



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, July 3, 1973

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COMMODITY EXCHANGE EXPERT IN HONG KONG

An expert from the Bank of England has arrived in Hong Kong to advise the government on the problem of establishing one or more commodity exchanges.

He is Mr. John Wilson who is the bank's expert in commodity trading.

In a statement to the Legislative Council on June 20, the Financial Secretary said commodity markets had speculative and volatile characteristics, and adequate regulations were necessary for the proper running of such exchanges.

Mr. Haddon-Cave said the government had decided to ban, for the time being, the establishment of commodity exchanges dealing with specified commodities -- initially 20 in all.

However, he pointed out that it was not the intention to frustrate the development of a properly regulated exchange, or possibly more than one exchange, at a later stage.

The intention was to ensure that if and when such an exchange was established it would operate in a well regulated and orderly manner and in accordance with internationally accepted standards.

Mr. Wilson will be in Hong Kong for about three weeks.

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COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT SPEAKS ABOUT PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES

The Commissioner for Transport, Mr. Wilson, today described as "pure invention" reports that licences for public light buses, or any other vehicle licences, would be doubled in the near future.

He made it clear that the matter had neither been hinted nor stated officially. "The public light bus is one of a number of forms of public transport and obviously its future must be determined in relation to an overall transport policy, not just by itself."

Mr. Wilson said a proposed transport policy was likely to be debated by the Legislative Council later this year.

"Recent press statements by representatives of some public light bus associations give an unfortunate impression that the Transport Department is about to declare war on this form of transport. This," he said, "is absolutely ridiculous".

The Commissioner for Transport also explained that the number of roads where PLBs were not allowed to stop was being increased simply to relieve traffic congestion, "and it's proving highly successful as a means of keeping traffic moving".

In every case, suitable alternative stopping places are provided and it was "nonsense" for anyone to claim that these bans were putting the PLBs out of business.

"Indications are that they are carrying the same number of passengers as before, although stopping in slightly different places when bans are imposed.

/"Passengers

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"Passengers don't cease to use this form of transport solely because the PLBs stop in a side street rather than on a main road," Mr. Wilson stressed.

He emphasised that apart from two minor exceptions, no new public light bus licences had been issued for years. The two exceptions were 10 licences in 1972 for the Peak maxicab service and 100 or so licences early this year as a result of legal action dating from 1969.

On the question of controlling PLB fares, the Commissioner said the remedy surely lay in the hands of some PLB operators; -- "they should stop profiteering".

It was a strange state of affairs, he said, that some operators should criticise the Transport Department for failing to arrange for legislation to stop PLB operators from charging what they like.

He pointed out that two-way radios for public light buses were undesirable, even if the necessary wave lengths were available. A PLB is not licensed to ply for hire like a taxi or public car on a call basis by telephone or radio.

Mr. Wilson said the Transport Department arranges periodical meetings with representatives of PLB associations to discuss matters of mutual interest and of resolving differences. The last one was held only a couple of weeks ago.

However, he added, there was no point in having these meetings if some PLB operators proposed to comment without bothering to check facts.

"The trouble seems to be confined to only one or two of the 12 associations of PLB operators. The remainder very reasonably prefer to talk over matters," Mr. Wilson said.

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NEW ROAD LINKING ABERDEEN AND HAPPY VALLEY

A new road, which will greatly reduce the travelling time from Aberdeen to Happy Valley and Wan Chai will be officially opened by the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose on Thursday (July 5).

A spokesman for the Public Works Department said today the road, which is just under a mile long, marks an important milestone in the improvement of road communications for the Wong Chuk Hang and Aberdeen areas.

Rapid industrial and housing development together with increased tourist activities in the areas have generated a large volume of traffic.

As a result, this causes severe congestion along Pokfulam Road which is the only major through route.

To overcome this problem on a long-term basis the government is planning to build a four-lane tunnel linking Aberdeen with Happy Valley. In the meantime, Nam Fung Road will provide the required capacity before the completion of the proposed Aberdeen tunnel.

The new road begins at the widened upper section of Deep Water Bay Road and runs 5,100 feet along the southern foothills of Mount Nicholson through densely wooded terrain.

It joins Wong Chuk Hang Road at a signal-controlled junction near the Grantham Hospital.

/Costing more

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Costing more than \$4 million, the 34-foot wide carriageway will have two lanes for uphill traffic and a single lane for the downhill run.

In addition, there will be a six-foot wide footpath on each side of the carriageway.

Nam Fung Road will be open for public use one hour after Sir Murray unveils a plaque at 3.30 p.m. to commemorate the completion of the road.

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Note to Editors: You are invited to cover the opening ceremony which begins at 3.30 p.m. on Thursday (July 5). G.I.S. officers will meet press representatives in the reception area outside the main entrance of Murray Building in Garden Road at 2.30 p.m. Three vehicles will be provided to take them to and from the opening ceremony.

A sketch showing the location of the new road is boxed this evening.

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ACCOMMODATION FOR KOWLOON TSAI SQUATTERS

Most of the Kowloon Tsai squatters who recently petitioned Government House and the Housing Department for re-housing and compensation have already been offered public housing or resite areas, a Housing Department spokesman said today.

The Kowloon Tsai area was affected by the June rains last year and more than 8,000 people were then offered public housing or resites. Ninety-five per cent of them accepted, but five per cent refused resites or insisted that they should be given public housing in a different area than that offered.

Some people with workshops asked to continue operating in the area rather than take public housing in spite of the fact that the area was declared dangerous. Some squatters moved into the area after the rainstorms and are now trying to claim eligibility for public housing to which they are not entitled.

