



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1975

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HONG KONG GETS US\$60 MILLION EURODOLLAR LOAN FACILITY
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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WILL TOMORROW CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT WITH A CONSORTIUM OF INTERNATIONAL BANKS FOR A LOAN FACILITY OF US\$60 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO ABOUT HK\$300 MILLION. THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PASSED A RESOLUTION AUTHORISING BORROWING UP TO THIS AMOUNT THIS AFTERNOON.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THIS EVENING THAT THE LOAN MAY BE DRAWN DURING THE NEXT TWO YEARS, IN STAGES IF REQUIRED, AND WILL BE USED FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES. IT WILL BE REPAYABLE IN FIVE YEARS' TIME OR EARLIER IF THE GOVERNMENT WISHES.

THE LENDING CONSORTIUM COMPRISES SEVEN BANKS OF MAJOR INTERNATIONAL STANDING. IT IS LED BY THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION AND THE OTHER MEMBERS ARE IRVING TRUST COMPANY, THE NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK GROUP, THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA, COMMERZBANK INTERNATIONAL S.A., DRESDNER (SOUTH EAST ASIA) LTD. (A MEMBER OF THE DRESDNER BANK GROUP) AND STANDARD AND CHARTERED BANKING GROUP LTD.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE INTEREST RATE PAYABLE BY THE GOVERNMENT ON ITS DRAWINGS WILL BE 1-1/4 PER CENT ABOVE THE LONDON INTERBANK OFFERED RATE (LIBOR) DURING THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF THE AGREEMENT PERIOD AND 1-3/8 PER CENT ABOVE LIBOR DURING THE REMAINING TWO YEARS.

+THESE TERMS INDICATE THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN GIVEN A GOOD RATING IN ITS FIRST APPROACH TO THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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GOVT. AUTHORISED TO BORROW EQUIVALENT OF US\$60 MILLION

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY PASSED A MOTION AUTHORISING THE GOVERNMENT TO RAISE THE EQUIVALENT OF US\$60 MILLION IN LOANS FOR THE PURPOSES OF GENERAL REVENUE.

THE AMOUNT IS US\$10 MILLION MORE THAN PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY COUNCIL ON AUGUST 13 THIS YEAR WHEN THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, SOUGHT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AUTHORITY TO PROCEED WITH RAISING THE EQUIVALENT OF A US\$50 MILLION LOAN.

EXPLAINING THE REASONS FOR SEEKING A HIGHER LOAN, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID TODAY THAT AS THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PROSPECTIVE LENDERS PROCEEDED ON THE US\$50 MILLION LOAN, IT HAD BECOME APPARENT THAT THERE WOULD BE NO DIFFICULTY, AND SOME ADVANTAGE, IN ARRANGING A RATHER LARGER FACILITY IN THIS FIRST VENTURE INTO THE OFFSHORE MARKET.

HE RECALLED THAT AT THE TIME WHEN HE ASKED COUNCIL'S APPROVAL FOR BORROWING THE EQUIVALENT OF US\$50 MILLION HE HAD NOTED THAT THE AMOUNT WAS ABOUT AS LOW AS HONG KONG COULD GO IN TAPPING THE OFFSHORE LOAN MARKET IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A CREDIT RATING.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE THAT THE SURPLUSES IN HONG KONG'S RECURRENT ACCOUNT WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO FINANCE THE DEFICITS IN CAPITAL ACCOUNTS FOR ANOTHER YEAR OR TWO, BUT HE STRESSED THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF EXCEEDING THE LIMITS FOR THE CREATION OF PUBLIC DEBT WHICH HE ESTABLISHED IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH LAST FEBRUARY. (AT THE TIME, HE SAID, INTER ALIA, THAT HONG KONG SHOULD NOT BORROW BEYOND A LEVEL WHICH GENERATES DEBT SERVICING CHARGES ABOVE \$300 MILLION A YEAR. AND WITHIN THIS LEVEL HONG KONG SHOULD NOT, FOR BALANCE OF PAYMENT REASONS, RAISE EXTERNAL LOANS WHICH WOULD GENERATE MORE THAN \$200 MILLION A YEAR IN DEBT SERVICING CHARGES.)

