



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1982

## CONTENTS

## PAGE NO.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

BILL ON GAME MACHINES CENTRES BECOMES LAW .....	1
GAMES MACHINE CENTRE APPLICATIONS .....	2
DISTRICT BOARD BILLS .....	3
QUICKER FINANCIAL AID FOR TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS .....	5
PUBLIC INTEREST SAFEGUARDED .....	6
CHANGES TO PUBLIC HOLIDAYS .....	7
EFFORT TO STAMP OUT +LOAN SHARKING+ .....	8
VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL .....	9
MORE LAWS FOR WORKERS' SAFETY .....	10
PEOPLE URGED NOT TO THROW OBJECTS FROM BUILDINGS .....	11
LIFTING APPLIANCES COVERED BY REGULATIONS .....	11
GOVT CONCERNED ABOUT LEGAL IMMIGRATION .....	12
PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT .....	13
MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT .....	13
IMMUNISATION EFFORT DESCRIBED .....	14
QUARTERS FOR DOCTORS .....	14
PRIVATE CLUB LEASES .....	15
FACILITIES FOR TAXI CHANGES .....	15
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED .....	16
GOVERNOR SEES LAM TIN FIRE SITE .....	17
NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN CAUSEWAY BAY .....	18
EPCOM MEMBERS SEE PROBLEM AREAS .....	19
MP VISITS FACTORIES .....	20
TSUEN WAN LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR SITES SOLD .....	20
MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP OFFERED .....	21

BILL ON GAME MACHINES CENTRES BECOMES LAW  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE NEW LAW ON LICENSING OF PUBLIC GAME MACHINE CENTRES WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THREE UNOFFICIALS SPOKE DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE MISCELLANEOUS LICENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL WHICH WAS INTENDED TO BLOCK A LOOPHOLE IN THE LAW AND TO REGULATE CENTRES WHERE MACHINE GAMES COULD BE PROVIDED.

SUPPORTING THE BILL, THE HON ANDREW SO POINTED OUT THAT FROM A FAVOURABLE POINT OF VIEW, AUTOMATIC MACHINES WERE THE PRODUCT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WHICH MIGHT AROUSE CHILDREN'S INTEREST IN ELECTRONICS.

HOWEVER, HE FELT THAT IF THE THEMES OF THE GAMES RELATING TO WAR, INVASION AND DESTRUCTION COULD BE EXCLUDED IN FAVOUR OF EDUCATIONAL ONES, +THEY WOULD BE NO LESS AN ATTRACTION TO PLAYERS WHILE SERVING AS AN ADDED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE+.

THE HON CHAN KAM-CHUEN DESCRIBED THE LICENSING CONDITIONS LAID DOWN IN THE BILL AS +FAIR AND NECESSARY+.

HE SAID: +THE PRESENT PROTEST AGAINST THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION COMES MAINLY FROM THOSE OPERATORS WHO REALISE THAT THEY COULD UNLIKELY COMPLY WITH THE LICENSING CONDITIONS SET BY THE GOVERNMENT.

+AS TO THOSE APPLICANTS WHO ARE PREPARED TO ABIDE BY THE LAW, THEY SHOULD HAVE LITTLE TO WORRY ABOUT.+

HE DID NOT THINK THERE WAS A NEED FOR A GRACE PERIOD FOR THE PRESENT UNLICENSED OPERATORS WHO WERE SIMPLY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE LEGISLATION WHICH HAD BEEN OUTDATED BY TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

HOWEVER, HE URGED THAT AFTER THE ENACTMENT OF THE BILL, A SWIFT SORTING OUT OF THE APPLICATIONS FOR LICENCES SHOULD BE MADE AND THAT THE APPLICANTS SHOULD BE ADVISED OF THE OUTCOME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT ANY CAUSE FOR COMPLAINT ON THE GOVERNMENT COULD BE ELIMINATED.

MR CHAN ALSO REFERRED TO THE VARIOUS POINTS OVER THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT RAISED BY MANY OPERATORS OF EXISTING AUTOMATIC MACHINE ESTABLISHMENTS.

ON THE ARGUMENTS THAT AUTOMATIC MACHINE GAMES COULD HELP YOUNGSTERS TO ESTABLISH CONFIDENCE IN DEALING WITH COMPLEX LEARNING SITUATIONS AND TO OVERCOME THEIR FEARS OF COMPUTERS, MR CHAN SAID: +SHOULD THIS BE THE CASE, SUCH GAMES SHOULD BE SUITABLY MODIFIED FOR INTRODUCTION INTO SCHOOLS AND INTEGRATED WITH THE CURRICULUM SO THAT OUR STUDENTS ARE FAMILIARISED WITH THE OPERATION OF COMPUTERS.

+IN THAT CASE, WE COULD AVOID EXPOSING OUR CHILDREN TO POSSIBLE BAD INFLUENCE IN COMMERCIAL GAME CENTRES,+ HE ADDED.

THE HON STEPHEN CHEONG COMMENDED THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS EFFORTS IN LAYING DOWN SPECIFIC CRITERIA WHICH AUTOMATIC MACHINE ENTERTAINMENT CENTRES MUST MEET BEFORE THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR LICENCES ARE APPROVED.

BUT HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S DELIBERATIONS OVER THE CRITERIA TOOK MORE THAN SIX MONTHS AND THAT THE COMMISSIONER FOR TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING HAD RECEIVED OVER 800 APPLICATIONS FOR LICENCES TO OPERATE SUCH GAME CENTRES PRIOR TO THE GAZETTING OF THE BILL ON DECEMBER 18 LAST YEAR.

+TO BE FAIR TO THOSE APPLICANTS, MAY I RESPECTFULLY URGE THAT, UPON ENACTMENT OF THIS BILL, THE PROCESSING OF THESE BACKLOGGED APPLICATIONS BE SPEEDED UP, PREFERABLY WITHIN A TARGETED TIME FRAME OF NO MORE THAN THREE MONTHS, SO AS TO MINIMISE ANY MISREPRESENTATIONS THAT GOVERNMENT USUALLY DRAGS ITS FEET IN THE EXECUTION OF POLICIES,+ SAID MR CHEONG.

HE ALSO CALLED ON THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES TO CARRY OUT CONTINUOUS AND EFFICIENT ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS ON SUCH CENTRES AFTER THE BILL WAS PASSED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### GAMES MACHINE CENTRE APPLICATIONS

\* \* \* \* \*

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON DENIS BRAY TODAY TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT ALMOST HALF OF THE APPLICATIONS FOR GAMES MACHINE CENTRE LICENCES RECEIVED SO FAR HAD BEEN DEALT WITH.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE MISCELLANEOUS LICENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982, MR BRAY SAID UP TO YESTERDAY (JANUARY 5) 1 096 APPLICATIONS HAD BEEN RECEIVED AND OF THESE, 408 HAD BEEN DEALT WITH.

PROCESSING OF MOST OF THOSE REMAINING WOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, HE ADDED.

