENDING THE TIME LIMIT FOR APPLYING FOR COMPENSATION FROM 12 MONTHS TO 24 MONTHS= OF ACHIEVING UNIFORMITY IN THE ASSESSMENT OF COMPENSATION IN CERTAIN CASES= AND OF REDUCING DELAYS IN PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION.

MOVING THE ADJOURNMENT FOR THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. PETER WILLIAMS, SAID THE BILL SOUGHT TO RAISE THE WAGE CEILING OF NON-MANUAL WORKERS FROM THE EXISTING \$2,000 TO \$5,000 A MONTH.

HE SAID: +THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE, ORIGINALLY ENACTED IN 1953, WAS INTENDED TO ENABLE ALL MANUAL WORKERS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR EARNINGS, AND NON-MANUAL WORKERS WITH LOW INCOMES TO CLAIM COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYMENT INJURIES WITHOUT HAVING TO ESTABLISH NEGLIGENCE ON THE PART OF THE EMPLOYER.

+THE ARGUMENT WAS THAT THE HIGHER-PAID NON-MANUAL WORKERS SHOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY ENLIGHTENED OR RESOURCEFUL TO INSURE OR OTHERWISE PROTECT THEMSELVES AGAINST THE RISK OF EMPLOYMENT INJURIES.

+THIS REASONING APPEARS LESS RELEVANT TODAY, FOR NON-MANUAL EMPLOYERS COVERED BY THE ORDINANCE CAN NOW CLAIM BOTH WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION UNDER THE ORDINANCE AND CIVIL DAMAGES UNDER COMMON LAW, PROVIDED THAT ANY AMOUNT OF CIVIL DAMAGES AWARDED IS DIMINISHED BY THE AMOUNT OF WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION PAID.

+NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES EARNING MORE THAN \$2,000 PER MONTH, HOWEVER, ARE AT A DISADVANTAGE,+ HE SAID.

+THEY CANNOT CLAIM WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION UNDER THE ORDINANCE AND ARE LIABLE TO HAVE TO PAY THE COSTS AT ANY PROCEEDINGS FOR RECOVERY OF CIVIL DAMAGES.

+FURTHERMORE, THEY HAVE TO PROVE THAT THEIR EMPLOYER HAS A CIVIL LIABILITY TO PAY DAMAGES.

+THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT WILL PLACE THE MAJORITY OF NON-MANUAL WORKERS WITHIN THE PROTECTION OF THE ORDINANCE,+ MR. WILLIAMS SAID.

ON THE POINT OF ACHIEVING UNIFORMITY IN THE ASSESSMENT OF COMPENSATION, MR. WILLIAMS SAID THAT IN MANY CASES OF NON-SCHEDULED INJURIES (THAT IS, INJURIES NOT LISTED IN THE FIRST SCHEDULE OF THE ORDINANCE) INVOLVING FUNCTIONAL LOSS COMPENSATION COULD NOT BE CLAIMED UNLESS THEY CARRIED ACTUAL LOSS OF EARNING CAPACITY.

THE PRESENT AMENDMENT WAS INTENDED TO ALLOW A WORKER WITH A NON-SCHEDULED INJURY TO BE COMPENSATED ON THE SAME BASIS AS A SCHEDULED INJURY (THAT IS, BASED ON A FUNCTIONAL LOSS WITH IMMEDIATE OR POTENTIAL LOSS OF EARNING CAPACITY).

/HOWEVER, IN .....

+HOWEVER, IN PRACTICE THIS HAS NOT ALWAYS HAPPENED,+  
MR. WILLIAMS SAID.

+FOR SCHEDULED INJURIES, THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION IS  
BASED ON A FIXED PERCENTAGE OF LOSS OF EARNING CAPACITY AS  
SPECIFIED IN THE FIRST SCHEDULE, IRRESPECTIVE OF PERSONAL  
CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS FORMER EMPLOYMENT OR AGE,+ HE ADDED.