HE ADDED : +BUT A FACILITY OF US\$60 MILLION TO BE DRAWN DOWN OVER A MAXIMUM PERIOD OF TWO YEARS, RATHER THAN US\$50 MILLION, WILL OBVIOUSLY NOT INVOLVE A BREACH OF THESE LIMITS AND CERTAINLY US\$60 MILLION WILL NOT BE EXCESSIVE IN RELATION TO OUR LIKELY TOTAL REQUIREMENT OF LOAN FUNDS THIS YEAR AND NEXT.+

THE TERMS OFFERED WERE FAVOURABLE, HE SAID, AND THE DOCUMENTS WOULD BE TABLED IN COUNCIL AS SOON AS THE DOCUMENTS HAD BEEN EXCHANGED BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE MANAGING BANK OF THE SYNDICATE.

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DAVID JORDAN HOPEFUL OF HONG KONG'S
INCLUSION IN U.S. GSP BEFORE JAN. 1
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THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON. DAVID JORDAN, SAID TODAY HE BELIEVED HONG KONG'S CASE FOR INCLUSION IN THE AMERICAN GENERALISED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES WAS RECEIVING FAVOURABLE CONSIDERATION, AND WAS HOPEFUL HONG KONG WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE SCHEME BEFORE IT CAME INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 1976.

MR. JORDAN WAS REPLYING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO A QUESTION FROM DR. THE HON. CHUNG SZE-YUEN, WHO ASKED WHAT RESULTS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN HONG KONG'S EFFORTS TO GAIN ADMITTANCE INTO THE US-GSP.

MR. JORDAN RECALLED THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN TRYING TO PERSUADE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO INCLUDE HONG KONG IN ITS GSP FOR MANY YEARS, EVER SINCE THE POSSIBILITY OF THE UNITED STATES ESTABLISHING SUCH A SCHEME FIRST CAME INTO VIEW.

+SINCE THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION FOR THE SCHEME CAME INTO EFFECT IN THE UNITED STATES AS PART OF THE 1974 TRADE ACT, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, ENERGETICALLY SUPPORTED BY THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, HAD STEPPED UP ITS EFFORTS,+ HE SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE EMBASSY SUBMITTED A COMPREHENSIVE AIDE-MEMOIRE, THE TEXT OF WHICH WAS AGREED WITH HONG KONG, IN FEBRUARY 1975.

+WHEN SUBSEQUENTLY PRESIDENT FORD ISSUED A LIST OF BENEFICIARIES WHICH DID NOT INCLUDE HONG KONG, BUT NAMED US ONLY AS A POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE TERRITORY THE GOVERNOR EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THIS TO THE UNITED STATES CONSUL-GENERAL AND SENT ME TO WASHINGTON IN APRIL TO PUT OUR CASE TO THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION,+ MR. JORDAN SAID.

+I HAVE RECENTLY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE CONSULATE-GENERAL IN HONG KONG AGAIN AND THE COUNSELLOR FOR HONG KONG COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS IN THE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS CONTINUED HIS EFFORTS THERE.

+I CAN ONLY SAY THAT I THINK WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN DISPELLING A GOOD DEAL OF MISCONCEPTION ABOUT HONG KONG AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT APPEARS TO BE QUALIFIED FOR INCLUSION UNDER THE TRADE ACT. WE HAVE AT THE SAME TIME GIVEN AN UNDERTAKING ABOUT THE REMOVAL OF COMMONWEALTH PREFERENCE IN HONG KONG WHICH ENSURES THAT THERE WILL BE NO OBSTACLE,+ MR. JORDAN ADDED.

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AUGUST EXPORTS DOWN BY 5.8 PER CENT

THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN AUGUST FELL BY \$126 MILLION OR 5.8 PER CENT TO \$2,065 MILLION COMPARED WITH AUGUST LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS DROPPED BY \$109 MILLION OR 3.7 PER CENT TO \$2,856 MILLION, WHILE THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 1.5 PER CENT OR \$9 MILLION TO \$633 MILLION.

FOR THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS THIS YEAR, AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 11.6 PER CENT IN VALUE, IMPORTS BY 13.9 PER CENT AND RE-EXPORTS BY 9.3 PER CENT.