MR BRAY SAID THAT UNLESS THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY WAS FLOODED OUT WITH AN EVEN GREATER RUSH OF APPLICATIONS THAN IT HAD NOW, APPLICATIONS COMING IN NOW COULD BE DEALT WITH WITHIN TWO MONTHS.

HE EMPHASISED THAT GAMES CENTRES IN HONG KONG, AS IN SO MANY OTHER PLACES, SHOULD BE LICENSED.

/HE ALSO .....

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1982

- 3 -

HE ALSO ASSURED MEMBERS THAT THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR EACH MACHINE USED.

MR BRAY SAID ALSO THAT THE POLICE WOULD CONTINUE TO ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO CONTINUOUS AND EFFICIENT ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS.

+THERE HAVE BEEN 44 SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTIONS UP TO DATE AND THERE ARE ELEVEN CASES PENDING.

+THIS IS NOT THE SORT OF ACTIVITY THAT CAN BE CARRIED ON CLANDESTINELY AND PROFITABLY IN THE FACE OF COMPETITION FROM PROPERLY-LICENSED CENTRES IN POPULAR LOCATIONS. I WOULD EXPECT THEREFORE THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO GREAT ENFORCEMENT PROBLEM IN THE LONG RUN.+

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### DISTRICT BOARD BILLS

\* \* \* \*

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY (NEW TERRITORIES), MR IAN MACPHERSON, MOVED THE SECOND READING OF A BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SEEKING TO REMOVE RESTRICTIONS ON CANDIDATES FROM PAYING TO TRANSPORT VOTERS TO POLLING STATIONS.

MR MACPHERSON SAID THE CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982 SOUGHT TO REMOVE EXISTING RESTRICTIONS IN LAW WHICH PROHIBITED A CANDIDATE OR HIS ELECTION AGENT FROM MAKING ANY PAYMENT FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF VOTERS TO AND FROM A POLLING STATION, AND ANY PERSON FROM USING ANY COMMERCIAL VEHICLE FOR FREE TRANSPORTATION OF VOTERS AT AN ELECTION.

DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IN MARCH, MR MACPHERSON SAID.

SOME 200 000 PEOPLE HAD REGISTERED FOR THESE ELECTIONS, WHICH WAS INDICATIVE OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN THIS NEW, BROAD-BASED CONSTITUENCY ELECTORAL SYSTEM.

+ALTHOUGH THERE WILL BE 125 POLLING STATIONS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SET UP A POLLING STATION IN EACH VILLAGE, AND VOTERS IN SOME AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES MAY NEED TO TRAVEL SOME DISTANCE TO CAST THEIR VOTES,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE A HIGHER TURNOUT OF VOTERS THE EXISTING LEGAL RESTRICTIONS ON ANY PAYMENT FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF ELECTORS TO OR FROM THE POLL SHOULD BE REMOVED.+

/MR MACPHERSON .....

MR MACPHERSON SAID THIS WOULD NOT GIVE ANY ADVANTAGE TO WEALTHY CANDIDATES, BECAUSE ANY EXPENSES INCURRED BY A CANDIDATE OR HIS ELECTION AGENT FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF ELECTORS TO A POLLING STATION WOULD HAVE TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR UNDER THE ELECTION EXPENSES LIMIT OF \$10 000.

MR MACPHERSON ALSO MOVED THE SECOND READING OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AND DISTRICT BOARDS (ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS OF MEMBERS) (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL 1982.

HE SAID THIS BILL SOUGHT TO MAKE CERTAIN MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS SUPPLEMENTING THE MAIN LEGISLATION ENACTED IN JULY LAST YEAR IN RESPECT OF THE ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE DISTRICT BOARDS.

IF ENACTED, THE EFFECTS OF THE BILL WERE, FIRST, TO MAKE IT UNNECESSARY FOR A SEPERATE REGISTER OF ELECTORS TO BE COMPILED UNDER THE EXISTING URBAN COUNCIL ORDINANCE IN 1982, HE SAID.

A FULL SCALE EXERCISE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS IN THE URBAN AREAS WOULD BE CONDUCTED IN MARCH AND APRIL THIS YEAR.

THOSE WHO REGISTERED IN THE URBAN AREA WOULD BE ENTITLED TO VOTE AT BOTH THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS AND THE URBAN DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS, HE SAID.

SECONDLY, IF THERE WAS A NEED TO HOLD A BY-ELECTION TO THE URBAN COUNCIL BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1982, THE FINAL REGISTER OF ELECTORS FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL WHICH WAS COMPILED IN DECEMBER, 1980, AND THE EXISTING ELECTORAL PROVISIONS IN THE URBAN COUNCIL ORDINANCE WOULD BE USED.

THIRDLY, HE SAID, ELECTION PETITIONS UNDER THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS ORDINANCE, LIKE ELECTION PETITIONS UNDER THE URBAN COUNCIL ORDINANCE, WOULD NOT QUALIFY FOR LEGAL AID.

FOURTHLY, IN LINE WITH THE PROVISIONS FOR THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE DISTRICT BOARDS, PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN CONVICTED IN THE PAST 10 YEARS OF AN OFFENCE UNDER THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY ORDINANCE WOULD BE DISQUALIFIED FROM BEING ELECTED OR APPOINTED TO CERTAIN PUBLIC BODIES.

AND, LASTLY, MR MACPHERSON SAID, THE BILL MADE PROVISION TO ENABLE ANY URBAN RESIDENT, WHO HAD APPLIED FOR REGISTRATION AS AN ELECTOR AND WHOSE APPLICATION HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY THE REGISTRATION OFFICER TO BE APPOINTED TO THE NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT BOARDS TO BE ESTABLISHED IN APRIL, 1982.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1982

- 5 -

QUICKER FINANCIAL AID FOR TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS  
\* \* \* \* \*

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS WILL HENCEFORTH BE ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AFTER THREE DAYS' LOSS OF EARNINGS, INSTEAD OF SEVEN DAYS AS WAS THE CASE PREVIOUSLY.

THIS IS PROVIDED IN AMENDMENTS TO THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE (TAVA) SCHEME APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON ERIC HO, EXPLAINED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE TAVA SCHEME IS TO PROVIDE SOME IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL RELIEF TO ANY PERSON SUSTAINING INJURY (OR IN THE CASE OF DEATH, TO HIS DEPENDANTS) AS A RESULT OF A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT.

SINCE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHEME IN MAY 1, 1979, IT HAD BECOME APPARENT THAT THE PREVIOUS SEVEN-DAY RULE MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS SUFFERING FROM LESS SERIOUS INJURIES TO QUALIFY.

+THIS WILL ALSO BRING THE TAVA SCHEME INTO LINE WITH THE CRIMINAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INJURIES COMPENSATION SCHEME AS WELL AS THE PAID SICK LEAVE ARRANGEMENTS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE,+ HE SAID.

THE COUNCIL ALSO APPROVED AMENDMENTS REDUCING THE LEVIES CHARGED ON VEHICLES, TRADE LICENCES AND DRIVING LICENCES FOR FINANCING THE TAVA SCHEME.

