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# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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NO RELAXATION IN GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT AGAINST CORRUPTION

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON. SIR DENYS ROBERTS TODAY STRESSED THAT THE PARTIAL AMNESTY FOR PAST CORRUPTION OFFENCES DID NOT SIGNAL A RELAXATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN THE FUTURE.

SPEAKING AT THE SECOND READING OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (AMENDEMENT) BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR DENYS SAID THOSE WHO MIGHT HOPE FOR SUCH A RELAXATION SHOULD BE WARNED THAT IT DID NOT.

HE SAID, +GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT STANDS AND THE ABILITY AND DETERMINATION OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION TO DETECT ANY RESURGENCE OF CORRUPTION ARE VERY GREAT.

+WE INSIST ON KEEPING HONG KONG AS FREE FROM CORRUPTION AS WE CAN MAKE IT AND WE HAVE THE WILL AND THE MEANS TO DO SO,+ HE ADDED.

SIR DENYS POINTED OUT THAT SINCE THE GOVERNMENT COMMITTED ITSELF TO FIGHT CORRUPTION AND TO ELIMINATE THIS SLURR ON THE LIFE AND REPUTATION OF HONG KONG IN 1974, VERY GREAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

+THIS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF HONG KONG IN RECENT YEARS AND HAS BROUGHT BOTH RELIEF AND PRIDE TO ALL OF US,+ HE SAID.

EXPLAINING THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL, SIR DENYS SAID ITS OBJECT WAS TO EMBODY THE SUBSTANCE OF THE GOVERNOR'S DIRECTIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER AGAINST CORRUPTION IN THE LAW OF HONG KONG.

HE SAID UNDER THE PRESSURE OF EVENTS IN LATE OCTOBER AND EARLY NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, DURING THE COURSE OF WHICH WIDESPREAD AND DEEP-SEATED DISQUIET AMONG MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG POLICE FORCE BECAME EVIDENT, THE GOVERNOR WAS OBLIGED TO ACT ON THE BASIS OF HIS GENERAL AUTHORITY UNDER THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION ORDINANCE TO GIVE ORDERS AND DIRECTIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER AGAINST CORRUPTION.

+THE GOVERNOR HAS EXERCISED HIS AUTHORITY TO GIVE SUCH ORDERS AND DIRECTIONS TO THE COMMISSION FROM TIME TO TIME ON OTHER MATTERS.

+IN THIS INSTANCE, HOWEVER, SINCE THEY HAVE AN IMPORTANT AND PERMANENT EFFECT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION, IT IS CONSIDERED RIGHT THAT THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN STATUTORY FORM BY THEIR INCLUSION IN THE ORDINANCE,+ SIR DENYS SAID.

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BILL TO CURB INSIDER TRADING PASSED

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A BILL TO EMPOWER THE GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH INSIDER DEALING IN HONG KONG WAS PASSED WITH A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE AMENDMENTS TO THE SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977, WHICH WERE GENERALLY AGREED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE AD HOC GROUP FORMED BY THE UNOFFICIALS TO STUDY THE BILL, INCLUDE:

- \* THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES SHOULD NOT BE EMPOWERED TO TAKE POSSESSION OF BOOKS AND DOCUMENTS OF THE COMPANY CONCERNED FOR MORE THAN 48 HOURS=
- \* A PERSON FOUND NOT CULPABLE BY THE INSIDER DEALING TRIBUNAL MAY ASK TO HAVE HIS NAME LEFT OUT OF THE TRIBUNAL'S REPORT= AND
- \* THE WORDS 'IS CULPABLE' WERE CHANGED TO 'MAY BE CULPABLE' IN A NEW SECTION OF THE BILL.

SPEAKING AT THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE HON. SIR S.Y. CHUNG SAID THE UNOFFICIALS BELIEVED THAT ONLY TIME WOULD TELL WHETHER THE AMENDING LEGISLATION WOULD PROVE EFFECTIVE AND THEREFORE WELCOMED THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO ASSESS THE POSITION IN 1980.

HE TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE AD HOC GROUP OF UNOFFICIALS HAD ADOPTED A CAUTIOUS APPROACH, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED ELSEWHERE IN TACKLING THE PROBLEM, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF CONTRARY VIEWS EXPRESSED LOCALLY THAT THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION EITHER WENT TOO FAR OR DID NOT GO FAR ENOUGH.

THE GROUP HAD A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND OTHER SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DURING WHICH A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS TO THE ORIGINAL BILL WERE REACHED.

DURING THE DISCUSSIONS, MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC GROUP ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT UNREPORTED +CURBSIDE DEALS+ WHICH WERE REQUIRED BY THE RULES OF THE STOCK EXCHANGES TO BE REPORTED.

THEY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT INSIDER DEALINGS COULD STILL BE ARRANGED EITHER THROUGH THE USE OF NOMINEES OUTSIDE HONG KONG, OR THROUGH DEALINGS IN HONG KONG SHARES LISTED OR TRADED ON THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE, SO THAT UNLESS THESE TWO LOOPHOLES WERE PLUGGED, THE BILL WOULD AT BEST CATCH +SMALL AND NOT BIG FISH+.

IN REPLY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE THANKED THE AD HOC GROUP FOR THEIR THOROUGH STUDY AND SHARED ITS CONCERN ON THE METHODS BY WHICH INSIDERS MIGHT BE ABLE TO CONCEAL THEIR TRANSACTIONS.