THE VALUE FIGURES FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 1974 TO AUGUST 1975, AS AGAINST THE SAME PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS, SHOWED DECREASES OF 10.2 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 13.7 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 13.1 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE GIVES THE COMPARATIVE FIGURES:

	AUGUST 1975	AUGUST 1974	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	2,065 (76.5%)	2,191 (77.8%)	- 126	- 5.8
IMPORTS	2,856	2,965	- 109	- 3.7
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	633 (23.5%)	624 (22.2%)	+ 9	+ 1.5
	JUNE-AUGUST 1975	JUNE-AUGUST 1974	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	6,004	6,366	- 362	- 5.7
IMPORTS	8,373	9,190	- 817	- 8.9
RE-EXPORTS	1,787	1,820	- 32	- 1.8

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	<u>JAN.-AUG.</u> <u>1975</u>	<u>JAN.-AUG.</u> <u>1974</u>	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	13,931 (75.8%)	15,763 (76.2%)	- 1,833	- 11.6
IMPORTS	20,558	23,871	- 3,314	- 13.9
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	4,454 (24.2%)	4,912 (23.8%)	- 459	- 9.3
	<u>SEPT. 1974</u> <u>TO</u> <u>AUG. 1975</u>	<u>SEPT. 1973</u> <u>TO</u> <u>AUG. 1974</u>	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	21,078	23,478	- 2,399	- 10.2
IMPORTS	30,805	35,684	- 4,878	- 13.7
RE-EXPORTS	6,666	7,673	- 1,007	- 13.1

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STIFFER PENALTIES FOR COPYRIGHT OFFENCES
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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY, SAID TODAY THAT A SERIOUS VIEW MUST BE TAKEN OF 'PIRATING' OF COPYRIGHT WORKS AND TRADING IN 'PIRATED' WORKS BECAUSE THESE OFFENCES WERE ALL TOO COMMON.

SPEAKING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID IT HAD BECOME CLEAR THAT THE EXISTING PENALTY OF \$500 FOR EACH OFFENDING ARTICLE -- WHETHER A COPY OF THE WORK OR A PLATE -- WAS INADEQUATE IN THE CASE OF FIRST OFFENDERS.

IT WAS THEREFORE PROPOSED TO ABOLISH THE DISTINCTION AS TO PENALTY BETWEEN FIRST OFFENDERS AND OTHERS, HE SAID.

THIS IS PROVIDED IN THE COPYRIGHT (AMENDMENT) BILL INTRODUCED IN COUNCIL TODAY.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE BILL INTRODUCES A DISTINCTION BETWEEN POSSESSION OF INFRINGING COPIES AND POSSESSION OF PLATES TO BE USED FOR MAKING INFRINGING COPIES.

UNDER THE BILL, THE MAXIMUM PENALTY ON CONVICTION FOR THE OFFENCE OF POSSESSING INFRINGING COPIES FOR TRADE OR BUSINESS PURPOSES WILL BE A FINE OF \$1,000 FOR EACH COPY AND IMPRISONMENT FOR 12 MONTHS.

THE MAXIMUM PENALTY ON CONVICTION FOR THE OFFENCE OF POSSESSING PLATES FOR TRADE OR BUSINESS PURPOSES WILL BE A FINE OF \$50,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS.

THE BILL ALSO EMPOWERS A COURT TO FORFEIT ARTICLES USED IN CONNECTION WITH AN OFFENCE UNDER THE COPYRIGHT ORDINANCE OR THE COPYRIGHT ACT AS EXTENDED TO HONG KONG.

AT PRESENT FORFEITURE IS LIMITED TO INFRINGING COPIES AND PLATES USED FOR MAKING SUCH COPIES.

UNDER THE PROPOSED PROVISION, A COURT COULD, FOR EXAMPLE, ORDER THE FORFEITURE OF ANY EQUIPMENT USED IN MAKING INFRINGING COPIES.

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ADVISORY COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS PROPOSED
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THE JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION BILL WHICH SEEKS TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TO ADVISE THE GOVERNOR ON APPOINTMENTS TO ALL JUDICIAL OFFICES, RECEIVED ITS FIRST READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

INTRODUCING THE BILL, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY, SAID THE TIME HAD COME WHEN "ADVICE TO THE GOVERNOR ON THESE APPOINTMENTS OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD BE MORE BROADLY BASED AND IN PARTICULAR INCLUDE THE ADVICE FROM OUTSIDE THE PUBLIC SERVICE."