MR HO SAID ALSO THAT THE RATES OF PAYMENTS UNDER THE TAVA SCHEME HAD ALREADY BEEN INCREASED BY 35 PER CENT (EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF BURIAL GRANT WHICH HAS BEEN RAISED TO \$3 000) FROM DECEMBER 23, LAST YEAR.

MR HO FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT EXPERIENCE HAD SHOWN THAT EXPECTED PAYMENTS UNDER THE SCHEME HAD BEEN OVER-ESTIMATED AND IT WAS THEREFORE, FELT THAT THE LEVIES IMPOSED TO SUPPORT THE TAVA SCHEME SHOULD BE REDUCED BY 60 PER CENT. LEVIES FOR VEHICLE LICENCES AND FULL DRIVING LICENCES WOULD BE REDUCED FROM \$75 A YEAR TO \$30, AND OTHER DRIVING LICENCES FROM \$25 TO \$10 A YEAR, WITH EFFECT FROM MAY 1 THIS YEAR.

ADVANCED RENEWAL OF DRIVING LICENCES WHICH BECOME EFFECTIVE ON MAY 1 WOULD ALSO BE CHARGED THE REDUCED LEVIES, HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/6 .....

- 6 -

## PUBLIC INTEREST SAFEGUARDED

\* \* \* \*

PROVISIONS ARE INCLUDED IN THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION TO ENSURE THAT THE PUBLIC INTEREST IS SAFEGUARDED.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW SO, WHO ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER REQUIRING THE MTRC TO OBTAIN THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL'S PRIOR APPROVAL FOR ANY FUTURE REVISION OF ITS FARES.

SIR PHILIP SAID THAT UNDER SECTION 6(2)(F) OF THE ORDINANCE, THE MTRC IS EMPOWERED TO DETERMINE FARES PAYABLE BY ITS PASSENGERS, BUT HE ADDED:

+ALTHOUGH THE ORDINANCE DOES NOT REQUIRE SUCH FARES TO BE APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE PRACTICE FOR THE CORPORATION TO INFORM THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, THROUGH THE ADMINISTRATION, OF ANY INTENDED REVISION OF FARES IN ADVANCE.+

UNDER SECTION 13 OF THE ORDINANCE, THE CORPORATION IS REQUIRED TO CONDUCT ITS BUSINESS ACCORDING TO PRUDENT COMMERCIAL PRINCIPLES AND TO ENSURE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, TAKING ONE YEAR WITH ANOTHER, THAT ITS REVENUE IS AT LEAST SUFFICIENT TO MEET ITS EXPENDITURE.

+THE CORPORATION MUST SEEK, THEREFORE, TO EARN ENOUGH REVENUE TO MEET OPERATING AND OTHER COSTS AND TO SERVICE ITS DEBTS. EVENTUALLY, IT WOULD BE REASONABLE TO EXPECT THE CORPORATION TO EARN A RETURN ON CAPITAL INVESTED,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

+NEVERTHELESS, SECTION 20 OF THE ORDINANCE ENABLES THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, IF IT IS THOUGHT THAT THE PUBLIC INTEREST SO REQUIRES, TO GIVE DIRECTIONS OF A GENERAL CHARACTER TO THE CORPORATION.+

HOWEVER, THIS IS SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIO THAT THE CORPORATION SHALL BE FULLY COMPENSATED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN RESPECT OF ANY DIRECTION REQUIRING IT TO ACT CONTRARY TO PRUDENT COMMERCIAL PRINCIPLES, HE SAID.

+THERE COULD BE A LOSS OF REVENUE, FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL WERE TO DIRECT THE CORPORATION TO LOWER FARES OR TO REFRAIN FROM INCREASING FARES FOR NON-COMMERCIAL REASONS.+

SIR PHILIP SAID THESE THREE SECTIONS OF THE ORDINANCE, TAKEN TOGETHER, ARE DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT THE PUBLIC INTEREST IS SAFEGUARDED, BUT IN A MANNER WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH THE CORPORATION'S OBLIGATIONS.

+THEY WERE THE SUBJECT OF DEBATE IN THIS COUNCIL IN APRIL AND MAY 1975 AND IT IS NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW THAT THE TERMS OF ANY OF THEM REQUIRE TO BE ALTERED.+

- - - - 0 - - - -

CHANGES TO PUBLIC HOLIDAYS  
\* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STATUTORY HOLIDAYS BY ONE DAY AND TO CHANGE THE DAYS ON WHICH CERTAIN GENERAL HOLIDAYS FALL.

AMENDMENTS TO THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND THE HOLIDAYS ORDINANCE WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LATER THIS YEAR WITH A VIEW TO INTRODUCING THE CHANGES IN 1983.

STATUTORY HOLIDAYS APPLY TO ALL MANUAL WORKERS AND THOSE NON-MANUAL WORKERS WHOSE WAGES DO NOT EXCEED \$6 000 PER MONTH. IN ADDITION TO REST DAYS AND ANNUAL LEAVE, SUCH EMPLOYEES ARE ENTITLED TO TEN HOLIDAYS WITH PAY EVERY YEAR, NINE OF WHICH ARE SPECIFIED AND THE REMAINING BEING A FLOATING HOLIDAY TO BE FIXED ON A DATE AGREED BETWEEN EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE INTENTION WAS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STATUTORY HOLIDAYS TO ELEVEN BY CREATING A SECOND FLOATING HOLIDAY. THIS WAS THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS IMPROVING THE NUMBER OF HOLIDAYS ENJOYED BY THIS GROUP OF WORKERS.

+ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF STATUTORY HOLIDAYS COMPARES FAVOURABLY WITH THAT IN OTHER COUNTRIES IN SOUTH EAST ASIA, THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS IT DESIRABLE TO IMPROVE THE BENEFITS ENJOYED BY MANUAL WORKERS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE PROPOSALS ANNOUNCED TODAY WERE ARRIVED AT FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH TRADE UNIONS, EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS AND PUBLIC ORGANISATIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID WHILE THERE WAS NO INTENTION OF ALTERING THE NUMBER OF GENERAL HOLIDAYS, SEVERAL CHANGES TO THE FORMAT OF THESE HOLIDAYS WOULD BE INTRODUCED.

THE MAIN PROPOSAL IS TO BRING TOGETHER SOME GENERAL HOLIDAYS ON A SATURDAY AND THE FOLLOWING MONDAY SO THAT THE PUBLIC CAN ENJOY LONGER WEEKENDS.

THE HOLIDAY WHICH NOW FALLS ON THE FIRST MONDAY IN AUGUST WILL BE MOVED TO THE SATURDAY PRECEDING THE LIBERATION DAY HOLIDAY ON THE LAST MONDAY IN AUGUST.

ANOTHER GROUPING WILL BE TO CELEBRATE THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY ON THE SECOND SATURDAY IN JUNE, WHICH IS IN ANY CASE THE QUEEN'S OFFICIAL BIRTHDAY, AND TO MOVE TO THE MONDAY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING, THE HOLIDAY NOW ENJOYED ON THE FIRST WEEKDAY IN JULY.