Mr. David Weeks, officer in charge of clearance operations, said: "If all the people affected by the rainstorms in the area had accepted what had been offered we would not have this problem now. It is regrettable that there will always be a small minority of people who will attempt to jump the queue for public housing and so gain an unfair advantage. Some of those associated with the present petition appear to fall into this category."

Mr. Weeks pointed out that those who had earlier qualified for accommodation or a resite but had refused it could still take up the offer.

/A reply

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A reply to the petitioners from the Colonial Secretariat points out that the circumstances of each individual case had been carefully and thoroughly examined by senior officers of the Housing Department and that the Governor did not propose to intervene in the matter.

The reply also said it was regretted that it was not possible to make an exception in the case of those not eligible for re-housing, but would be possible to grant them space in a resite area - such offers that have already been made by the Housing Department.

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WATER CUT IN HUNG HOM

Water supply to a number of premises in Hung Hom will be turned off for five hours from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. on Thursday (July 5).

This is to enable the Waterworks Office to carry out a leakage test.

The area affected is bounded by Chatham Road, Winslow Street, Whampoa Street and Bulkeley Street.

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COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR CHAI WAN RESIDENTS

Chai Wan residents will soon have their own multi-purpose community centre for housing group activities and welfare services.

The new Chai Wan community centre, situated at Wan Tsui Road, will have a six-storey block, a single-storey hall and an open basketball court.

Tenders for the project are now being called and it is expected that work will begin in August.

A youth bar, changing rooms and administration offices will be located on the ground and first floors.

Rooms for practical training classes and conference purposes, will be provided on the second and third floors. They will be used for holding group activities for children, youths and adults.

A library with reading material suitable for both adults and children will be housed on the fourth floor, and on the fifth floor there will be a children's day-nursery catering for youngsters aged between two and six whose mothers work during the day.

Apart from the roof of the high block, which is designed as a play area, the multi-purpose hall will also be available for various kinds of activities ranging from indoor sports to social gatherings.

The hall will have seating capacity for about 500 people.

On completion, the Chai Wan Community Centre will be the sixth such centre in densely-populated areas operated by the Social Welfare Department.

Others are the Wong Tai Sin Community Centre, the Kwun Tong Community Centre, the Tai Hang Tung Community Centre, the Princess Alexandra Community Centre in Tsuen Wan, and the Yuen Long Town Hall in Yuen Long.

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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN KOWLOON

Temporary traffic re-routing and revised clearway hours will be introduced in Kowloon Tong and Mong Kok Road respectively to assist traffic flow in the two areas.

Beginning from 10 a.m. on Thursday (July 5) a number of traffic arrangements will come into effect for a period of nine weeks in order to facilitate road improvement works in Waterloo Road between Flint Road and York Road.

Derby Road at its junction with Waterloo Road will be closed to vehicular traffic, but the section between Waterloo Road and Chester Road will be routed from one-way westbound to two-way traffic.

At the same time, Flint Road between Waterloo Road and Chester Road will be routed from one-way westbound to one-way eastbound.

From Friday morning (July 6) the clearway restriction hours in Mong Kok Road between Reclamation Street and Tong Mi Road will be from 7.30 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. and from 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. At present, the effective hours are 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

All motor vehicles, except franchised buses, will be prohibited from stopping to pick up or set down passengers and to load and unload goods during the clearway hours.

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CLEANLINESS MORE IMPORTANT THAN INOCULATION

The Director of Medical and Health Services, Dr. G.H. Choa, said today the public should begin to realise that "to prevent cholera it is more important to focus attention on environmental cleanliness and personal hygiene than on inoculation."

In a second preventive statement issued at the start of the cholera season, traditionally associated with the hot weather, Dr. Choa said: "Experience since 1961 from the usual cholera breeding grounds in Southeast Asia shows that the use of cholera vaccine alone has not been entirely successful in preventing the spread of the disease.

"Therefore the most reliable, and the safest, measures are to ensure cleanliness in the preparation and consumption of food, and good personal hygiene."

He explained that the latter meant the washing of hands before meals and after visits to the toilet, "because the cholera vibrio, or disease germ, cannot enter the human body unless it is swallowed."

Food and drink could be contaminated by dirty hands. The disease could also be transmitted by a fly carrying the germ if the insect were permitted to settle on food, he said.

In the meantime, departmental measures being taken to prevent any outbreak of cholera, and to locate possible carriers of the disease, include the testing of nightsoil and samples from all cases of diarrhoeas that come to light.

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YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING CAMP

A youth leadership training camp has been organised by four Social Welfare Department Estate Community Work Offices in Northeast Kowloon.

The two-day camp will be held at the Fanling Rotary Youth Camp Site on July 26 and 27.

"We have planned the camp for young people between 15 and 20 to develop their training in youth leadership," said Mrs. Mabel O, officer-in-charge of the Sau Mau Ping (Central) Estate Community Work Office, one of the sponsors. The others are the Ngau Tau Kok, Sau Mau Ping (South) and Lam Tin Estate Community Work Offices.

Mrs. O said that the programme will be in two parts; the first dealing with theory in principles of programme planning, group leadership techniques and the planning of social gatherings for young people.

The second half of the programme will be a party organised by participants in conjunction with the Fanling Rotary Youth Centre. This will take place at the youth centre and will be for 400 children. Mr. Pang Chi-fai, Chairman of the Fanling Rural Committee will officiate.

The training camp has been organised to take 50 young boys and girls and anyone interested in joining can contact either of the four estate community work offices. There will be a \$2 charge.

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Release Time: 7.00 p.m.