/AS REGARDS .....

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AS REGARDS NON-REPORTED DEALS BY STOCKBROKERS IN CONTRAVENTION OF THEIR OWN EXCHANGE RULES, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES HAD ALREADY TAKEN STEPS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE RULES OF THE VARIOUS EXCHANGES REGARDING THE REPORTING OF THESE SO CALLED CURBSIDE DEALS.

ON DEALINGS IN HONG KONG SHARES LISTED AND/OR TRADED ON LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE, HE SAID AS THE JOBBERS AND BROKERS INVOLVED IN THESE TRANSACTIONS WERE NOT SUBJECT EITHER TO THE RULES OF A HONG KONG EXCHANGE OR TO THE OBLIGATIONS IMPOSED ON DEALERS BY THE SECURITIES ORDINANCE, THERE WAS A REAL POSSIBILITY OF WOULD-BE INSIDERS USING THIS ROUTE.

+ACCORDINGLY, THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITIES OF THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL LET UNOFFICIALS KNOW THE OUTCOME OF THE COMMISSIONER'S DISCUSSIONS IN DUE COURSE.

TURNING TO THE USE OF OFFSHORE NOMINEES TO HANDLE TRANSACTIONS, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID HE PREFERRED TO SEE WHAT EVIDENCE THERE WAS THAT THIS PRESENTED A PROBLEM BEFORE CONSIDERING WHAT ACTION, IF ANY, WAS NECESSARY AND POSSIBLE. HE IS IN TOUCH WITH THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES ABOUT THIS.

MR. HADDON-CAVE ALSO REVEALED THAT HE HAD ASKED THE STOCK EXCHANGES AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES TO DRAW UP GUIDELINES FOR DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES OF A COMPANY WHO LEGITIMATELY WISH TO DEAL IN GOOD FAITH IN SHARES OF THEIR OWN COMPANY.

HE ALSO EXPLAINED THE PROCEDURES FOR A CASE TO BE REFERRED TO THE INSIDER DEALING TRIBUNAL AND ALLAYED FEARS THAT THE STOCK MARKET ITSELF AND EVEN CONFIDENCE GENERALLY COULD BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY THE REFERENCE OF AN EXCESSIVE NUMBER OF CASES TO THE TRIBUNAL.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THE NORMAL PROCEDURE WOULD BE THAT A POTENTIAL CASE WOULD INITIALLY BE INQUIRED INTO BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES, AND IF HE WAS SATISFIED THAT A PRIMA FACIE CASE EXISTED, HE WOULD REPORT HIS VIEWS TO THE SECURITIES COMMISSION.

+IF THE COMMISSION DECIDES THAT THE COMMISSIONER HAS ESTABLISHED A PRIMA FACIE CASE, IT WILL SO INFORM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

+IF HE, IN TURN, IS SATISFIED THAT INSIDER DEALING MAY HAVE TAKEN PLACE, THEN WILL REFER THE CASE TO THE TRIBUNAL.+

+IN OTHER WORDS, ONLY WHEN THERE IS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF INSIDER DEALING WILL A CASE REACH THE TRIBUNAL,+ MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID.

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POLICE TO CONDUCT SURVEY ON UNREPORTED CRIME

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THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE ARE EXPECTED TO CARRY OUT A SURVEY LATER THIS YEAR ON THE EXTENT OF UNREPORTED CRIME, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. KWAN KO SIU-WAH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. DAVIES SAID PLANNING OF THE SURVEY WAS WELL ADVANCED.

HE ALSO REVEALED THE RESULTS OF THE CRIMINAL VICTIMISATION SURVEY CARRIED OUT BY THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME COMMITTEE LAST YEAR TO ASSESS PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARDS CRIME SITUATION IN THE DISTRICT AND TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN FIGHTING CRIME.

MR. DAVIES SAID IN THE SURVEY, 216 INCIDENTS OF ALLEGED CRIME IN TWO BROAD CATEGORIES OF +CRIME AGAINST PERSONS+ AND +CRIME AGAINST HOUSEHOLDS+ WERE CONSIDERED IN DETAIL BY THE SURVEY TEAM WHO HAD INTERVIEWED ABOUT 6,600 PEOPLE OVER 12 YEARS OF AGE IN 1,770 HOUSEHOLDS.

THE RESULTS SHOWED THAT PETTY THEFT AND PICKPOCKETING ACCOUNTED FOR 55 PER CENT OF THE ALLEGED CRIMES, ROBBERY 16 PER CENT AND PURSE SNATCHING 13 PER CENT.

IT ALSO SHOWED THAT 46 PER CENT OF THE INCIDENTS OCCURRED BETWEEN 6 A.M. AND 6 P.M. AND 32 PER CENT BETWEEN 6 P.M. AND MIDNIGHT.

THE LOSSES SUFFERED WERE USUALLY CASH AND IN 60 PER CENT OF THE INCIDENTS, THE LOSS WAS LESS THAN \$200.

IT WAS CLAIMED BY THE RESPONDENTS IN THE SURVEY THAT ABOUT 85 PER CENT OF THESE ALLEGED CRIMES WERE NOT REPORTED AND THE REASONS FOR NOT REPORTING THEM WERE: INCONVENIENCE (33%)= NOT SERIOUS ENOUGH TO WARRANT A REPORT (26%)= NO PROOF OF INCIDENT (12%) AND LOSS TOO INSIGNIFICANT (10%).