FURTHER CHANGES ARE PROPOSED FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR AND THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL HOLIDAYS. IN A YEAR IN WHICH THE FIRST, SECOND OR THIRD DAY OF LUNAR NEW YEAR FALLS ON A SUNDAY, THEN NEW YEAR'S EVE WILL BECOME A HOLIDAY INSTEAD OF THE FOURTH DAY OF LUNAR NEW YEAR AS AT PRESENT. SIMILARLY, IF THE DAY FOLLOWING CHINESE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL SHOULD FALL ON A SUNDAY, THEN THE CHINESE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL DAY ITSELF WILL BE CELEBRATED AS A HOLIDAY.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1982

- 8 -

EFFORT TO STAMP OUT +LOAN SHARKING+  
\* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO DO ALL IN ITS POWER TO STAMP OUT +LOAN SHARKING+, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON J.C. GRIFFITHS, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW SO, MR GRIFFITHS SAID THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, THE POLICE AND INTERESTED BODIES WERE REVIEWING THE WHOLE OPERATION OF THE MONEY LENDERS ORDINANCE AND WOULD THEN DEAL WITH ANY WEAKNESSES IN IT.

THE ORDINANCE UNDOUBTEDLY HAD A BENEFICIAL EFFECT BY TIGHTENING CONTROL OVER MONEY-LENDERS GENERALLY AND THUS DIMINISHING THE EXTENT OF +LOAN SHARKING+, HE SAID.

MR GRIFFITHS SAID CERTAIN DETAILED PROBLEMS OVER THE OPERATION OF THE ORDINANCE HAD COME TO LIGHT WHILE THE ORDINANCE STARTED WORKING. +FOR INSTANCE, IT HAS BEEN SHOWN IT IS NECESSARY TO EXTEND THE LIST OF EXEMPTED ORGANISATIONS TO ENCOMPASS SUCH ORGANISATIONS AS FOREIGN BANKS, SUCH AS MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF CREDIT AND INVESTMENT INSURERS (THE BERNE UNION) AND ALSO CERTAIN ORGANISATIONS SET UP TO GUARANTEE FINANCE FOR EXPORT AND FOR TRADE,+ HE SAID.

AS TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ORDINANCE MUCH WOULD DEPEND UPON THE SENTENCING POLICY ADOPTED BY THE JUDICIARY IN THIS FIELD, HE ADDED.

MR GRIFFITHS SAID ALSO THAT 59 SEARCH WARRANTS HAD BEEN ISSUED SINCE THE ENACTMENT OF THE ORDINANCE AND 11 OF THESE WERE SUBSEQUENTLY CANCELLED.

THERE WERE 48 PROSECUTIONS, WITH 13 CONVICTIONS, THREE ACQUITTALS AND 32 CASES AWAITING TRIAL.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/9 .....

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1982

- 9 -

VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL

\* \* \* \*

A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL WHICH WILL CO-ORDINATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE WENT THROUGH A SECOND READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION, THE HON KENNETH TOPLEY, SAID THE COUNCIL, AS ENVISIONED BY THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL BILL, 1982, WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE NOT ONLY FOR ADVISORY FUNCTIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE PRESENT HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL BUT ALSO FOR THE EXECUTIVE FUNCTION OF ESTABLISHING AND OPERATING TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING CENTRES.

HE ADDED THAT THE AIM OF THE COUNCIL WOULD BE TO UPGRADE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND THEREBY STRENGTHEN THE INDUSTRIAL BASE.

+THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT AN EDUCATED AND TRAINED LABOUR FORCE IS VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

NOTING THAT THERE WERE DIFFERENCES IN CONCEPT BETWEEN EDUCATION AND TRAINING AND THAT BOTH ELEMENTS WERE EQUALLY IMPORTANT IN DEVELOPING THE SKILLS OF HONG KONG'S FUTURE LABOUR FORCE, MR TOPLEY SAID +IT SEEMS RIGHT, THEREFORE, THAT THERE SHOULD BE ARRANGEMENTS FOR JOINT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT OF BOTH ELEMENTS AND THIS BILL PROVIDES THE FRAMEWORK NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THIS RESULT.+

THE PROPOSALS EMBODIED IN THE BILL CAME FROM TWO SOURCES: THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION AND THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW POST-SECONDARY AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

MR TOPLEY ALSO MOVED THE SECOND READING OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982, WHICH PROVIDES FOR TWO AMENDMENTS.

THE FIRST AMENDMENT WOULD ENABLE THE COUNCIL OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC +TO DELEGATE ANY OF ITS POWERS AND DUTIES TO ANY COMMITTEE WHICH IT APPOINTS, SUBJECT TO ANY RESTRICTIONS OR CONDITIONS WHICH THE COUNCIL LAYS DOWN AND TO CERTAIN IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS BEING EXCLUDED FROM THIS POWER OF DELEGATION.+

THE SECOND AMENDMENT WOULD +PROVIDE FOR THE DIRECTOR TO DELEGATE TO ANY PERSON OR COMMITTEE ANY OF HIS POWERS AND DUTIES, INCLUDING THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN DELEGATED TO HIM BY THE COUNCIL,+ MR TOPLEY REPORTED.

HE NOTED THAT UNDER THE PRESENT ORDINANCE, +THERE IS PROVISION FOR THE COUNCIL TO DELEGATE TO THE DIRECTOR ANY OF ITS POWERS, BUT NOT FOR THE FURTHER DELEGATION OF THESE POWERS BY THE DIRECTOR TO ANY OF HIS STAFF.+

DEBATE ON THE BILLS WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MORE LAWS FOR WORKERS' SAFETY  
\* \* \* \*

MORE SAFETY REGULATIONS ARE IN THE PIPELINE FOR THE PROTECTION OF WORKERS, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON. J.N. HENDERSON, DISCLOSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE REGULATIONS COVER SAFE USE OF ELECTRICITY, PROTECTION OF WORKERS' HEARING, PROTECTION OF WORKERS WORKING AT HEIGHT AT CONSTRUCTION SITES AND EMPLOYMENT OF SAFETY OFFICERS, HE ADDED.

MR HENDERSON WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. STEPHEN CHEONG WHO ASKED ABOUT STEPS BEING TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES ADHERE TO INDUSTRIAL SAFETY REGULATIONS, ESPECIALLY IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, HE SAID, IS WORKING EXTREMELY HARD TO IMPROVE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY IN HONG KONG IN THREE MAIN WAYS - BY ENACTING AND ENFORCING SAFETY LEGISLATION, BY EDUCATING INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS ON SAFETY AT WORK, AND BY AROUSING THE SAFETY CONSCIOUSNESS OF ALL EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS THROUGH PUBLICITY.

IN THE LEGISLATIVE FIELD, THE MAIN EFFORT LAST YEAR HAD BEEN DIRECTED TOWARDS INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR BREACHES OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE AND ALL 20 SETS OF SAFETY REGULATIONS.