THE COMMISSION WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENT UNDER WHICH THE CHIEF JUSTICE ADVISES THE GOVERNOR ON APPOINTMENTS TO JUDICIAL OFFICES, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE HEADS OF THE OTHER GOVERNMENT LEGAL DEPARTMENTS IN THE CASE OF SENIOR APPOINTMENTS.

THE COMMISSION WILL BE CHAIRED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND WILL HAVE TWO EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS -- THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION. THE GOVERNOR MAY ALSO APPOINT UP TO THREE OTHER MEMBERS.

MR. HOBLEY TOLD COUNCIL THE SETTING UP OF THE COMMISSION WOULD NOT AFFECT THE GOVERNOR'S RESPONSIBILITY UNDER THE LAW FOR JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

+WHAT IT WILL DO IS TO PROVIDE THE GOVERNOR AND, IN THE CASE OF SENIOR JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS, THE SECRETARY OF STATE WITH INDEPENDENT ADVICE,+ HE SAID.

THE COMMISSION WILL ALSO ADVISE ON OTHER MATTERS AFFECTING JUDICIAL OFFICERS WHICH MAY BE REFERRED TO IT BY THE GOVERNOR.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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TIGHTER CONTROLS PROPOSED ON OVERCROWDING
IN VEHICLES

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DRAFT LEGISLATION WHICH AIMS AT ENSURING GREATER SAFETY FOR THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC WAS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL MAKES IT CLEAR THAT REGULATIONS MAY BE MADE RESTRICTING THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS WHO MAY BE CARRIED IN ANY VEHICLE, AND TO MAKE THE VEHICLE OWNER LIABLE FOR THE OFFENCE OF CARRYING EXCESS PASSENGERS.

INTRODUCING THE BILL, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY, NOTED THAT THE EXTENT TO WHICH BUSES ARE OVERLOADED BY PASSENGERS IN EXCESS OF THE NUMBER AUTHORISED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT COULD BE DANGEROUS BOTH FOR THE PASSENGERS AS WELL AS OTHER ROAD USERS.

HOWEVER, AS THE LAW NOW STANDS, HE SAID, THERE WAS SOME DOUBT AS TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH A BUS COMPANY IS CRIMINALLY LIABLE AS THE OPERATOR WHEN ITS BUS IS OVERLOADED.

+THAT IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A BUS COMPANY TO PREVENT OVERLOADING IS BEYOND QUESTION,+ HE SAID, +AND A CHANGE IN THE LAW IS CONTEMPLATED SO THAT IT WILL REFLECT THAT RESPONSIBILITY WITHOUT DOUBT.+

BEFORE THE LAW CAN BE CHANGED, HOWEVER, AN AMENDMENT IS NECESSARY TO ENABLE THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL TO MAKE REGULATIONS IN RESPECT OF IMPOSING STRICT CRIMINAL LIABILITY BY SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION.

THIS AMENDMENT IS CONTAINED IN THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL.

ANOTHER AMENDMENT PROPOSED IN THE BILL WILL ENABLE A POLICE OFFICER TO SUPPLY, BY CERTIFICATE, AS EVIDENCE PLANS OR DRAWINGS MADE BY HIM AND STATEMENTS MADE TO HIM AS TO WHO WAS DRIVING OR USING OR OWNED A MOTOR VEHICLE ON A PARTICULAR OCCASION.

HE WILL STILL HAVE TO GIVE EVIDENCE IN THE NORMAL WAY IF MATTERS CONTAINED IN HIS CERTIFICATE ARE DISPUTED.

THIS PROVISION WILL IN GENERAL RESULT IN A CONSIDERABLE SAVING IN POLICE TIME AND SOME SAVING IN COURT TIME, MR. HOBLEY SAID.

DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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WONG CHUK HANG SCHOOL

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A SCHOOL COMPLEX FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION IN WONG CHUK HANG IS UNLIKELY TO GET OFF THE GROUND IN THE NEAR FUTURE UNLESS THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE FUNDS VOTED TO SUBSIDISE SCHOOL PROJECTS.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE HON. F.K. LI, SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. MRS. JOYCE SYMONS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. LI EXPLAINED : +THE LIMITED FUNDS LIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE DURING THE NEXT THREE YEARS WILL HAVE TO BE EARMARKED FOR OTHER SCHOOL PROJECTS WHICH ARE ALREADY IN THE PIPE-LINE AND ARE AT A MORE ADVANCED STAGE.+

MR. LI RECALLED THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT RECEIVED AN APPLICATION FROM THE HONG KONG JUVENILE CARE CENTRE IN 1973 FOR A GRANT OF LAND TO BUILD A SCHOOL COMPLEX WHICH COMPRISED A TEN-CLASSROOM SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR 200 SOCIALLY-DEPRIVED AND MALADJUSTED BOYS AND A DORMITORY FOR 150. A SITE WAS LATER FOUND IN WONG CHUK HANG AND EARMARKED FOR THIS PROJECT.

HE NOTED THAT AS CAPITAL SUBSIDY AND RECURRENT SUBVENTIONS TO SCHOOLS EXCLUDE BOARDING FACILITIES UNDER EXISTING POLICY, THE JUVENILE CARE CENTRE WAS ADVISED TO APPLY TO THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND.

HOWEVER, HE CONTINUED, THE APPLICATION WAS NOT APPROVED ON ACCOUNT OF THE PRESENT COMPETING CLAIMS ON THE LIMITED RESOURCES OF THE FUND.

NEVERTHELESS, MR. LI STRESSED, THE SCHOOL PROJECT MIGHT BE GIVEN A HIGHER PRIORITY IF THE SPONSOR WAS ABLE TO EMBARK ON THE DORMITORY PORTION WITH ITS OWN RESOURCES OR IF THE CENTRE REVISED ITS PLAN BY ABANDONING THE BOARDING FACILITIES.

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LITTER OFFENCES

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A TOTAL OF 20,197 PROSECUTIONS AGAINST LITTER OFFENCES WERE MADE IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR COMPARED WITH 22,686 DURING THE SAME PERIOD THE PREVIOUS YEAR, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY, SAID TODAY.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LITTER PROSECUTIONS FOR THE WHOLE OF 1974 WAS 48,040, HE SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. PETER WILLIAMS.

MR. HOBLEY TOLD COUNCIL THE NUMBER OF LITTER WARDENS HAD DROPPED IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

IN AUGUST THIS YEAR, THERE WERE 76 LITTER WARDENS, OF WHOM 54 WERE IN THE URBAN AREAS AND 22 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, THE ACTUAL NUMBER WAS 89.

THE APPROVED ESTABLISHMENT FOR LITTER WARDENS IS 100, OF WHOM 73 ARE FOR THE URBAN AREAS AND 27 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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11 BILLS TABLED AT OPENING LEGCO SESSION

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THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1975 COMPLETED ITS PASSAGE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY AND BECAME LAW.

THE BILL EXEMPTS GOVERNMENT BONDS ISSUED UNDER THE LOANS (GOVERNMENT BONDS) ORDINANCE 1975 FROM INTEREST AND PROFITS TAX.

NINE OTHER BILLS WERE INTRODUCED IN COUNCIL. THEY WERE: THE FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANIES DEPOSIT (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION BILL, THE COPYRIGHT (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL, THE PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, AND THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG (AMENDMENT) BILL.

DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING OF THESE BILLS WAS ADJOURNED.

AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER'S BILL, THE CHATER MASONIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL, WAS INTRODUCED AND GIVEN ITS FIRST READING. DEBATE ON THIS BILL WAS ALSO ADJOURNED.

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SYMPOSIUM ON +ADOLESCENCE+

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A SYMPOSIUM ON +ADOLESCENCE+ WILL BE HELD LATER THIS MONTH TO HELP TEENAGERS UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT THE PROBLEMS THEY HAVE TO FACE AT THEIR AGE AND BE BETTER ADJUSTED TO THEIR ENVIRONMENT.

THE SYMPOSIUM IS ORGANISED BY THE YOUTH WORK UNIT OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND WILL BE HELD EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY EVENING BETWEEN 7.30 AND 9.30 P.M. FROM OCTOBER 16 UNTIL NOVEMBER 3 AT THE LADY TRENCH TRAINING CENTRE IN OI KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI.

THERE WILL BE ALTOGETHER SIX LECTURES GIVEN BY EXPERTS FROM DIFFERENT FIELDS TO BE FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSIONS. THE TALKS WILL COVER +CHARACTERISTICS AND DEVELOPMENT OF ADOLESCENCE+, +EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCES OF ADOLESCENCE+, +ADOLESCENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES+, +ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR OF ADOLESCENCE+, +COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE+ AND +MENTAL HEALTH+.

THE SYMPOSIUM IS OPEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE OVER 17 YEARS OF AGE WHO HAVE ATTAINED AT LEAST FORM FOUR LEVEL.

APPLICATIONS TO PARTICIPATE ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED AT THE YOUTH WORK UNIT'S OFFICES IN ROOM 908, CAUSEWAY BAY MAGISTRACY BUILDING, HONG KONG (TEL. 5-712467) AND ON THE TOP FLOOR OF THE KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON, (TEL. 3-884111 EXT. 331). THE CLOSING DATE IS OCTOBER 8. APPLICANTS WILL HAVE TO PAY A \$3 ENROLMENT FEE.

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WATER CUTS

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A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN TSUEN WAN WILL BE WITHOUT WATER ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 3) AND SATURDAY (OCTOBER 4) FROM 1 A.M. TO 6 A.M. TO ALLOW LEAKAGE TESTS TO BE CARRIED OUT.

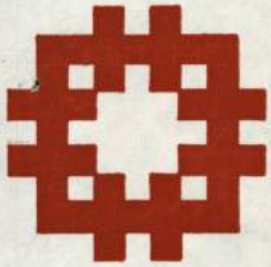
THE AREA AFFECTED ON FRIDAY IS BOUNDED BY TEXACO ROAD, BETWEEN CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND TAI WO HAU ROAD, INCLUDING TAI WU HAU ESTATE BLOCKS 1 AND 12 - 20 AND THE ASBURY METHODIST COTTAGE AREA.

ON SATURDAY, PREMISES BOUNDED BY LUEN YAN STREET, YUEN UK ROAD, WANG WO TAI STREET, KWU HANG STREET AND SHA TSUI ROAD WILL BE AFFECTED.

IN TAI PO, WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES WILL BE INTERRUPTED FROM 9 P.M. ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 4) TO 6 A.M. THE FOLLOWING MORNING TO ALLOW THE LAYING OF WATER PIPES.

ALL PREMISES IN TAI PO, EXCLUDING LAM KAM ROAD, TAI HANG AND KAU LUNG HANG WILL BE AFFECTED.

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HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY 香港房屋委員會

PRESS
RELEASE

新聞稿

Wednesday, October 1, 1975

HOUSING PROGRAMME MUST MOVE ON AS FAST AS POSSIBLE,
SAYS HOUSING AUTHORITY CHAIRMAN

The ten-year housing programme should press ahead as fast as finances and other constraints permits, says Mr. Ian Lightbody, Chairman of the Hong Kong Housing Authority, in his annual report for 1974/75 which was tabled in the Legislative Council today.

In his review of the year's activities, Mr. Lightbody said this was evident as Hong Kong's population is always running ahead of the available housing.

He said if the hundreds of thousands of other families now living in sub-standard housing, often at excessively high rents, are to enjoy public housing, the Authority must look to existing tenants for an increasing contribution.

The chairman pointed out that to meet the expanding housing programme, the Authority has to compete with other important social programmes for the very large sums of money which have to be borrowed from the Government.

Speaking on the building programme, Mr. Lightbody said construction was going ahead on ten new estates and detailed design work was being completed on nine others at the end of the financial year.

Apart from building estates, the Housing Authority was also looking into the possibility of raising the amenity standards.

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"The new generation of estates now being planned will incorporate lessons learned over many years and will be much more self-contained as regards marketing, shopping and other facilities than earlier ones," Mr. Lightbody said.

The Chairman reported that the study of new building methods, and adaptation of block design to facilitate their use, had gone ahead with the Authority's consultants working closely with the Construction Branch of the Housing Department.

"There is very considerable scope for speeding up building times within the traditional in-situ construction methods," Mr. Lightbody said.

Contractors engaged on building several of the Authority's estates have chosen to use modern shuttering and other techniques to achieve faster completion times and better finish.

Mr. Lightbody said that these rationalised traditional methods do not require very heavy capital investment and he has no doubt that their use would become much more widespread in the next few years.

Touching on the Housing Programme Plan, the Chairman said that the in-depth study by the Housing Programme Planning Team into Hong Kong's overall housing requirements for the long term would provide many new insights into housing policy and practice.

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