+FOR NON-SCHEDULED PERMANENT PARTIAL INCAPACITIES,  
ASSESSMENT IS MADE ONLY ON THE LOSS OF EARNING CAPACITY AS A  
RESULT OF AN INJURY.

+THE ASSESSMENT INVOLVES THE COMPARISON OF WHAT THE INJURED  
PERSON WAS CAPABLE OF EARNING BEFORE THE ACCIDENT AND WHAT  
HE CAN EARN AFTER THE ACCIDENT. SUCH A COMPARISON INVOLVING  
VALUE JUDGEMENTS IS DIFFICULT AND OFTEN LEADS TO ANOMALIES.

+THERE HAVE BEEN INSTANCES WHEN A PERSON WHO SUSTAINED  
A NON-SCHEDULED INJURY OBTAINED MORE COMPENSATION THAN ANOTHER  
WHO SUSTAINED A SCHEDULED INCAPACITY OF A SIMILAR NATURE.+

ON THE EXTENSION OF THE TIME LIMIT FOR APPLICATION FOR  
COMPENSATION, HE SAID: +SOME INJURIES HAVE HEALING PERIODS  
IN EXCESS OF 12 MONTHS AND PERMANENT INCAPACITY CANNOT BE  
ASSESSED BEFORE THE EXPIRY OF THE LIMITATION PERIOD.

+WHEN SUCH A CASE IS REFERRED TO COURT, ALL THE COURT CAN  
DO IS TO ADJOURN IT UNTIL THE ASSESSMENT IS MADE,+ MR. WILLIAMS  
POINTED OUT.

THE BILL, HE SAID, WOULD PERMIT THE PERIOD OF LIMITATION TO  
BE EXTENDED TO 24 MONTHS AND THIS WOULD REDUCE THE ANXIETY OF THE  
WORKMEN AND THE TIME OF THE COURT, AND OF THE OFFICERS OF THE  
LABOUR AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED.

LASTLY, ON THE IMPOSING OF A SURCHARGE IN CASES OF UNREASONABLE  
DELAY IN PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION, MR. WILLIAMS SAID: +EXPERIENCE  
HAS SHOWN THAT A NUMBER OF CASES, PAYMENT IS DELAYED AFTER  
AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN SIGNED AND APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR  
LABOUR.

+MOST EMPLOYERS INVOLVED IN THESE CASES HAVE INSURED THEIR  
WORKERS AGAINST LIABILITY UNDER THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION  
ORDINANCE.

+BUT A NUMBER OF THESE EMPLOYERS, IN SPITE OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS IN THE ORDINANCE, WAIT FOR REIMBURSEMENT FROM  
INSURANCE COMPANIES BEFORE MAKING PAYMENTS TO THE WORKERS  
CONCERNED.

+IN SOME CASES, TOO, DELAY IS CAUSED BY QUERIES BY THE  
INSURER WITH THE EMPLOYER ON THE ACCURACY OF THE CALCULATION  
OR THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE INSURANCE COVERAGE TAKEN OUT BY THE  
EMPLOYER.

+SUCH DELAYS IN PAYMENT CAN CAUSE HARDSHIP TO THE INJURED  
EMPLOYEE OR HIS DEPENDANTS,+ HE SAID.

MR. WILLIAMS ADDED THAT THESE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS  
TO DEAL WITH UNREASONABLE DELAYS IN PAYMENTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED  
AS INITIAL ONES AND THAT FURTHER CONSIDERATION, AFTER APPROPRIATE  
CONSULTATION, WILL BE GIVEN TO MAKING THEM MORE COMPREHENSIVE.

GOVERNMENT FOLLOWS CODE OF PRACTICE  
ON BUILDING ACCESS FOR DISABLED  
\* \* \* \* \*

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ARE FOLLOWING THE CODE OF PRACTICE ON ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED TO BUILDINGS AND INCORPORATING FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED WHERE PRACTICABLE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY REV. THE HON. PATRICK MCGOVERN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

UNFORTUNATELY, MR. MCDONALD ADDED, PRESENT INFORMATION SUGGESTED THAT THE RESPONSE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAD BEEN LIMITED.

HE SAID THAT WHEN THE CODE WAS PUBLISHED IT WAS NOT THOUGHT THAT THE DESIGN OF BUILDINGS SHOULD NECESSARILY BE CONTROLLED BY LAW SO AS TO COMPEL ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE DISABLED.

THE CODE, THEREFORE, WAS DESIGNED TO DEAL WITH THE GENERALITY OF CASES= IT BEING LEFT TO THE DESIGNER TO INCORPORATE SUCH FEATURES AS WERE APPROPRIATE AND PRACTICABLE FOR INDIVIDUAL BUILDINGS.

HOWEVER, MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS HAD RECENTLY BEEN ASKED FOR ANY SUGGESTIONS IT MIGHT WISH TO PUT FORWARD FOR IMPROVING THE CODE AND WHETHER THEY CONSIDERED THAT AN ELEMENT OF COMPULSION WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.

+THEREFORE, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE NO PLANS TO MAKE THE CODE OF PRACTICE STATUTORY IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THE QUESTION OF WHETHER SOME ELEMENTS IN IT CAN BE GIVEN STATUTORY EFFECT IS BEING CONSIDERED,+ HE SAID.

IN ANSWER TO ANOTHER QUESTION BY REV. MCGOVERN, MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT IT WAS INTENDED TO LAUNCH AN INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN TO PUBLICISE THE REVISED CODE OF PRACTICE WHEN IT WAS PREPARED.

HE SAID THAT THE EXISTING CODE OF PRACTICE WAS CIRCULATED TO ALL AUTHORISED PERSONS AND REGISTERED STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS IN JUNE LAST YEAR UNDER COVER OF A PRACTICE NOTE WHICH SOUGHT THEIR SUPPORT IN ADOPTING THE CODE IN THE DESIGN OF BUILDINGS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE CODE WAS CIRCULATED TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND COPIES WERE SUPPLIED TO THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE FOR DISTRIBUTION.

+ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF THIS FIRST EDITION OF THE CODE WAS PRODUCED FOR FREE ISSUE TO THOSE MOST CLOSELY INVOLVED AS IT WAS THOUGHT THAT EXPERIENCE WOULD SHOW THAT VARIATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CODE WOULD BE NECESSARY,+ MR. MCDONALD SAID.

+BUT, BECAUSE OF THE LONG LEAD TIME WHICH PRECEDES ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION THERE IS AS YET INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO JUSTIFY AMENDMENT, REPRINTING AND GENERAL PUBLICATION OF THE CODE.+

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1977

- 5 -

TAX REFUND MADE WITHIN A WEEK  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE HON. FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT IT TOOK LESS THAN A WEEK FOR AN ACTUAL REFUND TO BE EFFECTED.

IN REPLY TO THE HON. S.L. CHEN'S QUESTION ON THE DELAY IN TAX REFUNDS AND STEPS GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE TO REDUCE THIS DELAY, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID, +GENERALLY SPEAKING THERE IS NO DELAY IN MAKING REFUNDS ONCE THE DEPARTMENT HAS ESTABLISHED THAT REFUNDS ARE DUE.+

+I SAY GENERALLY SPEAKING, BECAUSE A FEW - VERY FEW - CASES OF DELAY DO OCCUR DUE TO HUMAN FRAILTY, AND SUCH CASES ARE INEVITABLE IN ANY LARGE ORGANISATION, THOUGH NEITHER THE COMMISSIONER NOR I WISH TO EXCUSE THEM,+ HE ADDED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS THE DUTY OF THE COMMISSIONER AND HIS STAFF TO SEEK EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF A CLAIM FOR REFUND AND CHECK THIS EVIDENCE.

+THE TIME TAKEN TO ESTABLISH THAT A REFUND IS IN FACT DUE VARIES WITH THE TYPE OF REFUND INVOLVED AND WITH THE COMPLEXITY OF THE CASE,+ HE SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF CLAIMS FOR REFUNDS WAS MADE EVERY YEAR, INVOLVING LARGE SUMS OF MONEY AND NOT ALL THESE CLAIMS FOR REFUNDS COULD BE DEALT WITH AT ONCE.

THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT HAD DEALT WITH SOME 70,000 ACTUAL CASES OF REFUNDS, INVOLVING \$171 MILLION IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR.

MR. HADDON-CAVE DISCLOSED THAT THE COMMISSIONER EXPECTED TO DEAL WITH MORE THAN 90,000 CASES INVOLVING PAYMENTS OF OVER \$200 MILLION THIS YEAR, THANKS TO THE INCREASE IN THE PERSONAL ALLOWANCES INTRODUCED FOR 1976-77 FINAL ASSESSMENT AND 1977-78 PROVISIONAL ASSESSMENT AS SET OUT IN HIS LAST BUDGET SPEECH.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/6 .....

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1977

- 6 -

NEED IN SETTING STANDARD FOR WELFARE SERVICES  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, THE HON. THOMAS LEE, THIS AFTERNOON SAID THAT THERE WAS A NEED IN THE FUTURE TO SET STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. KWAN KO SIU-WAH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. LEE SAID THE PRINCIPLES SUGGESTED BY MRS. KWAN WOULD BE VERY USEFUL GUIDELINES FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED WHEN FORMULATING STANDARDS FOR AGENCIES.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THESE PRINCIPLES COULD NOT BE USED AS STANDARDS BECAUSE WHEN IT CAME TO ACTUALLY WRITING THEM DOWN, ONE WOULD NEED TO BE MORE SPECIFIC, SO THAT INDIVIDUAL AGENCIES WOULD NOT BE LEFT TO INTERPRET WHAT WAS REGARDED AS REALISTIC OR TO WHAT EXTENT A CERTAIN STANDARD COULD BE FLEXIBLY APPLIED.

+INDEED IN CONNECTION WITH OUR EARLY ATTEMPTS TOWARDS THE EVALUATION OF WELFARE SERVICES IT BECAME CLEAR THAT UNLESS WE HAD SETS OF STANDARDS WHICH COULD BE USED AS A MEASURE, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO EVALUATE SERVICES EFFECTIVELY,+ HE SAID.

MR. LEE AGREED WITH MRS. KWAN THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD AVOID SETTING UNREALISTICALLY HIGH STANDARDS AT THE OUTSET BUT HE SAID THE STANDARDS LAID DOWN INITIALLY COULD BE AND SHOULD BE REVIEWED AND WHERE POSSIBLE IMPROVED.

THE ATTENTION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE TO THE PRINCIPLES SUGGESTED BY MRS. KWAN WOULD BE DRAWN.

----- 0 -----

SUBSIDY TO MAC'S RECOMMENDED  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. JOHN WALDEN, SAID TODAY RECOMMENDATIONS HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE THAT MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO CLAIM REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES INCURRED IN OPERATING THEIR OFFICES UP TO A LIMIT OF \$300 A QUARTER.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WONG LAM, MR. WALDEN SAID IF THE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE ACCEPTED, HE WOULD BE READY TO CONSIDER RATES WITHIN THE \$300 LIMIT AS A +REIMBURSABLE ITEM+ IN ANY CASE WHERE THE OFFICE OF A MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE WAS USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES.

----- 0 -----

/7 .....

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1977

- 7 -

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION FOR FIRST QUARTER OF  
THIS FINANCIAL YEAR

\* \* \* \* \*

THE HON. FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SAID TODAY THE SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF FINANCIAL YEAR 1977/78 ENDING AT JUNE 30 AMOUNTED TO ABOUT \$180 MILLION.

MOVING THE SCHEDULE FOR THE SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID OF THE SUM, THE PUBLIC WORKS NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTED FOR \$153.4 MILLION AS A RESULT OF MORE RAPID PROGRESS ON A NUMBER OF EXISTING PROJECTS AND THE UPGRADING OF 13 PROJECTS TO CATEGORY A OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

HOWEVER HE NOTED THAT THE PROVISION COVERED BY THE SCHEDULE WOULD NOT RESULT IN A NET INCREASE OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR AS IT WOULD BE OFFSET BY SAVINGS IN OTHER SUBHEADS OF EXPENDITURE, OR BY FREEZING OF FUNDS FOR ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS UNDER THE MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES SUBHEAD.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BILL TO AMEND COMPANIES ORDINANCE

\* \* \* \* \*

A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR LIMITED COMPANIES ALREADY ESTABLISHED TO DISPENSE WITH +LIMITED+ AFTER INCORPORATION HAS BEEN DRAFTED, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, THE HON. LI FOOK-WO, MR. JEAFFRESON SAID A BILL WHICH INCLUDES PROVISIONS TO BRING INTO EFFECT THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THIS ISSUE IN THE SECOND REPORT OF THE COMPANIES LAW REVISION COMMITTEE WILL BE PUT TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SHORTLY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/8 .....

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1977

- 8 -

SCHEME TO IMPROVE FM RECEPTION

\* \* \* \* \*

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL IS PREPARING AN OVERALL FM TRANSMISSION SCHEME AIMED AT IMPROVING FM RECEPTION IN HONG KONG GENERALLY.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. F.K. LI, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. PETER C. WONG.

MR. LI SAID TRANSPOSERS TO SUPPLEMENT RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG'S MAIN TRANSMITTER WERE ALREADY INSTALLED EARLIER THIS YEAR AT WAH FU AND BEACON HILL TO PLUG SIGNIFICANT RECEPTION GAPS.

+WHILST THE PERFORMANCE OF THESE TRANSPOSERS IS REGARDED BY THE POSTMASTER GENERAL AS GENERALLY SATISFACTORY, CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO INCREASING THE POWER AT BEACON HILL SO AS TO FACILITATE BETTER RECEPTION IN CERTAIN AREAS IN THE NORTHERN PART OF HONG KONG ISLAND,+ HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT FILES

\* \* \* \* \*

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT FILES WERE KEPT BY THE POLICE FOR VARYING LENGTHS OF TIME DEPENDING UPON THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ACCIDENT, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY REV. THE HON. JOYCE M. BENNETT, MR. JONES SAID THOSE RELATING TO FATAL ACCIDENTS WERE KEPT FOR FIVE YEARS, THOSE INVOLVING PERSONAL INJURY FOR THREE YEARS AND OTHER CASES, WHERE NO DEATH OR INJURY HAD RESULTED, FOR ONE YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/9 .....

- 9 -

ROADS TO ROUNDABOUTS WILL HAVE  
+GIVE WAY+ SIGNS SOON  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE ROAD TRAFFIC (ROADS AND SIGNS) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1977 ARE TO BE AMENDED TO ALLOW THE USE OF +GIVE WAY+ SIGNS ON APPROACH ROADS TO ROUNDABOUTS, THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM REV. THE HON. JOYCE M. BENNETT, MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT THE AMENDMENT WAS BEING PREPARED AND WAS EXPECTED TO BE ENACTED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

AT PRESENT, HE SAID, +GIVE WAY+ SIGNS WERE NOT USED ON THE APPROACH ROADS TO ROUNDABOUTS AS UNDER EXISTING REGULATIONS THEY WOULD HAVE NO LEGAL SIGNIFICANCE.

+HOWEVER, IT IS NOT INTENDED THAT 'GIVE WAY' SIGNS BE ERECTED ON ALL ROUNDABOUTS AS TO DO SO WOULD CREATE SERIOUS TRAFFIC DELAYS ON SOME APPROACH ROADS BECAUSE OF ONE DOMINANT TRAFFIC STREAM CLAIMING AND RETAINING THE RIGHT OF WAY,+ HE SAID.

EACH SITE, HE POINTED OUT, WOULD BE EXAMINED TO ENSURE THAT THE ERECTION OF THE SIGNS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL ON BOTH TRAFFIC AND SAFETY GROUNDS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

STREET LIGHTING IN SHA TAU KOK  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE SECTION OF ROAD BETWEEN SHA TAU KOK AND THE RESTRICTED AREA CHECK POINT HAS ALREADY BEEN PROVIDED WITH STREET LIGHTING, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR. THE HON. HENRY HU AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. MCDONALD SAID INSTALLATION WORKS FOR LIGHTING TO ANOTHER SECTION OF THE ROAD BETWEEN LUEN WO MARKET AND LOI TUNG WOULD COMMENCE IN APRIL NEXT YEAR.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT THE CURRENT STREET LIGHTING PROGRAMME DID NOT ALLOW FOR THE INSTALLATION OF LIGHT TO THE REMAINING SECTIONS OF THE ROAD.

+PROPOSALS FOR NEW OR IMPROVED STREET LIGHTING ARE CONSIDERED BY A VETTING COMMITTEE WHICH DETERMINES PRIORITIES AND PREPARES SUBMISSIONS FOR APPROVAL BY THE PUBLIC WORKS SUB-COMMITTEE,+ HE EXPLAINED.

+TO DATE NO PROPOSAL FOR LIGHTING OF THE REMAINING SECTIONS OF THE SHA TAU KOK/FANLING ROAD HAS BEEN MADE.+

MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT SINCE DR. HU HAD RAISED THE MATTER IT WOULD BE REFERRED TO THE VETTING COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE STREET LIGHTING PROGRAMME.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1977

- 10 -

TWO BILLS PASSED

\* \* \* \*

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY PASSED TWO BILLS INTO LAW.

THESE WERE THE SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977, AND THE CROWN RIGHTS (RE-ENTRY AND VESTING REMEDIES) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977.

FOUR OTHER BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

THESE ARE THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977, THE POLICE FORCE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1977, THE LAW REVISION (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1977 AND THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1977.

- - - - 0 - - - -

OCTOBER COST OF LIVING GOES UP

\* \* \* \* \*

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES (A) AND (B) FOR LAST MONTH EDGED UP ONE POINT TO 120 COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS IN OCTOBER WAS ONE POINT HIGHER THAN THE PREVIOUS MONTH IN C.P.I. (A) AND WAS UNCHANGED IN C.P.I. (B) WHEN ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST WHOLE POINT.

THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF FRESH VEGETABLES ADVANCED OWING TO REDUCED LOCAL SUPPLY. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SALT WATER FISH DECLINED DUE TO INCREASED SUPPLY.

LOWER PRICES FOR APPLES, GRAPES AND BANANAS CAUSED THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF FRESH FRUITS TO FALL.

MOVEMENTS IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF THE OTHER FOOD ITEMS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

HIGHER SCHOOL FEES AND TEXT-BOOK PRICES PUSHED THE INDEX FOR SERVICES UP BY 3 POINTS IN C.P.I. (A) AND BY 2 POINTS IN C.P.I. (B).

PRICE MOVEMENTS IN OTHER COMMODITY SECTIONS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

THE C.P.I. (A) IS BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE OF HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$400 - \$1,499 A MONTH AND THE C.P.I. (B) BETWEEN \$1,500 - \$2,999 A MONTH IN THE HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY, 1973/74.

/THE SECTION .....

THE SECTION INDEXES FOR OCTOBER COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH AND THE CORRESPONDING MONTH IN 1976 ARE INDICATED BELOW:-

| <u>SECTION</u>               | <u>C.P.I. (A)</u> |                 |                | <u>C.P.I. (B)</u> |                 |                |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
|                              | <u>OCT. 76</u>    | <u>SEPT. 77</u> | <u>OCT. 77</u> | <u>OCT. 76</u>    | <u>SEPT. 77</u> | <u>OCT. 77</u> |
| FOODSTUFFS                   | 108               | 115             | 116            | 109               | 116             | 116            |
| HOUSING                      | 117               | 126             | 126            | 117               | 125             | 125            |
| FUEL AND LIGHT               | 132               | 136             | 136            | 131               | 135             | 135            |
| ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO | 131               | 137             | 137            | 128               | 133             | 133            |
| CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR        | 97                | 100             | 100            | 97                | 99              | 99             |
| DURABLE GOODS                | 107               | 110             | 110            | 105               | 107             | 107            |
| MISCELLANEOUS GOODS          | 121               | 125             | 125            | 118               | 121             | 121            |
| TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES       | 113               | 116             | 116            | 118               | 121             | 121            |
| SERVICES                     | 126               | 130             | 133            | 126               | 131             | 133            |
| ALL ITEMS                    | 113               | 119             | 120            | 113               | 119             | 120            |

- - - - 0 - - - -

/12 .....

PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR. MARTIN ROWLANDS, SAID TODAY THAT THE PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY OF A GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT WAS NO LESS IMPORTANT THAN ITS OTHER POLICIES.

IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO A SEMINAR ON PUBLIC RELATIONS HELD IN THE G.I.S. THEATRE FOR 12 SENIOR OFFICERS OF HIS DEPARTMENT, MR. ROWLANDS STATED THAT IT WAS VITAL THAT ALL SENIOR OFFICERS SHOULD PROJECT THE RIGHT CORPORATE IMAGE OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT.

HE SAID, THE DEPARTMENT HAD TO BE FIRM AS ONE OF THE GUARDIANS OF HONG KONG'S SECURITY AND POPULATION POLICY, AND AT THE SAME TIME TO SHOW RESPECT FOR THE INDIVIDUAL AND AN UNDERSTANDING OF HIS PROBLEMS.

+ABOVE ALL, EVERY OFFICER HAS TO REMEMBER THAT HE IS ACCOUNTABLE TO THE COMMUNITY FOR HIS ACTION,+ MR. ROWLANDS EMPHASISED.

HE ALSO STRESSED THE NEED TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE PRESS AND TO USE CLEAR LANGUAGE COMPREHENSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC, RATHER THAN CIVIL SERVICE JARGON.

THE SEMINAR, ORGANISED BY THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, IS PART OF THE CONSTANT EFFORTS BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TO IMPROVE ITS SERVICE TO , AND RELATIONS WITH, THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS.

THE PROGRAMME INCLUDED TALKS BY SENIOR G.I.S. OFFICERS AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS.

-----o-----  
FIRE PREVENTION SURVEY IN WESTERN  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL CARRY OUT A FIRE PREVENTION SURVEY ON DOMESTIC PREMISES IN WESTERN DISTRICT TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

SPECIAL ATTENTION WILL BE PAID DURING THE SURVEY TO THE MEANS OF ESCAPE, INSTALLATION OF METAL GATE AND ROOFTOP EXITS OF THE BUILDINGS.

THE OPERATION IS A PRELIMINARY TO THE FORTHCOMING FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN WHICH IS AIMED AT DRIVING HOME THE AWARENESS OF THE DANGERS OF FIRE IN A CROWDED MULTI-STOREY ENVIRONMENT.

-----  
NOTE TO EDITORS  
-----

PRESS REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE FIRE PREVENTION SURVEY OF DOMESTIC BUILDINGS WHICH WILL START AT 9 A.M. TOMORROW. A FIRE SERVICES MOBIL COMMAND UNIT WILL BE SET UP NEAR 364, DES VOEUX ROAD WEST. DIVISIONAL OFFICER, MR. KEN HODGKINS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST THE PRESS.