+ I HOPE TO TABLE THE PROPOSED ELECTRICITY SAFETY REGULATIONS IN THIS COUNCIL SHORTLY. ALSO IN THE PIPELINE FOR ENACTMENT ARE THE REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF WORKERS' HEARING, THE EMPLOYMENT OF SAFETY OFFICERS, AND AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS AIMED AT THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS WORKING AT HEIGHT IN CONSTRUCTION SITES,+ HE ADDED.

TO ENSURE THAT LEGISLATION IS PROPERLY OBSERVED BY BOTH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES, THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE CONDUCTED 55 000 VISITS AND INSPECTIONS TO FACTORIES AND CONSTRUCTION SITES LAST YEAR. IN ADDITION, IT ALSO CARRIED OUT 4 000 INVESTIGATIONS AND FOLLOW-UP VISITS IN CONNECTION WITH INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS, RESULTING IN 3 800 PROSECUTIONS AND FINES TOTALLING \$4 700 000.

MR HENDERSON SAID THE DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE OFFERED COURSES TO 7 900 PEOPLE LAST YEAR. TRAINING OFFICERS GAVE TALKS ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TO 10 000 WORKERS AND STUDENTS FROM FACTORIES, TRADE ASSOCIATIONS, TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTION, AS WELL AS SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY IS ALSO PLAYING ITS PART BY INCORPORATING SAFETY INSTRUCTION IN ITS TRAINING COURSES.

MR HENDERSON SAID PROGRAMMES TO PROMOTE SAFETY AWARENESS AND ENHANCE SAFETY SENSE AMONG EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES IN INDUSTRY BECAME MORE SOPHISTICATED AND EXTENSIVE LAST YEAR.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1982

- 11 -

PEOPLE URGED NOT TO THROW OBJECTS FROM BUILDINGS

\* \* \* \* \*

PEOPLE WERE URGED TODAY NOT TO THROW OBJECTS FROM BUILDINGS SO AS NOT TO MAKE LIFE MORE DANGEROUS FOR OTHERS.

+OBVIOUSLY, IT IS IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST IN THIS CROWDED TERRITORY TO DO ALL THEY CAN TO COUNTER THIS THOUGHTLESS AND DANGEROUS ACTIVITY,+ THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES, SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

DESCRIBING GOVERNMENT ACTION AGAINST THIS HABIT, MR DAVIES SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON SELINA CHOW, THAT TWO MAIN MEASURES WERE OPEN TO THE GOVERNMENT TO COUNTER +THIS DEPLORABLE AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR.+

THE FIRST WAS POLICE ACTION TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS OF OBJECTS FALLING FROM HIGH BUILDINGS AND WHEREVER POSSIBLE TO INITIATE THE PROSECUTION OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE.

DETECTION OF SUCH OFFENDERS WAS TIME-CONSUMING WORK, BUT 406 PROSECUTIONS HAD BEEN INITIATED LAST YEAR, MOSTLY IN RESPECT OF CONSTRUCTION SITES.

THE SECOND AND MORE IMPORTANT MEASURE WAS PUBLIC PREVENTIVE EDUCATION. THIS WAS BEING DONE THROUGH TELEVISION AND RADIO, AND THROUGH CITY DISTRICT OFFICES AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, AND FURTHER PUBLICITY WAS PLANNED AFTER THE LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL, HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LIFTING APPLIANCES COVERED BY REGULATIONS

\* \* \*

ALL LIFTING APPLIANCES USED AT CONSTRUCTION SITES ARE COVERED BY THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS WHICH REQUIRE THEM TO BE THOROUGHLY EXAMINED AT REGULAR INTERVALS, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON J.N. HENDERSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

A COMPETENT EXAMINER MUST CERTIFY THAT THE EQUIPMENT IS SAFE AFTER EACH EXAMINATION AND FACTORY INSPECTORS, DURING THEIR INSPECTIONS OF CONSTRUCTION SITES, CHECK THE CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY THE EXAMINERS TO ENSURE THAT THE REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN PROPERLY OBSERVED, HE ADDED.

MR HENDERSON WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. MRS SELINA CHOW, WHO ASKED ABOUT THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS INVOLVING LIFT DEVICES WHICH HAPPENED AT CONSTRUCTION SITES LAST YEAR COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND ABOUT THE MAIN CAUSES OF THESE ACCIDENTS.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1982

- 12 -

IN 1980, HE SAID, 83 PEOPLE WERE INJURED AND 10 KILLED DUE TO ACCIDENTS FROM ALL CAUSES INVOLVING THE USE OF ALL TYPES OF POWER-DRIVEN LIFTING APPLIANCES ON CONSTRUCTION SITES. THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR 1981 IS 199 INJURED AND EIGHT KILLED.

ACCIDENTS ATTRIBUTABLE SPECIFICALLY TO THE FAILURE OF THE SUSPENSION SYSTEMS OF LIFTING APPLIANCES IN THE YEARS 1980 AND 1981 WERE THREE DEATHS AND FIVE INJURED AND TWO DEATHS AND SEVEN INJURED RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF ALL LIFTING APPLIANCES ACCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED IN 1979 AT CONSTRUCTION SITES INDICATED THAT THE HIGHEST PROPORTION OF INJURIES INVOLVED THE MANUAL HANDLING OF LOADS SUSPENDED BY LIFTING APPLIANCES WHILE THE HIGHEST PROPORTION OF DEATHS WAS CAUSED BY THE FAILURE OF SUSPENSION SYSTEM.

THE CAUSES OF SUCH FAILURES WERE MAINLY POOR MAINTENANCE, OVERLOADING OR UNSAFE WORKING METHODS, SAID MR HENDERSON.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOVT CONCERNED ABOUT LEGAL IMMIGRATION  
\* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE INFLOW OF LEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON LYDIA DUNN, MR DAVIES SAID 54 267 LEGAL IMMIGRANTS ENTERED HONG KONG FROM CHINA IN 1981 WITHOUT ONWARD TRAVEL DOCUMENTS. THIS REPRESENTED A DAILY AVERAGE OF 149. THE FIGURES FOR 1980 WERE SIMILAR.

MR DAVIES QUOTED THE GOVERNOR IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 7 LAST YEAR IN WHICH SIR MURRAY SAID: +AFTER THE FLOOD OF THE LAST FEW YEARS WE NEED A RESPITE.

+IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO REDUCE THE NUMBERS COMING HERE FOR PERMANENT SETTLEMENT WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDING FOR GENUINE VISITORS WHOSE RETURN TO THEIR HOMES IN CHINA WAS ASSURED.+

MR DAVIES ALSO QUOTED THE GOVERNOR AS SAYING IN HIS ADDRESS LAST YEAR +WE CAN ONLY ACT IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES FOR WHOM I KNOW THIS IS NOT AN EASY MATTER+.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1982

- 13 -

PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT  
\* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER RE-DESIGNATING THE AREA AROUND STATUE SQUARE AS A PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT ON WEEK-ENDS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, AS WAS DONE SOME YEARS AGO, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON LEWIS DAVIES, SAID AT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON WONG LAM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT  
\* \* \*

IT WAS CLEARLY APPROPRIATE THAT THE CONCURRENCE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SHOULD BE SOUGHT IN THE CASE OF PROPOSED ACCESSION TO MULTILATERAL TREATIES OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THIS WAS BEING ARRANGED, HE SAID.