MR. DAVIES SAID A PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF THE SURVEY BY THE DIRECTOR OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION SHOWED THAT THE RESEARCH DESIGN WAS SIMILAR TO THAT EMPLOYED IN THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE NATIONAL CRIME SURVEY PROGRAMME, EXCEPT FOR TWO DEVIATIONS.

+THESE INVOLVE THE SAMPLING METHOD EMPLOYED AND THE ACCEPTANCE OF ONLY SELECTED INCIDENTS OF CRIME FOR THE STUDY.

+THESE DEVIATIONS HAVE REDUCED THE VALUE OF THE SURVEY. IT IS ALSO PROBABLE THAT A PROPORTION OF THE INCIDENTS REPORTED WERE NOT CRIME AT ALL,+ HE SAID.

/MR. DAVIES .....

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MR. DAVIES POINTED OUT THAT THE PLANNING OF THE SURVEY WAS BASED ON SOME PRELIMINARY RESEARCH CARRIED OUT BY THE SHUE YAN COLLEGE, A POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION.

THEIR PROPOSALS WERE CONSIDERED BY THE WAN CHAI FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME COMMITTEE AND SOME AMENDMENTS WERE MADE BEFORE THE SURVEY WAS CARRIED OUT LAST AUGUST BY 100 STUDENTS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE HEAD OF THE SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF SHUE YAN COLLEGE.

MR. DAVIES NOTED THAT THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED WITH ENTHUSIASM AND SINCERITY AND IS BEING EXAMINED FURTHER BY THE GOVERNMENT.

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HK'S METRO WORTH \$1,300M TO UK  
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT ON THE BASIS OF CONTRACTS LET SO FAR, THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION ESTIMATES THAT THE MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM OF THE METRO IS WORTH ABOUT HK\$1,300 MILLION TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE FIGURE IS MADE UP OF HK\$1,043 MILLION IN +VISIBLE EARNINGS+ AND HK\$257 MILLION IN +INVISIBLE EARNINGS+, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. T.S. LO.

+BY 'VISIBLE EARNINGS', I MEAN THE UK ELEMENT IN CONTRACT PRICES FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKS AND EQUIPMENT OF THE MODIFIED INITIAL SYSTEM. 'INVISIBLE EARNINGS' INCLUDE THE UK ELEMENT IN INTEREST AND FINANCE COSTS AND SUCH ITEMS AS INSURANCE AND CONSULTANCY FEES,+ HE EXPLAINED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE EXTENSION TO TSUEN WAN MAY WELL ADD TO THESE EARNINGS.

+BUT NO CONTRACTS HAVE YET BEEN LET SO IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY IN THIS STAGE,+ MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID.

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POLYTECHNIC BECOMES LARGEST TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTE  
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THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, WITH A TOTAL STUDENT ENROLMENT OF OVER 25,000, HAS NOW BECOME THE LARGEST TERTIARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IN HONG KONG.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY THE HON. SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE POLYTECHNIC WHEN HE TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC ANNUAL REPORT 1976-77.

HE DESCRIBED THE LAST ACADEMIC AND FINANCIAL YEAR OF THE POLYTECHNIC AS +YET ANOTHER YEAR OF EXPANSION OF AN INSTITUTION WHOSE CONTINUING GROWTH RATE SINCE ITS FOUNDATION IN 1972 HAS BEEN QUITE REMARKABLE BY ANY STANDARD+.

THE FULL-TIME STUDENT POPULATION ROSE BY A FURTHER 20 PER CENT TO A TOTAL OF 4,800.

ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A SLIGHT DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ON PART-TIME-DAY-RELEASE AND EVENING COURSES, THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ON SPECIAL SHORT-COURSES TAILORED TO THE SPECIFIC AND URGENT NEEDS OF THE INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL SECTORS ALMOST DOUBLED TO A TOTAL OF 6,221, SIR SZE-YUEN SAID.

ON THE PROSPECTS OF THE GRADUATES, SIR SZE-YUEN SAID THE YEAR'S OUTPUT OF STUDENTS WAS WELL RECEIVED BY LOCAL EMPLOYERS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT 77.5 PER CENT OF OVER 1,400 GRADUATES HAD SECURED +SUITABLE AND REWARDING+ JOBS IN INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICES.

ANOTHER 16.5 PER CENT WENT ON TO FURTHER STUDIES, MAINLY WITHIN THE POLYTECHNIC, AND ONLY SIX PER CENT WERE STILL UNEMPLOYED BY OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

REVIEWING THE PROGRESS OF THE POLYTECHNIC'S BUILDING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, SIR SZE-YUEN SAID A NEW COMPLEX TO PROVIDE EXCELLENT SPORTS, SOCIAL AND OTHER STUDENT-FACILITIES, AS WELL AS WORKSHOP SPACES FOR THE NEW INSTITUTE OF TEXTILES AND CLOTHING, WOULD BE READY FOR USE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

BUT SIR SZE-YUEN ALSO NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE POLYTECHNIC'S NEW BUILDINGS WERE VAST AND IMPRESSIVE, THEY WOULD SOON BE OVER-TAXED BY THE +LESS IMMEDIATELY-VISIBLE EXPANSION IN STUDENT-NUMBERS+.

FOR THIS REASON, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE ADJACENT LAND, SET ASIDE FOR LONGER-TERM EXPANSION, WOULD HAVE TO BE DEVELOPED MORE QUICKLY THAN WAS PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT NECESSARY.

/SIR SZE-YUEN .....

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SIR SZE-YUEN ALSO NOTED THAT IN THE LAST ACADEMIC YEAR, THE POLYTECHNIC HAD TIME TO EXAMINE ITS PAST AND TO IDENTIFY THE PLAN FOR ITS OBJECTIVES IN THE LONGER-TERM, DESPITE ITS RAPID AND CONTINUED EXPANSION. +THIS WAS DONE PARTICULARLY IN THE CONTEXT OF A VISITATION OF THE UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE IN MARCH 1977 WHEN, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE POLYTECHNIC SUBMITTED A COMPREHENSIVE ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE TRIENNIUM 1978-81, IN PHASE WITH SIMILAR TRIENNIAL PLANS OF THE TWO UNJVERSITIES,+ HE SAID.

SIR SZE-YUEN EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE POLYTECHNIC, WHICH NOW PLAYS A PROMINENT PART IN HONG KONG'S FAST-MULTIPLYING ARRAY OF SOCIAL SERVICES WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP IN TUNE WITH HONG KONG'S EVER-CHANGING AND INCREASING NEEDS.

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UK'S CONCERN FOR HONG KONG  
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT THE CONCERN OF HONOURABLE MEMBERS OVER THE EEC-HONG KONG TEXTILES AGREEMENT WAS CONVEYED TO HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT LAST MONTH.

+I HAVE NOW BEEN ASKED TO ASSURE THEM (HONOURABLE MEMBERS) THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG REMAINS AS STRONG AS EVER,+ MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN.

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YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE  
TO BE EXPANDED AND REGIONALISED

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT PLANS TO INCREASE THE STAFF OF ITS YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE AND TO REGIONALISE THE SERVICE IN FIVE YEARS' TIME BY SETTING UP BRANCH OFFICES IN VARIOUS SCHOOL AREAS, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON. PETER WILLIAMS SAID TODAY.

+CAREERS GUIDANCE,+ HE SAID, +WILL THEN BE EXTENDED TO COVER ALL FORM V STUDENTS.

+DURING THIS PERIOD, WE SHALL BUILD UP A CAREERS REFERENCE LIBRARY IN EACH OFFICE AND STRENGTHEN THE CAREERS INFORMATION SERVICE,+ HE SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. WONG LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR. WILLIAMS EXPECTED TO INCREASE THE SERVICE'S STAFF BY THREE OFFICERS DURING THE COMING YEAR.

+THIS WILL ENABLE THE SERVICE TO EXTEND ITS PREPARATION OF CAREERS MATERIAL,+ HE SAID.

WITH REGARD TO PUBLICITY, MR. WILLIAMS POINTED OUT THAT A CAREERS NEWSLETTER WAS PREPARED BY THE SERVICE AND PUBLISHED EVERY TWO MONTHS.

THE NEWSLETTER, SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, WAS DISTRIBUTED TO ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND YOUTH CENTRES.

PRESS RELEASES ON CAREERS SEMINARS AND EXHIBITION WERE ISSUED REGULARLY AND LAST YEAR, RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG DID TWO SPECIAL PROGRAMMES TO HIGHLIGHT THE RECENT CAREERS EXHIBITION.

PLANS WERE ALSO UNDERWAY TO PRODUCE A SERIES OF TV PROGRAMMES ON CAREERS FOR TRANSMISSION ON THE COMMERCIAL STATIONS IN THE COMING YEAR.

REVIEWING THE WORK OF THE SERVICE IN THE PAST YEAR, MR. WILLIAMS SAID IT HAD AN ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE LABOUR OFFICER AND EIGHT ASSISTANT LABOUR OFFICERS OPERATING FROM TWO OFFICES -- ONE IN WAN CHAI AND THE OTHER IN KOWLOON CITY.

LAST YEAR OFFICERS OF THE UNIT GAVE 350 SCHOOL TALKS TO 33,000 FORM V STUDENTS, ORGANISED SEVEN CAREERS SEMINARS FOR 6,000 SCHOOL LEAVERS AND TOOK PART IN 17 OTHER CAREERS ACTIVITIES.

EIGHT CAREERS EXHIBITIONS WERE STAGED ON A SPECIALLY DESIGNED TRUCK WHICH CALLED AT HOUSING ESTATES, PARKS AND SCHOOLS AND THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR'S WORK WAS THE CAREERS EXHIBITION HELD AT THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY TERMINUS IN NOVEMBER WHICH ATTRACTED MORE THAN 113,000 VISITORS IN TEN DAYS.

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NEW SUBVENTION SYSTEM FOR CHILD CARE CENTRES  
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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS WORKING TOWARDS A PER CAPITA SUBVENTION SYSTEM FOR ALL CHILD CARE CENTRES AND FOR OTHER SERVICES.

THIS WAS REVEALED TODAY BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. THOMAS LEE IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE REV. THE HON. JOYCE M. BENNETT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR. LEE POINTED OUT THAT AT PRESENT THE GOVERNMENT'S GRANTS TO SUBVENTED CHILD CARE CENTRES ARE EITHER ON A DISCRETIONARY OR A PER CAPITA BASIS AS IS ALREADY THE CASE IN DAY NURSERIES.

BECAUSE OF THIS, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT PROVIDE A CODE OF AID ON PROMOTION PROSPECTS FOR WORKERS IN THESE CENTRES.

HE SAID EVEN WHEN THE NEW SUBVENTION SYSTEM WAS INTRODUCED, THE NEED FOR A CODE-OF-AID WAS UNLIKELY BECAUSE THIS WAS ONLY APPROPRIATE WHEN AN ORGANISATION, SUCH AS A SCHOOL, WAS AIDED BY A DEFICIENCY GRANT.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT AT PRESENT THE NUMBER OF CHILD CARE WORKERS IN CHILD CARE CENTRES IS CALCULATED ACCORDING TO STAFF AND CHILDREN RATIO AS SPECIFIED IN THE REGULATIONS AND THERE IS ONLY ONE SUPERVISOR IN EACH CENTRE.

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CAMPAIGN TO DISCOURAGE SMOKING  
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THE GOVERNMENT AIMS TO DISCOURAGE SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES AND ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT BY PERSUASION AND EDUCATION, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. E.P. HO, SAID TODAY.

+THE SUGGESTION OF LEGISLATION FOR A TOTAL BAN ON SMOKING IN ALL PUBLIC PLACES AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO CURRENT POLICY AND THINKING,+ HE SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. LEUNG TAT-SHING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ON THE RESULT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES, MR. HO SAID THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO ASSESS THE EFFECTS OF THE DRIVE.

HE BELIEVED THAT THE WIDE DISTRIBUTION OF POSTERS AND STICKERS, TOGETHER WITH THE DISPLAY OF SLIDES AND SHORT FILMS ON CINEMA AND TELEVISION SCREENS, HAD HAD SOME EFFECT IN ENCOURAGING SMOKERS TO BE MORE CONSIDERATE TOWARDS OTHERS.

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SUPPLY OF FEMALE WORKFORCE AND NURSERIES

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THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON. E.P. HO, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME +ENLIGHTENED SELF-INTEREST AMONG INDUSTRIALISTS+ IN THE PROVISION OF NURSERIES FOR CHILDREN OF THEIR WORKFORCE CLOSE TO THEIR PLACE OF WORK.

MR. HO ASSURED THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WOULD READILY PROVIDE ANY NECESSARY GUIDANCE AND ADVICE IN THE SETTING UP OF THESE NURSERIES IF THE INDUSTRIALISTS CONSIDER THIS WOULD OPEN UP A FRESH SUPPLY OF FEMALE LABOUR FOR INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT, AND AS AN ADDITIONAL BENEFIT FOR WORKING MOTHERS ALREADY AT WORK.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. JAMES WU WHO ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE STEPS TO ENCOURAGE AND EXPEDITE THE SETTING UP OF MORE NURSERIES SO THAT MOTHERS OF YOUNG CHILDREN CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR WORK IN INDUSTRY.

ANSWERING ANOTHER QUESTION FROM MR. WU CONCERNING A +CHRONIC SHORTAGE OF LABOUR+, MR. HO SAID: +IN A FREE ECONOMY LIKE HONG KONG WHICH DOES NOT HAVE ANY ARTIFICIAL LIMITATIONS ON WAGE BARGAINING OR ON LABOUR MOBILITY, A CHRONIC, OR LONG-LASTING, SHORTAGE OF LABOUR CANNOT OCCUR.

+ANY TEMPORARY SHORTAGE OF FEMALE LABOUR CAN BE EXPECTED TO RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN THE WAGE RATE BEING OFFERED WHICH MAY INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF SUCH LABOUR TO MEET DEMAND.

+THIS PROCESS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE SHORTAGE IS ELIMINATED,+ HE SAID.

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ACCESS FACILITIES FOR DISABLED

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DROPPED KERBS HAVE ALREADY BEEN INSTALLED AT 20 PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS IN HENNESSY ROAD BETWEEN FENWICK STREET AND YEE WO STREET FOR THE USE OF DISABLED PEOPLE, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, SAID TODAY.

IN ADDITION, 28 MORE CROSSINGS ARE BEING CONSTRUCTED IN THE KWUN TONG AREA, HE SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

+THE NEW KERB DETAILS ARE BEING INSTALLED IN THE TWO URBAN AREAS MENTIONED ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS,+ MR. MCDONALD SAID.

+LATER THIS YEAR AN ASSESSMENT WILL BE MADE OF THE BENEFITS OF THE SYSTEM AND OF THE POSSIBLE DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS SUCH AS THE PONDING OF RAINWATER IN THE FORMED AREAS.+

HE SAID IF THE STUDY INDICATED THAT THERE WERE NO SERIOUS DISADVANTAGES IN THE SYSTEM, A PROGRAMME OF WORKS WOULD BE INTRODUCED TO PROVIDE DROPPED KERBS AT OTHER PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS.

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION, MR. MCDONALD SAID THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE WAS WELL AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE DISABLED AND HAD ADOPTED THE DESIGN STANDARDS LAID DOWN IN THE CODE OF PRACTICE RELATING TO ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED TO BUILDINGS FOR ALL NEW PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE PROJECTS.

HE SAID THIS MEANT THE PROVISION OF EASIER-GOING STAIRWAYS, SHORTER STAIR-FLIGHTS, LONGER INTERMEDIATE LANDINGS AND FLATTER RAMP GRADIENTS. ESCALATORS WOULD ALSO BE PROVIDED IN SOME CASES.

MR. MCDONALD POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, BE POSSIBLE TO INCORPORATE ALL OF THE RECOMMENDED STANDARDS IN EVERY NEW STRUCTURE DUE MAINLY TO THE LIMITED GROUND AREA AVAILABLE FOR LANDINGS.

+ALTHOUGH THERE ARE NO PROPOSALS AT PRESENT TO RECONSTRUCT EXISTING FACILITIES TO BRING THEM INTO LINE WITH THE STANDARDS THEY ARE BEING EXAMINED TO DETERMINE WHETHER IMPROVEMENTS MIGHT BE MADE TO THEM IN THE FUTURE,+ HE ADDED.

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SPECIAL BUS LANE SCHEME SUCCESSFUL

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT THE BUS-ONLY-LANE SCHEMES HAVE GENERALLY IMPROVED THE JOURNEY TIMES AND INCREASED THE CARRYING CAPACITY OF THE BUSES USING THEM.

THE BETTER SERVICE THUS PROVIDED HAD PERSUADED MORE PEOPLE TO TRAVEL ON THE BUSES, HE SAID IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. PETER C. WONG.

MR. JONES ADDED THAT RECENT SURVEYS IN THE MID-LEVELS SHOW THAT THE PROPORTION OF TRIPS MADE BY FRANCHISED BUSES DURING THE MORNING PEAK PERIOD HAS RISEN FROM 21 PER CENT BEFORE THE BUS PRIORITY SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED TO AS MUCH AS 40 PER CENT.

ANSWERING ANOTHER QUESTION FROM MR. WONG ON RELAXING THE SCHEME DURING SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, MR. JONES POINTED OUT THAT BEFORE ANY RELAXATION WAS INTRODUCED IT WOULD HAVE TO BE CLEARLY SHOWN THAT PUBLIC TRANSPORT WOULD NOT SUFFER.

+THE OBJECT OF THE BUS ONLY LANES IS TO GIVE PRIORITY TO HIGH CAPACITY PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE ROAD CAPACITY DOES NOT PERMIT THE UNRESTRICTED USE OF PRIVATE CARS.

+IN THE PARTICULAR CASE OF THE MID-LEVELS THE SITUATION IS AFFECTED BY THE MAJOR ROAD WORKS BEING UNDERTAKEN IN THAT AREA AND IT IS NOT YET KNOWN WHAT THE EFFECT WILL BE OF THE LIFTING OF THE BUILDING RESTRICTIONS IN THE AREA.

+I HAVE, HOWEVER, ASKED THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED TO LOOK AGAIN AT THE POSITION ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS TO SEE IF ANY CHANGES CAN BE MADE AT THESE TIMES WHICH WOULD NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT BUS OPERATIONS.+

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TOPLEY COMMENTS ON ACADEMIC APTITUDE TEST

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON. KENNETH TOPLEY TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY SOME PRIMARY SCHOOLS ARE COACHING THEIR PUPILS FOR THE ACADEMIC APTITUDE TEST.

+THIS WAS TO BE EXPECTED,+ HE SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. CHARLES YEUNG WHO WANTED TO KNOW WHAT POSITIVE ACTION THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE TO ENSURE THAT THE PURPOSE OF APTITUDE TEST WAS NOT DEFEATED BY SUCH PRACTICE.

MR. TOPLEY STATED THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TRYING FORCIBLY TO STOP PRIMARY SCHOOLS FROM COACHING THEIR PUPILS FOR THE ACADEMIC APTITUDE TEST.

+SOME PREPARATION FOR THE TEST IS DESIRABLE, BUT EXCESSIVE COACHING IS INEFFECTIVE,+ HE SAID.

+MANY SCHOOLS HAVE ALREADY APPRECIATED THE TRUE ROLE AND NATURE OF THE TEST WHICH IS USED SOLELY TO SCALE THE INTERNAL ASSESSMENTS OF SCHOOLS AND WHICH IS DESIGNED IN SUCH A WAY AS NOT TO EXERT UNDUE PRESSURE ON CHILDREN+ HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1978

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ASSESSING RATEABLE VALUE OF MODIFIED PREMISES  
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UNAUTHORISED EXTENSIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF A REASONABLY PERMANENT NATURE BUILT BY A LANDLORD OR TENANT ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN ASSESSING THE RATEABLE VALUE OF PREMISES, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. ROGER LOBO.

MR. HADDON-CAVE POINTED OUT THAT WHEN PREMISES ARE ASSESSED TO RATES FOR THE FIRST TIME, INSPECTORS OF THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT RECORD ALL MATERIAL EXTENSIONS AND MODIFICATIONS WHICH MIGHT AFFECT THE ASSESSMENT.

+ANY LATER EXTENSIONS OR MODIFICATIONS ARE NOTED BY INSPECTORATE STAFF DURING THE COURSE OF DAY TO DAY WORK, AND, IF WARRANTED, AN ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT IS MADE,+ HE EXPLAINED.

+OF COURSE, A THOROUGH CHECK ON THE PHYSICAL STATE OF PREMISES IS MADE DURING REVALUATIONS WHICH ARE NORMALLY CARRIED OUT EVERY THREE OR FOUR YEARS, AND THE NEW ASSESSMENTS WHICH FLOW THEREFROM REFLECT THE VALUE OF THE PREMISES IN THEIR MODIFIED OR EXTENDED FORM.+

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POSTAL SERVICE IN NT  
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A FURTHER 247 COMMUNAL LETTER BOXES ARE EXPECTED TO BE INSTALLED BY JUNE THIS YEAR IN VILLAGES OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON SAID TODAY.

THE GREATER PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WOULD THEN BE SERVED EITHER BY DOOR-TO-DOOR DELIVERY OR BY COMMUNAL LETTER BOXES, MR. JEAFFRESON SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. CHARLES YEUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE SAID THE DECISION TO INSTALL MORE COMMUNAL LETTER BOXES FOLLOWED A SURVEY BY THE POSTMASTER GENERAL LAST YEAR TO SEE HOW THE POSTAL SERVICE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES MIGHT BE IMPROVED.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS IN THE VILLAGES WHEREBY THE POST OFFICE DELIVERS MAJLS FOR SOME VILLAGES BY ARRANGEMENT TO A CONVENIENT LOCATION, SUCH AS A LOCAL RICE SHOP, FROM WHERE VILLAGERS COLLECT THEIR LETTERS.

CONCERNING POSTAL SERVICE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES GENERALLY, MR. JEAFFRESON SAID AS IN OTHER PARTS OF HONG KONG, DOOR-TO-DOOR MAIL DELIVERY SERVICES WERE PROVIDED IN PLACES WHERE ROADS AND STREETS HAD OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED NAMES AND THE BUILDINGS WERE PROPERLY NUMBERED.

+THERE ARE THUS DELIVERY SERVICES IN ALL THE TOWNS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ HE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1978

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MORE PUBLIC LIBRARIES TO OPEN IN NT  
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A NUMBER OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES OPENED LAST YEAR IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THERE ARE PLANS FOR MORE IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE HON. DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. ALEX WU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THE SHEUNG SHUI LIBRARY WOULD OPEN IN A WEEK'S TIME AND THE TUEN MUN LIBRARY IN JULY.

+AT KWAI CHUNG, CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO LEASING 12,000 SQUARE FEET OF OFFICE SPACE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS PENDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF PERMANENT PREMISES,+ HE SAID.

IN YUEN LONG, HE SAID, THE NIXON LIBRARY IN THE TOWN HALL WILL BE SHORTLY TRANSFERRED TO THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND BECOME A PUBLIC LIBRARY.

A BOOK BOX SERVICE TO CHEUNG CHAU STARTED LAST SEPTEMBER, AND THE INTRODUCTION OF A LIBRARY SERVICE TO SAI KUNG IS NOW BEING EXAMINED, HE SAID.

IN THE NEW TOWNS, MR. AKERS-JONES SAID THE GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO PROVIDE, FOR EACH POPULATION GROUP OF 200,000, A LIBRARY OCCUPYING ABOUT 12,000 SQUARE FEET OF FLOOR SPACE TOGETHER WITH A STUDY ROOM FOR 220 STUDENTS.

+IN OTHER PLACES, THE NEED FOR STUDY ROOMS IS BEING TACKLED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, AND A TOTAL OF EIGHT CLASSROOMS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR THIS PURPOSE,+ HE SAID.

LAST YEAR, THE TAI PO LIBRARY OPENED IN SEPTEMBER AND IS LENDING SOME 22,000 BOOKS A MONTH. AND A LIBRARY AT SHA TIN IN THE LEK YUEN ESTATE OPENED IN NOVEMBER LAST, AND IN DECEMBER ISSUED OVER 13,000 BOOKS - TWICE THE NUMBER OF BOOKS IN STOCK.

+CLEARLY, HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE OVERWHELMING USE BEING MADE OF OUR LIBRARIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, WE WILL HAVE TO RE-EXAMINE THE TIMING AND ADEQUACY OF OUR FUTURE PLANS FOR LIBRARIES AND TO KEEP THE PROVISION AND NEED FOR STUDY ROOMS UNDER REVIEW,+ MR. AKERS-JONES SAID.

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## APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. F.K. LI TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT IT IS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY THAT REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES SHOULD BE DRAWN FROM A WIDE CROSS-SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECRETARIES OR HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. LYDIA DUNN CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENTS OF SUITABLE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO THE NETWORK OF ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES.

MR. LI POINTED OUT THAT APART FROM THOSE STATUTORY COMMITTEES WHICH STIPULATE MEMBERSHIP OF SOME PROFESSIONAL OR SPECIALISED BODY, IT IS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY THAT REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES SHOULD GENERALLY BE DRAWN FROM A WIDE RANGE OF PERSONS FROM DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY.+

HE ADDED THAT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SECRETARY OR HEAD OF DEPARTMENT WHO IS MOST CONCERNED WITH THE PRINCIPAL AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COMMITTEE, AND WHO WOULD CONSULT OFFICERS OF HIS BRANCH OR DEPARTMENT.

+HE MIGHT ALSO CONSULT THOSE UNOFFICIALS WHO ARE ALREADY ASSOCIATED WITH THE WORK OF THAT COMMITTEE. HE ALSO SEEKS ADVICE FROM THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, PARTICULARLY ON THE APPOINTMENT OF NON-PROFESSIONAL PERSONS TO HIS COMMITTEES SINCE THE LATTER, AND MEMBERS OF HIS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS MAINTAIN A CLOSE CONTACT WITH MANY ORGANISATIONS, GROUPS AND LOCAL INDIVIDUALS,+ MR. LI SAID.

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## SETTING UP OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

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THE GOVERNMENT IS WORKING ON DETAILED PROCEDURES FOR THE SETTING UP OF A PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+ONCE THIS HAS BEEN DONE A MOTION WILL BE INTRODUCED TO PROVIDE THAT A PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AS A SELECT COMMITTEE OF THIS COUNCIL,+ MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. F.W. LI.

+IT IS INTENDED THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD HAVE JURISDICTION TO CONSIDER AND COMMENT AS IT MAY THINK FIT ON SUCH MATTERS AS ARE CONTAINED IN THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT ON ANY ACCOUNTS OF THE GOVERNMENT, OR ON SUCH METHODS AS MAY BE REQUIRED TO BE LAID BEFORE HONOURABLE MEMBERS,+ MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT IT WAS PROPOSED TO SET UP THE COMMITTEE IN TIME TO CONSIDER THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1978.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1978

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SPECIAL NEEDS OF FISHERMEN'S CHILDREN

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON. KENNETH TOPLEY SAID TODAY THAT HE WOULD NEED TO GATHER FRESH FACTS AND TO CONSULT OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF FISHERMEN'S CHILDREN.

REPLYING TO THE HON. KWAN KO SIU-WAH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MR. TOPLEY SAID THAT THERE WERE +CONCEPTUAL AND NUMERICAL+ PROBLEMS TO BE TACKLED BEFORE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS COULD BE ARRIVED AT.

+SOME 60,000 PEOPLE STILL LIVE AFLOAT, MORE THAN HALF ARE FISHERFOLK,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS NOT NECESSARILY FISHING OR LIVING AFLOAT WHICH CREATES PROBLEMS OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, BUT RATHER REMOTENESS AND THE ITINERANT HOME,+ HE ADDED.

+RE MOTENESS CAN BE MET BY BRINGING THE SCHOOLS TO THE CHILDREN AND THIS HAS BEEN DONE WITH PRIMARY SCHOOLS. IT IS NOT SUCH A PRACTICAL SOLUTION WITH SECONDARY SCHOOLS WHICH SHOULD BE OF A MINIMUM SIZE TO OFFER SOME CHOICE OF SUBJECTS.

+THE ITINERANT HOME CAN BE MANAGED BY PROVIDING A HOME ASHORE. BUT HERE A RECENT SURVEY HAS SHOWN A PREFERENCE BY FISHERMEN FOR PURPOSE-BUILT FISHERMEN'S VILLAGES RATHER THAN PUBLIC HOUSING.

+THESE SOLUTIONS WILL NOT BE EASY TO APPLY. ON THE OTHER HAND, THESE PROBLEMS HAVE TO A SUBSTANTIAL EXTENT BEEN SOLVING THEMSELVES INDIRECTLY THROUGH THE GENERAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG. OUR TRANSPORT NETWORK HAS BECOME WIDER AND MORE COMPLETE AND FISHERMEN HAVE INCREASINGLY COME ASHORE TO LIVE, MANY IN PUBLIC HOUSING, AND SOMETIMES TURNING TO OTHER TRADES.

+WE MUST NOW CONSIDER TO WHAT DEGREE THESE PROBLEMS WILL FIND THEIR OWN SOLUTIONS AND HOW FAR WE SHOULD GO IN MEETING THEM HEAD ON. HERE WE MUST CONSIDER HOW FAR SOLUTIONS COMPELLING IN PRINCIPLE WILL PROVE PRACTICAL IN APPLICATION AND HOW FAR DIVERSION OF EFFORT FROM OUR MAIN PROGRAMME IS JUSTIFIED,+ MR. TOPLEY SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1978

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PAYMENT OF JURORS ALLOWANCE

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ALLOWANCES FOR JURORS CANNOT BE PAID AT THE CONCLUSION OF A TRIAL BECAUSE THE PAYMENTS HAVE TO BE CHECKED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. HOBLEY WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE REV. THE HON. JOYCE M. BENNETT WHO ASKED IF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ARRANGE SUCH PAYMENTS BE MADE TO THE JURORS AT THE COURTS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THEIR SERVICE ON A CASE RATHER THAN LATER AT THE SUPREME COURT ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

MR. HOBLEY ADDED THAT ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF PAYMENT WAS ALSO MADE BY POST IF A JUROR SO ASKED.

HE SAID THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT BELIEVED THAT THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS DO NOT IN PRACTICE CAUSE ANY INCONVENIENCE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAVE SERVED AS JURORS.

IT WAS ALSO NOT CONSIDERED THAT THERE IS A CASE FOR ABANDONING THE CONTROLS NOW EXERCISED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES -- WHICH WOULD BE NECESSARY IF PAYMENT WERE TO BE MADE AT THE CONCLUSION OF A TRIAL, HE ADDED.

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BILLS PASSED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY PASSED THREE BILLS INTO LAW.

THESE ARE THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, MERCANTILE BANK NOTE ISSUE (REPEAL) BILL 1978 AND SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977.

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