MR BREMRIDGE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON FRANCIS TIEN AS TO WHETHER HONG KONG HAD ACCEPTED THE PROTOCOL FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT.

+IF SO AGREED, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR HONG KONG TO ASK HMG TO SIGN THE PROTOCOL ON OUR BEHALF BY THE END OF JANUARY,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/14 .....

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1982

- 14 -

IMMUNISATION EFFORT DESCRIBED

\* \* \* \*

THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS TAKING ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES, THROUGH CAMPAIGNS, THE MASS MEDIA AND PERSONAL CONTACTS TO REMIND PARENTS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF COMPLETING THE IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME AGAINST CHILDHOOD DISEASES.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY THE DIRECTOR, DR THE HON K.L. THONG, SAID PARENTS ATTENDING THE FAMILY HEALTH SERVICE CLINICS WERE CONSTANTLY ADVISED TO HAVE THEIR CHILDREN IMMUNISED AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.

+THEY ARE FURTHER REMINDED BY POST, TELEPHONE CALLS AND HOME VISITS TO RETURN TO THE CLINICS FOR COMPLETION OF THE IMMUNISATION COURSE FOR THEIR CHILDREN,+ HE SAID.

DR THONG POINTED OUT THAT IN ADDITION, ANNUAL IMMUNISATION CAMPAIGNS AGAINST CHILDHOOD INFECTIOUS DISEASES, INCLUDING POLIOMYELITIS, ARE CARRIED OUT TO BRING THE SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC.

DURING SUCH CAMPAIGNS, TEAMS OF INOCULATORS VISIT HOUSING ESTATES, SQUATTERS, AND POPULATED AREAS TO INOCULATE CHILDREN AND SPEAK TO THE PARENTS ABOUT IMMUNISATION.

IN ADDITION, PAMPHLETS ARE DISTRIBUTED AND SPECIAL TALKS ON THE SUBJECT ARE BROADCAST OVER RADIO AND TV.

EXPERIENCE IN THE FAMILY HEALTH SERVICE CLINICS, SHOWED THAT THE INTENSIVE EFFORTS HAD BEEN QUITE EFFECTIVE, HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

QUARTERS FOR DOCTORS

\* \* \*

IT WAS ACCEPTED POLICY FOR SUBVENTED HOSPITALS TO BE PROVIDED WITH DOCTORS' QUARTERS TO MEET THEIR OPERATIONAL NEEDS, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON ERIC HO, SAID TODAY.

QUARTERS WERE PROVIDED FOR 80 PER CENT OF MEDICAL STAFF IN THE UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL, BUT IF THERE WERE A SHORTAGE, THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WOULD CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR PRIVATE TENANCY ALLOWANCES ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS, IN LIEU OF LEASING BY THE HOSPITAL, MR HO SAID, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE REV. HON JOYCE BENNETT, IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/15 .....

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1982

- 15 -

PRIVATE CLUB LEASES

\* \* \*

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON DENIS BRAY SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT ALL PRIVATE RECREATIONAL LEASES WOULD BE RENEWED, SUBJECT TO THERE HAVING BEEN NO BREACH OF LEASE CONDITIONS, TO THE SITES IN QUESTION NOT BEING REQUIRED FOR A PUBLIC PURPOSE AND TO CERTAIN SPECIAL CONDITIONS.

THESE SPECIAL CONDITIONS ARE THAT:

- \* THE CLUBS ADOPT A MEMBERSHIP POLICY THAT DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON GROUNDS OF RACE, RELIGION, OR SEX OR IN THE ORDER IN WHICH APPLICANTS ARE GIVEN MEMBERSHIP, ALTHOUGH PRIORITY MEMBERSHIP MAY BE WARRANTED IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES=
- \* THE CLUBS SHOULD MAKE THEIR GROUNDS AVAILABLE TO OUTSIDE BODIES WHEN REQUIRED TO DO SO BY THE AUTHORITY.

MR BRAY WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON F.K. HU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

FACILITIES FOR TAXI CHANGES

\* \* \* \*

FACILITIES EXIST FOR PASSENGERS TO CHANGE FROM NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS, WHICH HAVE DEFINED OPERATING LIMITS, TO URBAN TAXIS, WHICH CAN OPERATE THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR ALAN SCOTT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHARLES YEUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR SCOTT SAID THE NT TAXI BOUNDARY AREAS ARE DEFINED AWAY FROM THE NEW TOWNS FOR SEVERAL REASONS.

- \* THEY ARE INTENDED TO SERVE THE RURAL AREAS=
- \* THEY OPERATE AT LOWER FARES THAN URBAN TAXIS=
- \* MASS CARRIERS ARE BETTER ABLE TO SERVE THE CORRIDORS INTO THE NEW TOWNS= AND
- \* CLEAR SEPARATION IS NECESSARY TO ENABLE PROPER ENFORCEMENT.

/THE POLICY .....

THE POLICY WAS LAID DOWN BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL IN MAY 1976 AND NECESSARY LEGISLATION WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PASSED IN THIS COUNCIL.

MR SCOTT SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF AND SYMPATHISED WITH THE HOPE THAT NT TAXIS SHOULD BE ABLE TO TRAVEL FOR EXAMPLE INTO THE MIDDLE OF SHA TIN= BUT FOR THE REASONS GIVEN, HE DID NOT SEE IT AS PRACTICABLE.

+THE SITUATION SHOULD BE CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED DURING 1982 AS THE ELECTRIFICATION OF THE KCR COMES INTO EFFECT, AND WITH THE OPENING OF THE MTR TSUEN WAN EXTENSION.

+THESE IMPROVEMENTS WILL ALSO RELEASE BUSES FROM THE CORRIDOR ROUTES FOR DEPLOYMENT ELSEWHERE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED  
\* \* \* \*

THE FOURTH REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE WAS TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

COMMENTING ON THE REPORT, THE HON S.L. CHEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, THANKED THE BRANCH SECRETARIES AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS WHO GAVE EVIDENCE TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE ITEMS RELEVANT TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THEIR POSITIVE AND CO-OPERATIVE APPROACH.

+WE CONSIDER IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE COMMITTEE TO MONITOR PROGRESS ON REMEDYING WEAKNESSES IN THE BUREAUCRATIC MACHINERY AND THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES, WHICH ARE BROUGHT TO LIGHT IN THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT AND OUR REPORT, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT EVERYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE IS BEING DONE,+ HE SAID.

+WE ALSO CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL THAT THE AUDIT OF THE ACCOUNTS OF THE GOVERNMENT IS CARRIED OUT TO THE REASONABLE SATISFACTION OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT.+

MR CHAN HOPED THAT MORE ATTENTION WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE PERFORMANCE OF THE VAST NUMBER OF PUBLIC BODIES AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES +WHO ARE SHARING A FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL SLICE OF THE PUBLIC EXPENDITURE+.

+AS IN THE CASE OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THEY ARE ALSO ACCOUNTABLE TO THE TAXPAYERS FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF THEIR FUNDS,+ HE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1982

- 17 -

GOVERNOR SEES LAM TIN FIRE SITE

\* \* \*

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, TODAY EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE RECENT DISASTROUS FIRES WHICH HAD MADE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE HOMELESS.

SIR MURRAY WHO VIEWED YESTERDAY'S FIRE SCENE AT LAM TIN FROM THE ROOF TOP OF A HOUSING ESTATE BUILDING SAID HE WAS HORRIFIED BY IT.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, IT REINFORCED HIS DETERMINATION THAT THE PROBLEM OF SQUATTERS MUST BE SOLVED BY BUILDING.

SIR MURRAY SAID: +YOU CANNOT SOLVE IT EXCEPT FROM THE MOST TEMPORARY BASIS BY IMPROVING CONDITIONS IN SQUATTER AREAS.

+IT MUST BE SOLVED BY A FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL BUILDING PROGRAMME, WHICH THANK GOODNESS WE HAVE GOT HERE.

+AS LONG AS THIS KEEPS GOING THERE WON'T BE ANY SQUATTER AREAS UNLESS THERE IS ANOTHER INFLUX OF PEOPLE FROM CHINA.+

WHEN ASKED BY A REPORTER WHETHER GOVERNMENT WAS GOING TO RENT MORE FACTORY BUILDINGS TO HOUSE FIRE VICTIMS, SIR MURRAY SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THERE WAS PLENTY OF SPACE NOW WITH THE NEW BUILDING IN TUEN MUN WHICH HE SAID COULD TAKE UP TO EIGHT OR TEN THOUSAND PEOPLE PLUS NEW SITES FOR BUILDING IN TAI PO AND CONCEIVABLY IN YUEN LONG.

THESE, HE ADDED, COULD ONLY BE TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS BUT HE SAID IT WAS QUITE ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH WHAT COULD HAPPEN IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

EARLIER, SIR MURRAY WAS MET ON ARRIVAL AT THE LAM TIN HOUSING ESTATE BY MR GRAHAM BARNES, REGIONAL SECRETARY (CITY)- MR PANG SING TONG, DISTRICT OFFICER KWUN TONG- MR A.P. ASPREY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOUSING (OPERATIONS)- MR M.J. SMITH, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOUSING (SQUATTER CONTROL) AND THE DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER, MR LOK MAN PAN, BEFORE GOING TO THE ROOF-TOP OF BLOCK 22 TO VIEW THE FIRE SCENE.

AFTERWARDS SIR MURRAY CONTINUED ON A TOUR OF OTHER PARTS OF KOWLOON TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THE PROGRESS OF THE CURRENT CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN BEFORE RETURNING TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/18 .....

NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN CAUSEWAY BAY  
\* \* \* \*

NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN CAUSEWAY BAY FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 8) FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY ISLAND LINE AND THE LAU SIN STREET FLYOVER.

UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS, LAU SIN STREET BETWEEN KING'S ROAD AND ELECTRIC ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC. BOTH THE OPEN-AIR CAR PARK AND THE BUS TERMINUS FOR CMB ROUTE NO. 5 NEXT TO THE CAUSEWAY BAY MAGISTRACY BUILDING WILL BE CLOSED.

CMB ROUTE NO. 5 WILL BE RESITED TO TERMINATE ON-STREET IN WHITFIELD ROAD AND CMB ROUTE NO. 25 TRAVELLING TOWARDS TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED VIA NGAN MOK STREET, LAU LI STREET AND KING'S ROAD. A NEW BUS STOP WILL BE PROVIDED IN NGAN MOK STREET.

EASTBOUND TRAFFIC CURRENTLY TRAVELLING FROM LAU SIN STREET TO KING'S ROAD AND TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA NGAN MOK STREET, LAU LI STREET, KING'S ROAD AND TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD.

WESTBOUND TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED VIA ELECTRIC ROAD, YACHT STREET, NGAN MOK STREET, LAU LI STREET, KING'S ROAD AND TIN HAU TEMPLE ROAD.

THE EXISTING BUS-ONLY LANE ON THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF KING'S ROAD BETWEEN HING FAT STREET AND LAU SIN STREET WILL BE RESCINDED.

URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTION WILL BE IMPOSED ON NGAN MOK STREET BETWEEN LAU LI STREET AND KING'S ROAD= YACHT STREET BETWEEN ELECTRIC ROAD AND NGAN MOK STREET= AND LAU LI STREET BETWEEN KING'S ROAD AND NGAN MOK STREET.

WITHIN THE CLEARWAYS, ALL VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM STOPPING FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.

PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PICK UP OR SET DOWN PASSENGERS BETWEEN 7 AM AND 12 MIDNIGHT DAILY IN NGAN MOK STREET, YACHT STREET AND LAU LI STREET SECTION BETWEEN KING'S ROAD AND NGAN MOK STREET.

THE EXISTING PUBLIC LIGHT BUS STAND IN NGAN MOK STREET WILL BE SUSPENDED AND ALTERNATIVE SITES WILL BE AVAILABLE UNDER THE TSING FUNG STREET FLYOVER BETWEEN KING'S ROAD AND ELECTRIC ROAD.

THE TAXI STAND NEXT TO THE CAUSEWAY BAY MAGISTRACY BUILDING WILL BE SUSPENDED AND A NEW TAXI STAND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR USE UNDER THE TSING FUNG STREET FLYOVER.

/ELECTRIC ROAD .....

ELECTRIC ROAD BETWEEN HING FAT STREET AND LAU SIN STREET- AND LAU LI STREET BETWEEN NGAN MOK STREET AND ELECTRIC ROAD WILL BOTH BE RE-ROUTED FROM TWO-WAY TRAFFIC TO ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND.

A YELLOW BOX-JUNCTION AND NEW TRAFFIC SIGNAL INSTALLATIONS WILL BE INTRODUCED AT THE JUNCTION OF LAU LI STREET AND KING'S ROAD.

TRAFFIC SIGNS AND CARRIAGEWAY MARKINGS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### EPCOM MEMBERS SEE PROBLEM AREAS

\* \* \* \*

MEMBERS OF EPCOM, THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION WATCHDOG COMMITTEE, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TOOK A FIRST HAND LOOK AT THE PROBLEM AREAS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF HONG KONG.

EPCOM MEMBERS, LED BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR H.M.G. FORSGATE AND VICE-CHAIRMAN, MR J.L. MARDEN, TOOK TO THE AIR IN TWO HELICOPTERS TO SURVEY SOME OF THE MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TAKING PLACE IN THE TERRITORY WHICH COULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT. AMONG THE MEMBERS WERE THE COMMISSIONER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DR S.B. REED, AND THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR M. PAGLIARI.

THEIR FIRST STOP WAS AT THE NEW COAL-FIRED POWER STATION ON LAMMA ISLAND, THE DEVELOPMENT OF WHICH HAS BEEN CLOSELY MONITORED BY EPCOM. THEY LATER WENT TO SEE THE CASTLE PEAK POWER STATION AT TAP SHEK KOK WHICH HAS BEEN SIMILARLY STUDIED FOR ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.

OVER CHEK LAP KOK OFF THE COAST OF LANTAU ISLAND, EPCOM MEMBERS SURVEYED THE SITE OF THE PROPOSED AIRPORT. THE MAIN POLLUTANTS HERE WOULD BE NOISE, FROM AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS, AND POSSIBLE INTERFERENCE WITH THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM RECLAMATION AND DUMPING OF DREDGED MUD.

THE PARTY THEN PROCEEDED TO DEEP BAY TO LOOK AT THE PROBLEMS OF THE WATERS IN THIS AREA. FROM THERE THEY WENT TO TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AND FLEW OVER TOLO HARBOUR. TOLO HARBOUR AND CHANNEL, WITH THE SURROUNDING CATCHMENT AREA AND RIVERS, WILL BE HONG KONG'S FIRST WATER CONTROL ZONE.

ON THEIR RETURN TO HONG KONG ISLAND, EPCOM MEMBERS INSPECTED THE LANDSCAPE AND LAY-OUT OF THE PROPOSED NEW TOWN SITE AT JUNK BAY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

- 20 -

MP VISITS FACTORIES  
\* \* \*

MR MICHAEL JOPLING, UK PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TOURED A FOOD PRODUCTS FACTORY AND A TEXTILES FACTORY IN KOWLOON.

ACCOMPANIED BY MR T.K. TSE, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF INDUSTRY, MR AND MRS JOPLING VISITED WINNER FOOD PRODUCTS LTD AT KWAI CHUNG WHERE THEY WERE MET BY THE COMPANY'S MANAGING DIRECTOR, MR HARRY WONG, AND OTHER SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT.

WINNER FOOD PRODUCTS LTD, ESTABLISHED IN 1969, PRODUCES CHINESE FROZEN DIM-SUM, SPRING ROLL PASTRY AND INSTANT NOODLES FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MARKETS IN NORTH AMERICA, EUROPE AND AUSTRALIA.

MR AND MRS JOPLING ALSO VISITED LEIGHTON TEXTILES CO LTD AT CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD, WHERE THEY WERE GREETED BY THE COMPANY'S MANAGING DIRECTOR, MR HENRY LEUNG, WHO ESCORTED THEM ON A TOUR OF THE FACTORY.

THE COMPANY, ESTABLISHED IN 1959, IS ONE OF THE LARGEST GARMENT MANUFACTURERS IN HONG KONG. IT PRODUCES TROUSERS, SHORTS, JACKETS AND WAISTCOATS FOR EXPORT TO THE USA, EUROPE AND AUSTRALIA.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TSUEN WAN LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR SITES SOLD  
\* \* \*

ALL 208 STALLS FOR THE FORTHCOMING TSUEN WAN LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR WERE SOLD AT ABOVE THE UPSET PRICE AT A PUBLIC AUCTION TODAY.

TSUEN WAN FAIR IS THE LARGEST FAIR TO BE HELD IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE HIGHEST PRICE FOR A SITE FOR SALE OF WET GOODS WAS \$2 400 AND FOR SALE OF DRY GOODS WAS \$1 300. THE UPSET PRICE WAS \$50.

THE AUCTION, ORGANISED BY THE URBAN SERVICES OFFICE OF TSUEN WAN, WAS HELD AT THE AUDITORIUM OF THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL.

THE TSUEN WAN LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR WILL BE HELD AT THE SHA TSUI ROAD PLAYGROUND FROM JANUARY 18 TO 25.

THE LAST 126 STALLS FOR THE KWAI CHUNG LUNAR NEW YEAR FAIR WILL BE AUCTIONED AT KWAI FONG COMMUNITY HALL AT LAI FONG STREET, KWAI CHUNG, FROM 9 AM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1982

- 21 -

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP OFFERED

\* \* \* \*

A MUSICALLY-GIFTED HONG KONG STUDENT WILL SHORTLY BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND TWO YEARS FURTHERING HIS OR HER MUSICAL EDUCATION AT THE WELLS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE HEADMASTER OF THE SCHOOL, MR ALAN QUILTER, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR QUILTER ADDED THAT A SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND THE WELLS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL'S SPECIALIST MUSIC SCHEME HAD BEEN MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF THE CHARLES RAYNER EDUCATIONAL TRUST, ADMINISTERED BY THE HONG KONG BANK TRUSTEE LTD.

ONE OF THE FOUR SPECIALIST SCHOOLS MAKING PROVISION FOR GIFTED CHILDREN THE WELLS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL TODAY OFFERS HIGHLY-PROFESSIONAL MUSICAL TRAINING ALONGSIDE NORMAL ACADEMIC WORK TO SOME 60 BOYS AND GIRLS, OUT OF A TOTAL OF 480 PUPILS.

+CHAMBER MUSIC AND STRING PLAYING FORM THE BASIS OF THE MUSIC COURSE,+ SAID MR QUILTER, ADDING THAT +PROVISION IS MADE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL FOR GIFTED PIANISTS AND ORCHESTRAL PLAYERS, WITH MANY OF OUR STUDENTS FURTHERING THEIR STUDIES AT MUSIC COLLEGE OR CONSERVATORY LEVEL.+

AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOLS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CURRENTLY IN HONG KONG, IS HONG KONG BORN VIERNIES SAN, A SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT AT THE WELLS SCHOOL SINCE 1977 WHO WILL LEAD THE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA'S SEPTET IN THE LAST OF THEIR FOUR PERFORMANCES IN HONG KONG, IN A LUNCHTIME CONCERT AT ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL.

SHE HAS RECENTLY BEEN AWARDED A PLACE AT LONDON'S GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DRAMA TO CONTINUE HER MUSICAL STUDIES.

MR QUILTER COMMENTED THAT THIS VISIT TO HONG KONG HAD BEEN A THOROUGHLY STIMULATING EXPERIENCE FOR BOTH STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ALIKE. HE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE VITAL AND EXPANDING ROLE OF ARTS EDUCATION IN HONG KONG, PARTICULARLY IN MUSIC AND HE HOPED THAT STRONG LINKS WOULD BE FORGED WITH HONG KONG AS A RESULT OF THIS VISIT.

ALSO ATTENDING THE PRESS CONFERENCE WERE MR D. TUDWAY QUILTER, GOVERNOR OF THE WELLS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL, MR D.B. MINNS OF THE HONG KONG BANK TRUSTEE LTD., MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE AND MR DAVID STONE, THE GOVERNMENT'S MUSIC CONSULTANT.

MR WIGGHAM SAID THAT FURTHER DETAILS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP, INTENDED FOR A SIXTH FORM STUDENT CURRENTLY STUDYING MUSIC, WILL BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY THROUGH THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT.