



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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/MOSQUITO BREEDING

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LEGCO APPROVES CHANGES TO STANDING ORDERS

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A NUMBER OF CHANGES TO THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WERE APPROVED BY MEMBERS TODAY.

THE CHANGES WERE BASED ON THE REPORT OF A WORKING PARTY WHOSE APPOINTMENT WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, LAST OCTOBER.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE WORKING PARTY, SIR EDWARD SAID AT THE TIME, WAS TO +REVIEW THE STANDING ORDERS, CONVENTIONS AND PRACTICES OF THIS COUNCIL SO AS TO ACHIEVE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, A MORE STRUCTURED PUBLIC DEBATE OF LEGISLATION AND AN EASIER EXCHANGE OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS, RESULTING IN A TRUER REFLECTION OF THE COUNCIL'S ESSENTIALLY REPRESENTATIVE ROLE+.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, IN MOVING THE RESOLUTION TODAY, CITED TWO CHANGES WHICH SHOULD BRING ABOUT A +NOTICEABLE DIFFERENCE+ IN THE WAY THE COUNCIL OPERATES:

FIRST, THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING WOULD BE GIVEN THE DISCRETION TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF 20 MINUTES WITHIN WHICH AN EX-OFFICIO OR AN UNOFFICIAL MUST BE CALLED UPON TO REPLY, AND THE OVERALL PERIOD OF 30 MINUTES WITHIN WHICH THE QUESTION MUST BE PUT TO CONCLUDE THE DEBATE. IT WAS FELT THAT THE PRESENT TIME LIMITS TENDED TO DISCOURAGE DEBATE.

SECOND, THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WOULD BE PERMITTED TO SIT IN PUBLIC FOR ITS EXAMINATION OF THE DRAFT ESTIMATES BEFORE THE APPROPRIATION BILL IS CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL. THE WORKING PARTY FELT THAT THIS STEP WOULD HELP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OPEN GOVERNMENT, AND WOULD DEMONSTRATE TO THE PUBLIC THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF CONTROLLING OFFICERS.

ANOTHER MAJOR CHANGE RAISED THE QUORUM OF THE COUNCIL FROM 10 TO 20 TO REFLECT THE GROWTH OF THE COUNCIL'S MEMBERSHIP, MR THOMAS POINTED OUT.

AND, NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO A BILL IN A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL WOULD BE GIVEN FOUR, INSTEAD OF THREE, CLEAR DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE BILL'S REFERRAL TO THE COMMITTEE.

THIS WOULD PROVIDE MORE TIME FOR PUBLICITY TO BE GIVEN TO PROPOSED AMENDMENTS, AND WOULD BRING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR NOTICE INTO LINE WITH THE PROVISIONS FOR MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS, HE SAID.

+ANOTHER AMENDMENT WHICH SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN HEADLINES BUT SHOULD BE PUT IN CONTEXT WAS THE DELETION OF REFERENCES TO HONG KONG AS A COLONY,+ HE STRESSED.

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THIS, HE ADDED, FOLLOWED THE PRACTICE WITH REGARD TO LEGISLATION AND OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS AND HAD NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE.

MR THOMAS ALSO SPOKE OF VARIOUS PROPOSALS MADE BY THE WORKING PARTY IN RELATION TO THE PASSAGE OF BILLS, QUESTIONS, PROVISIONS FOR DEBATE AND GENERAL PROCEDURE.

ON BILLS, THE PARTY RECOMMENDED OR PROPOSED THAT:

- * WHERE AMENDMENTS HAVE BEEN PROPOSED OR PROMPTED BY UNOFFICIALS, THE MOVING OF THOSE AMENDMENTS IN A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE UNOFFICIALS TO ENSURE THAT CREDIT GOES WHERE IT IS DUE.
- * THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO MAKE INFORMALLY MINOR CORRECTIONS OF TYPOGRAPHY, CROSS REFERENCE AND OTHER SIMPLE ERRORS IN A BILL, AFTER ITS APPROVAL BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND BEFORE ITS INTRODUCTION INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. THIS LIBERTY, MR THOMAS SAID, WILL BE TAKEN BY THE LAW DRAFTSMAN IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL.
- * WHERE POSSIBLE, AMENDED CLAUSES SHOULD BE BATCHED AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE TO ALLOW THE SPONSOR OF A BILL OR AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER TO SPEAK ONCE TO COVER ALL THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS, AND TO ALLOW ALL THE AMENDMENTS TO BE VOTED ON TOGETHER. MR THOMAS SAID THAT THIS PRACTICE HAD ALREADY STARTED, STREAMLINING THE COUNCIL'S WORK.

AS FOR DEBATES, HE SAID, THE WORKING PARTY NOTED THAT THE PRESENTATION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS IN JUNE OR JULY OF EACH YEAR WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A THIRD GENERAL DEBATE.

SUCH A DEBATE, HE ADDED, WOULD ROUND OFF THE WORK OF THE SESSION AND MIGHT PROVIDE USEFUL GUIDELINES ON WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION COULD WORK DURING THE RECESS BEFORE THE GOVERNOR'S NEXT ANNUAL ADDRESS.

FINALLY, THE PARTY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT STILL MORE USE MIGHT BE MADE OF CANTONESE IN THE COUNCIL DEBATE, MR THOMAS SAID.

SPEAKING ON THE RESOLUTION, THE HON ROGER LOBO SAID THAT UNOFFICIALS OF THE COUNCIL HAD BEEN CONSULTED AND HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE WORKING GROUP'S REPORT.

HE SAID THAT THE UNOFFICIALS WELCOMED THE CHANGES PROPOSED. THE AMENDMENTS WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON SEPTEMBER 1.

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BUDGET DEFICIT SMALLER BY \$300 M

THE BUDGET DEFICIT FOR FISCAL 1982-83 WAS MORE THAN \$300 MILLION BELOW THE ESTIMATE ANNOUNCED IN THE BUDGET DEBATE LAST APRIL, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

ACTUAL REVENUE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR WAS \$31 098 MILLION AND THE FINAL DEFICIT WAS \$3 500 MILLION, COMPARED WITH AN ESTIMATED DEFICIT OF \$3 828 MILLION, SIR JOHN SAID, IN MOVING THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1982-83) BILL 1983 THROUGH A SECOND READING.

THE BILL SEEKS TO GIVE FINAL LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR THE SERVICE OF THE LAST FISCAL YEAR.

THE TOTAL NET SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION REQUIRED IS \$1 974 MILLION UNDER 53 HEADS.

SIR JOHN SAID THAT THIS EXCESS WAS ALMOST ENTIRELY ACCOUNTED FOR BY THE 1982 SALARIES REVISION FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE (\$1 655 MILLION) AND GOVERNMENT SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS (\$181 MILLION), AND FOR THE PAYMENT OF PENSIONS, RETIRING ALLOWANCES AND GRATUITIES TO CONTRACT OFFICERS (\$134 MILLION).

+NEVERTHELESS, BECAUSE OF SAVINGS MADE IN OTHER SUBHEADS ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AT \$34 598 MILLION FOR THE FULL FINANCIAL YEAR WAS \$925 MILLION LESS THAN THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE,+ HE SAID.

TOWARDS THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR, THERE WAS A SHARP DROP IN CAPITAL EXPENDITURE RESULTING FROM DELAYS IN BUILDING PROGRAMMES AND FROM LOWER THAN ANTICIPATED RESUMPTION COSTS UNDER THE LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAMME, HE EXPLAINED.

THE DELAYS, SIR JOHN ADDED, WERE OCCASIONED MAINLY BY MUCH HIGHER THAN AVERAGE RAINFALL.

EXPENDITURE FROM THE CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND AT \$7 603 MILLION WAS \$769 MILLION LESS THAN THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE.

+CONSEQUENTLY, THERE HAS BEEN A MUCH LARGER CARRY FORWARD OF \$3.2 BILLION INTO 1983-84, WHICH WILL BE MOST HELPFUL IN THE MAINTENANCE OF IMPETUS,+ SIR JOHN SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TO AUGUST 10.

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CARGO HANDLING CAPACITY BEING EXPANDED

THE CAPACITY OF ALL PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS AND PUBLIC WATERFRONTS WOULD BE EXPANDED BY 25 PER CENT BY 1986, SUFFICIENT TO COPE WITH THE EXPECTED INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THIS WOULD BE ACHIEVED BY EXTENDING TWO OF THE SIX EXISTING PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS, AT TSUEN WAN AND RAMBLER CHANNEL, AND BY BUILDING A SEVENTH CARGO AREA LOCATED IN CHAI WAN, MR YEUNG SAID.

THE EXTENSION PROJECT WOULD BE COMPLETED AT THE END OF THIS YEAR WHILE THE NEW AREA WAS EXPECTED TO BE IN OPERATION BY 1986, MR YEUNG SAID IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS BY THE HON WONG PO-YAN.

TOTAL THROUGHPUT IN 1982 AT THE SIX PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS AND THREE PUBLIC WATERFRONTS OPERATED BY THE MARINE DEPARTMENT REACHED 4.9 MILLION TONNES, ABOUT 70 PER CENT OF THEIR MAXIMUM CAPACITY UNDER THE SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT IN FORCE LAST YEAR.

MR YEUNG SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT COMPLACENT ABOUT THE PROVISION OF THE ADDITIONAL FACILITIES.

+THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE IS ACTIVELY EXAMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF BUILDING A FURTHER THREE PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS.

+BUT GIVEN THE SCARCITY OF SUITABLE WATERFRONT SITES AND THE RELATIVELY LONG LEAD TIMES INVOLVED IN THEIR CONSTRUCTION, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE SEEK TO MAXIMISE THE CAPACITY OF EXISTING FACILITIES BY IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF CARGO HANDLING OPERATIONS,+ MR YEUNG POINTED OUT.

THE NEW BERTH ALLOCATION SYSTEM INTRODUCED LAST JANUARY HAD BROUGHT ABOUT A FASTER AND LARGER TURNOVER OF VESSELS USING THE PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS AND PUBLIC WATERFRONTS, HE ADDED.

IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR, 25 000 VESSELS BERTHED AT THESE WATERFRONTS, COMPARED WITH 20 500 IN THE SAME PERIOD IN 1982.

THE SURCHARGE ON BERTHING FEES HAD SUCCESSFULLY REDUCED THE BERTHING PERIOD OF MOST VESSELS TO WITHIN TWO DAYS, AND HAD ALSO PREVENTED PROLONGED OCCUPATION OF WATERFRONT BY IDLE LIGHTERS, HE SAID.

THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE WAS CURRENTLY REVIEWING THE NEW BERTH ALLOCATION SYSTEM IN THE LIGHT OF THE EXPERIENCE GAINED OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS, WITH A VIEW TO PROPOSING NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS, MR YEUNG ADDED.

ON THE FIVE CONTAINER TERMINALS IN KWAI CHUNG, HE NOTED THAT LAST YEAR'S TOTAL THROUGHPUT OF 1.5 MILLION TEU'S (TWENTY-FOOT EQUIVALENT UNITS) EXCEEDED THEIR EFFICIENT WORKING CAPACITY OF 1.2 MILLION TEU'S.

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT HAD APPROVED A PRIVATE TREATY GRANT OF LAND TO TWO OF THE THREE TERMINAL OPERATORS TO ENABLE THEM TO RECLAIM KWAI CHUNG CREEK, MR YEUNG REPORTED.

THE AIM WAS TO HAVE THIS PROJECT COMPLETED IN 1986 WHEN THE EFFICIENT WORKING CAPACITY WOULD BE RAISED BY 80 PER CENT TO 2.2 MILLION TEU'S A YEAR AGAINST A THROUGHPUT OF 2.05 MILLION TEU'S ESTIMATED FOR THAT YEAR, HE SAID.

THE PROJECT WOULD ALSO IMPROVE VEHICULAR MOVEMENT TO AND FROM THE CONTAINER TERMINALS.

THE RECLAMATION OF THE CREEK WOULD BE FOLLOWED IN DUE COURSE BY ADDITIONAL TERMINALS IN KWAI CHUNG, WITH THEIR PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION TO BE CLOSELY MONITORED BY THE CONTAINER PORT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, MR YEUNG SAID.

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GOVERNMENT AGAIN CONSIDERING BAN ON TOY GUNS

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THE GOVERNMENT WAS ONCE AGAIN CONSIDERING WHETHER IT WOULD BE FEASIBLE TO BAN TOY GUNS, IN SOME WAY, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON PATRICK WILLIAMSON, SAID TODAY.

+BECAUSE OF THE RAMIFICATIONS FOR OUR INTERNATIONAL TRADE WE HAVE TILL NOW TRIED TO CONTROL THE USE OF IMITATION FIREARMS THROUGH STATUTORY RESTRICTIONS ON THEIR POSSESSION,+ MR WILLIAMSON SAID.

BUT THIS HAD NOT PROVED EFFECTIVE, HE SAID.

MR WILLIAMSON SAID THE MATTER WOULD INITIALLY BE PUT TO THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON T.S. LO.

MR LO HAD ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER BANNING THE IMPORT, MANUFACTURING EXCEPT FOR EXPORT, SALE, OR POSSESSION WITHOUT AUTHORITY OF TOY GUNS SO THAT THEY COULD NOT BE USED:

* IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES BY CRIMINALS PRETENDING THAT THEY ARE REAL FIREARMS, OR

* BY BEING CONVERTED UNLAWFULLY INTO REAL FIREARMS.

+YES, SIR,+ MR WILLIAMSON REPLIED.

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BILL SEEKS POWER TO OVERRULE FOR APPEALS COURT

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THE SUPREME COURT (AMENDMENT) (NO 2) BILL 1983 SEEKS TO EMPOWER A COURT OF APPEAL COMPRISING FIVE OR MORE JUDGES TO OVERRULE AN EARLIER DECISION BY THE COURT WITH LESS THAN FIVE JUDGES, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THIS IS PROVIDED THAT IT IS SATISFIED THE LAW APPLIED IN THE EARLIER DECISION WAS WRONG OR CONFLICTS WITH A DECISION OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS, THE PRIVY COUNCIL OR ANOTHER DECISION OF THE COURT OF APPEAL.

THE COURT WILL BE ABLE TO APPLY THE CORRECTED LAW TO THE CASE BEFORE IT OR GIVE NOTICE THAT IT WILL APPLY THAT LAW IN THE FUTURE.

THIS POWER IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF AVOIDING UNDUE DISTURBANCE TO THE AFFAIRS OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE ACTED ON THE BASIS OF THE HITHERTO ACCEPTED VIEW OF THE LAW.

+IN EXERCISING ITS POWERS, THE COURT IS DIRECTED TO HAVE REGARD TO THE DANGER OF THIS DISTURBANCE AND THE DESIRABILITY OF CERTAINTY IN THE LAW,+ MR THOMAS SAID ON THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL.

TWO ACADEMIC LAWYERS WHO HAD BEEN CONSULTED SUPPORTED THE BILL IN PRINCIPLE WHILE THE LAW SOCIETY HAD STATED IT HAD NO OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSALS, HE POINTED OUT.

BUT THE BAR COMMITTEE HAD DECIDED BY A MAJORITY THAT THE BILL COULD NOT BE SUPPORTED, HE ADDED.

THE BAR COMMITTEE'S MAIN OBJECTIONS WERE THAT THE PROPOSALS WOULD GIVE THE JUDGES THE POWER OF LEGISLATION, LEADING TO UNCERTAINTY IN THE LAW.

+THE BILL WILL ENABLE A SPECIALLY CONSTITUTED COURT OF APPEAL TO ADOPT A STRAIGHT-FORWARD APPROACH AND THROW OFF THE FETTERS OF A PREVIOUS DECISION WHICH IS CLEARLY WRONG,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

UNDER THE BILL, A PREVIOUS DECISION OF DOUBTFUL MERIT COULD BE PUT RIGHT IN HONG KONG WITHOUT THE SUBSTANTIAL EXPENSE AND TIME INVOLVED IN AN APPEAL TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL, HE ADDED.

+I AM CONFIDENT THAT A COURT OF FIVE JUDGES WILL NOT ACT ON A WHIM OR A FANCY WHERE IT CHOOSES TO EXERCISE THIS NEW POWER AND I VENTURE TO THINK IT WILL BE SPARINGLY USED.

+I HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED THE OBJECTIONS OF THE BAR COMMITTEE AND MY VIEW IS THAT THE BILL SHOULD NONETHELESS BE SUPPORTED,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TO AUGUST 10.

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BILL TO IMPROVE CONTROL OF MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS
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THE PURPOSE OF THE MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENT BILL 1983 WAS TO INTRODUCE AN IMPROVED SYSTEM FOR THE LICENSING AND CONTROL OF MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON PATRICK WILLIAMSON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE BILL, IF PASSED, WOULD ALLOW LAWFUL MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS TO FLOURISH WHILE STRICT CURBS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE APPLIED TO UNLICENSED ONES, MR WILLIAMSON SAID IN MOVING THE BILL THROUGH ITS SECOND READING.

UNDER THE BILL, THE LICENSEE WILL BE REQUIRED TO EXERCISE PERSONAL SUPERVISION AND WILL BE HELD LIABLE IF HE FAILS TO KEEP HIS STAFF IN ORDER.

+HE WILL COMMIT AN OFFENCE UNLESS ABLE TO SHOW THAT, DESPITE PROPER DISCHARGE OF THIS DUTY OF PERSONAL SUPERVISION, THE OFFENCE WAS CAUSED BY SOMEONE ELSE'S CONDUCT AND COULD NOT HAVE BEEN AVOIDED,+ MR WILLIAMSON EXPLAINED.

THE BILL DELETES THE REGULATION WHICH REQUIRES THAT CUSTOMERS BE MASSAGED ONLY BY MEMBERS OF THE SAME SEX.

MR WILLIAMSON SAID THAT THE INTENTION WAS THAT CUSTOMERS SHOULD BE FREE TO CHOOSE AS IT HAD BECOME SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE FOR MASSAGE PER SE TO BE ADMINISTERED BY A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITE SEX.

+ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST LICENSED ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH ACT AS A COVER FOR VICE WILL CONTINUE UNDER THE CRIMES ORDINANCE --- AND IF CONVICTED THEIR CHANCES OF RETAINING THEIR LICENCE WILL BE VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT,+ HE SAID.

THE CLOSE CONNECTION BETWEEN +MASSAGE+ AND +VICE+ MEANT THAT GREATER PENALTIES AND STRICTER LAWS WERE NEEDED TO ASSIST THE POLICE IN PROSECUTING UNLICENSED ESTABLISHMENTS WHERE +MASSAGE+ WAS A COVER FOR +VICE+, MR WILLIAMSON ADDED.

+TO THIS END, OPERATORS OF SUCH ESTABLISHMENTS WILL BE LIABLE TO GREATLY INCREASED PENALTIES RISING TO A FINE OF \$100 000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS ON A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT CONVICTION,+ HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TILL AUGUST 10.

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CONSTRUCTION WORK DAMAGE TO ROADS SMALL
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WATER SPRAYED ON ROAD SURFACE AND ON WHEELS OF VEHICLES LEAVING CONSTRUCTION SITES CAUSED NO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO ROADS, PROVIDED THE ROAD SURFACE WAS IN GOOD CONDITION, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, MR CHAN NAI-KEONG, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE HON K.C. CHAN, HE SAID THAT ROADS ADJOINING CONSTRUCTION SITES WERE, HOWEVER, VULNERABLE TO DAMAGE.

+THE MERE WEIGHT OF EARTH-MOVING LORRIES SHOULD NOT CAUSE ANY SERIOUS DAMAGE TO ROADS WHICH ARE DESIGNED FOR HEAVY WEAR. WHAT CAN HAPPEN, HOWEVER, IS THAT MATERIALS SUCH AS GRIT AND STONES WHICH FALL FROM LORRIES MAY BE GROUND INTO THE ROAD SURFACE, BREAKING IT AND RENDERING IT MORE VULNERABLE TO FURTHER DAMAGE,+ MR CHAN SAID.

+IF A ROAD SURFACE WHICH IS ALREADY DAMAGED IS SUBJECTED TO SPRAYING IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE WATER MIGHT SEEP THROUGH THE CRACKS IN THE SURFACE AND AFFECT THE ROAD FOUNDATION, WHICH WOULD IN TURN RESULT IN FURTHER DAMAGE TO THE SURFACE.+

MR CHAN SAID THE AMOUNT OF DAMAGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES WAS CONSIDERED VERY SMALL.

+IN ANY CASE, REPAIRS TO THE ROAD SURFACE AND ANY OTHER RELATED DAMAGE IS CHARGED TO THOSE RESPONSIBLE,+ MR CHAN SAID.

+IN RESPECT OF GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, THE CONTRACTOR IS REQUIRED TO MAKE GOOD ANY DAMAGE CAUSES TO GOVERNMENT PROPERTY INCLUDING ROADS WHEREAS FOR PRIVATE SITES, THE STANDARD LEASE CONDITIONS PROVIDE FOR THE LESSEE TO REIMBURSE GOVERNMENT THE COST OF MAKING GOOD ANY DAMAGE CAUSED TO ADJOINING ROADS.+

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LACK OF JOBS FOR SEAMEN 'REFLECTS MARKET FORCES'
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FROM 1980 TO 1982, THE NUMBER OF POSTS FILLED BY HONG KONG SEAMEN ON FOREIGN-GOING SHIPS FELL BY ABOUT 20 PER CENT - FROM ABOUT 18 200 TO 14 000, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, THE NUMBER DECLINED BY ANOTHER 1 251 POSTS.

THE INFORMATION WAS SUPPLIED BY EMPLOYERS OF HONG KONG SEAMEN TO THE SEAMEN'S RECRUITING OFFICE, MR YEUNG SAID, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI.

/+THIS

+THIS TREND REFLECTS THE OPERATION OF MARKET FORCES IN A RECESSIONARY PERIOD AND A GROWING TENDENCY WORLD-WIDE TOWARDS EMPLOYING SEAMEN WITH A BROADER RANGE OF SKILLS,+ MR YEUNG POINTED OUT.

HE SAID THAT GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTS TO INTERFERE WITH THE OPERATION OF MARKET FORCES WERE NORMALLY FUTILE OR INEFFECTIVE, AND COULD BE DAMAGING TO THE ECONOMY.

+FOR THIS REASON, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS LEFT ENTREPRENEURIAL DECISIONS, INCLUDING EMPLOYMENT DECISIONS, TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR,+ HE SAID. THE EMPLOYMENT OF LOCAL SEAMEN DID NOT APPEAR TO JUSTIFY DEVIATION FROM THIS GENERAL PRINCIPLE.

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS WHICH SOUGHT TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE WORK FORCE.

TRAINING FOR OFFICERS IS ALREADY AVAILABLE IN THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC; FOR RATINGS, A TRAINING CENTRE AT LITTLE SAI WAN IS EXPECTED TO START OPERATION NEXT JANUARY UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL.

+THE OBJECT IS TO PROVIDE REMEDIAL TRAINING FOR REGISTERED RATINGS, TO BRING THEM UP TO THE STANDARDS REQUIRED UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING OF 1978.

+IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS OF HONG KONG SEAMEN WHO HAVE UNDERGONE SUCH TRAINING WILL BE IMPROVED,+ MR YEUNG SAID.

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BILL PROVIDES FOR BAPTIST COLLEGE BOARD

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A BILL WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BOARD OF GOVERNORS, A COUNCIL AND AN ACADEMIC BOARD OF THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE WAS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE BILL 1983, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON KENNETH TOPLEY, SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL WAS TO REPLACE THE HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS INCORPORATION ORDINANCE IN ORDER TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE NEW ROLE OF THE COLLEGE AND TO CREATE A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF THE COLLEGE.

UNDER THE BILL, THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS WOULD BE THE SUPREME GOVERNING BODY, BUT ITS ROLE WOULD BE AKIN TO THAT OF A UNIVERSITY COURT, REACTING TO PROPOSALS FROM THE COUNCIL.

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THE GOVERNANCE OF THE COLLEGE WOULD BE VESTED IN THE COUNCIL, WHICH WOULD BE THE EXECUTIVE BODY SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE COLLEGE AND WOULD BE MADE UP CHIEFLY OF INDEPENDENTLY APPOINTED MEMBERS.

+THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE OTHER PUBLICLY FUNDED HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, AND THIS FORM OF GOVERNANCE WITH COMMUNITY INTERESTS PREDOMINATING IS INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED AND RECOGNISED,+ MR TOPLEY SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE BAPTIST CONVENTION OF HONG KONG WAS REPRESENTED BOTH ON THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND ON THE COUNCIL IN RECOGNITION OF ITS TRADITIONAL LINK WITH THE COLLEGE WHICH IT FOUNDED 27 YEARS AGO.

THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS OF THE COLLEGE, MR TOPLEY CONTINUED, WOULD BE REGULATED BY THE ACADEMIC BOARD, EMPOWERED TO REVIEW AND DEVELOP ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES, SUPERVISE TEACHING, RESEARCH, ADMISSIONS AND EXAMINATIONS.

AS REGARDS THE FINANCING OF THE COLLEGE, MR TOPLEY SAID, PROVISION WAS MADE FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE OF +A PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE+ BY THE COLLEGE SO THAT DECISIONS COULD BE MADE REGARDING ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

PROVISIONS TO ENABLE THE COUNCIL TO MAKE RULES SUBJECT TO ANY REGULATIONS MADE BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL WERE ALSO INCLUDED IN THE BILL, HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TO AUGUST 10.

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RESOLUTIONS ON FIVE FUNDS APPROVED

THE PURPOSE OF THE RESOLUTIONS FOR THE CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND, THE MASS TRANSIT FUND, THE STUDENT LOAN FUND, THE DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND AND THE HOME OWNERSHIP FUND WAS TO ENABLE THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO ADMINISTER THESE FUNDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS DUTY UNDER THE NEW PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID THIS IN MOVING THE MOTIONS ON THE FIVE FUNDS THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE PROVISION IN EACH OF THE PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THESE FUNDS WOULD REMAIN IN FORCE, SIR JOHN SAID.

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BUT THOSE PARAGRAPHS RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION, EXPENDITURE AND ADMINISTRATION OF EACH FUND WOULD BE SUPERSEDED BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW RESOLUTIONS, HE POINTED OUT.

UNDER THE NEW RESOLUTIONS, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY MAY DELEGATE HIS POWER OF ADMINISTRATION TO OTHER PUBLIC OFFICERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT PRACTICE.

THEY ALSO PROVIDE FOR MONEYS TO BE CREDITED TO THE FUND FROM THE SAME SOURCES AS WERE PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE ORIGINAL RESOLUTIONS.

+HOWEVER, THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH MONEYS MAY BE EXPENDED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY UNDER EACH FUND HAVE BEEN RE-EXPRESSED IN GENERAL TERMS TO ENABLE THESE PURPOSES TO BE VARIED TO MEET CHANGING REQUIREMENTS,+ SIR JOHN EXPLAINED.

THE RESOLUTIONS ALSO REQUIRE THAT THIS EXPENDITURE BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUCH CONDITIONS, EXCEPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS AS MAY BE SPECIFIED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

THE RESOLUTIONS ENABLE THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF A FUNDS WARRANT TO MAKE PAYMENTS TO MEET EXPENDITURE INCURRED AGAINST EACH FUND. THEY ALSO ENABLE THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO AUTHORISE THE INVESTMENT OF ANY UNEXPENDED BALANCE IN ANY OF THE FUNDS.

A NEW PROVISION ENABLES THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO TRANSFER FROM A FUND TO GENERAL REVENUE ANY BALANCE NOT REQUIRED FOR THE PURPOSES OF THAT FUND.

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GOVERNMENT BOOSTS MUSIC EDUCATION: HAYE

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IT IS GOVERNMENT POLICY TO ENCOURAGE MUSIC EDUCATION BOTH IN AND OUT OF CLASSROOMS, MR COLVYN HAYE, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, SAID IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE REV JOYCE BENNETT WHO HAD ASKED WHETHER GOVERNMENT HAD ANY POLICY REGARDING THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF MUSIC EDUCATION IN ADVANCED LEVEL AND POST-SECONDARY CLASSES.

MR HAYE SAID THAT OVER AND ABOVE THE PROVISION OF MUSIC IN SCHOOLS THROUGH PRIMARY AND JUNIOR SECONDARY YEARS, SCHOOLS MADE THEIR OWN ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE STUDY OF MUSIC TO CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION LEVEL AND BEYOND.

/FOR SCHOOLS

FOR SCHOOLS WHICH COULD NOT OFFER MUSIC AT THE CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION AND ABOVE, A CENTRALISED SCHEME OF MUSIC TEACHING HAD BEEN STARTED AND POLICY APPROVAL SECURED TO EXPAND IT TO TAKE PUPILS THROUGH FORM SIX MUSIC COURSES. A PROPOSAL HAD ALSO BEEN MADE TO THE HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY FOR A LOCAL ADVANCED LEVEL EXAMINATION OF MUSIC, AND IF APPROVED IT WAS HOPED THAT THE PRESENT CENTRALISED SCHEME WOULD BE EXPANDED FURTHER TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE EXAMINATION.

IF ACADEMIC STUDY OF MUSIC IN SCHOOLS AND POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS WAS LIMITED BY SMALL NUMBERS, THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE FORMAL SYSTEM WERE ENORMOUS, MR HAYE SAID.

THE ROYAL SCHOOLS OF MUSIC EXAMINATIONS THIS YEAR HAD ATTRACTED NEARLY 26 000 ENTRIES, OF WHICH NEARLY 2 000 WERE AT SENIOR LEVELS.

THE HONG KONG SCHOOLS' MUSIC FESTIVAL HAD ATTRACTED 57 000 COMPETITORS IN 70 CATEGORIES MAKING IT THE BIGGEST THING OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

AND MR HAYE DESCRIBED AS +PHENOMENAL+ THE SUCCESS OF THE GOVERNMENT MUSIC OFFICE IN PROMOTING INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AND DISTRICT YOUTH ORCHESTRAS. THE JING YING YOUTH ORCHESTRA SELECTED BY OPEN COMPETITION HAD JUST TAKEN THIRD PLACE IN A PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL IN WALES.

+BOTH THE SCHOOLS' MUSIC FESTIVAL AND THE MUSIC OFFICE WERE INITIATIVES OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT,+ MR HAYE SAID, ADDING HE AND HIS OFFICERS WERE PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE PLANNING OF THE ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS.

HE ALSO SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO PRESERVE BALANCE AND PERSPECTIVE IN LOOKING AT MUSIC EDUCATION, WHICH WAS MORE THAN PREPARATION FOR EXAMINATIONS IN CLASSROOMS.

+THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF HEALTHY AND ENJOYABLE MUSIC EDUCATION GOING ON OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM, WHERE THE EMPHASIS ON PERFORMANCE DOES NOT PRECLUDE MUSIC LITERACY.

+THE ENTHUSIASM AND SUCCESS OF OUR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PERFORMERS IS SOMETHING WE SHOULD BE PROUD OF AND NEVER FORGET IN ANY MUSIC DEBATE,+ MR HAYE CONCLUDED.

**REPORT ON POWER COMPANIES TO BE PUBLISHED
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THE CONSULTANTS APPOINTED TO EXAMINE THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF POWER GENERATION BY THE TWO MAJOR POWER COMPANIES SUBMITTED THEIR REPORT IN APRIL THIS YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+THEIR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES WITH THE POWER COMPANIES AND WITH THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH,+ MR YEUNG SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW SO.

ON THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED THAT THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE REPORT SHOULD BE PUBLISHED, HE SAID.

BARRING UNFORESEEN DIFFICULTIES, THIS DOCUMENT WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC NEXT MONTH, HE ADDED.

+AS REGARDS THE CONSULTANCY TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON THE ADEQUACY OF ITS MONITORING OF THE POWER COMPANIES' ACTIVITIES, I HAVE EXAMINED THE PROPOSALS MADE BY A NUMBER OF FIRMS, AND WILL SHORTLY BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PREFERRED FIRM, WITH A VIEW TO CONCLUDING A CONTRACT,+ MR YEUNG SAID.

+SUBJECT TO A CONTRACT BEING AGREED, I EXPECT THE CONSULTANTS TO BEGIN THEIR WORK IN SEPTEMBER AND TO SUBMIT THEIR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO ME BY THE END OF THE YEAR,+ HE ADDED.

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**DECLINE NOTED IN USE OF POLICE SUPERVISION ORDERS
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THERE HAD BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL DECLINE IN THE USE OF POLICE SUPERVISION ORDERS SINCE THE 1960'S, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON PATRICK WILLIAMSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE POLICE SUPERVISION (REPEAL) BILL 1983.

THE DECLINE IN THE USE OF SUCH POWER WAS THE RESULT OF MANY FACTORS, INCLUDING THE FACT THAT THE COURTS FAVOUR ALTERNATIVE SCHEMES OF SUPERVISION WHICH ARE MORE REHABILITATIVE IN NATURE, HE SAID.

ANOTHER FACT WAS THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS NOW HAD SUITABLE ALTERNATIVES TO ANY REMAINING USEFUL FUNCTIONS OF THE POLICE SUPERVISION ORDINANCE, HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TO AUGUST 10.

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**USEFUL CHANGES IN SENTENCING SEEN IN BILL

USEFUL IMPROVEMENTS IN SENTENCING PROCEDURES ARE PROVIDED IN THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR THOMAS SAID ONE OF THE CHANGES PROVIDES THAT ALL TIME IN CUSTODY PURSUANT TO ANY COURT ORDER WILL COUNT TOWARDS SENTENCE.

+IT HAS BEEN A GRIEVANCE OF CONVICTED PRISONERS FOR SOME TIME THAT DISPARITY OF TREATMENT EXISTS ON WHETHER TIME SPENT PRIOR TO COMMITTAL COUNTS TOWARDS SENTENCE.

+EACH JUDGE HAS A DISCRETION AND JUDICIAL PRACTICE DIFFERS FROM COURT TO COURT. SINCE TIME SPENT IN CUSTODY BEFORE COMMITTAL CAN BE AS MUCH AS THREE MONTHS, IT IS NOT UNIMPORTANT TO THE PRISONER IF IT HAS BEEN LEFT OUT OF ACCOUNT,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

ANOTHER PROPOSED CHANGE WILL ENABLE A JUDGE TO GIVE PARTLY CONSECUTIVE AND PARTLY CONCURRENT SENTENCES IN CERTAIN CASES, AT PRESENT A JUDGE MAY MAKE SENTENCES CONCURRENT, OR MAKE THEM CONSECUTIVE, HE SAID.

+IN THOSE CASES WHERE HE MAKES THEM CONSECUTIVE (FOR EXAMPLE, FOR DISSIMILAR OFFENCES COMMITTED ON DIFFERENT OCCASIONS), THE REQUIREMENT TO MAKE THE TOTAL RIGHT WILL OFTEN INVOLVE GIVING LESS FOR A PARTICULAR OFFENCE THAN IT REALLY DESERVES.

+IT WOULD AVOID THIS RESULT IF JUDGES WERE ABLE TO GIVE PARTLY CONSECUTIVE AND PARTLY CONCURRENT SENTENCES IN SUCH CASES. THEN INDIVIDUAL SENTENCES WOULD EACH BE CORRECT AND THE TOTAL SENTENCE COULD ALSO BE MADE APPROPRIATE BY ORDERING SOME OVERLAP WHERE SENTENCES ARE TO BE CONSECUTIVE,+ HE SAID.

MR THOMAS SAID THAT THE REFORM WILL HAVE A NUMBER OF MERITORIOUS CONSEQUENCES.

A CO-ACCUSED FACING SENTENCE FOR ONE OFFENCE WILL NO LONGER FEEL CHEATED WHEN THE MULTIPLE OFFENDER GETS AN APPARENTLY SHORTER SENTENCE FOR THE SAME OFFENCE. CRIMINAL RECORDS WILL REFLECT THE TRUE GRAVITY OF ALL INDIVIDUAL OFFENCES. THE ANOMALY OF SUCCESSFUL APPEALS ON ONE OFFENCE FOR WHICH A LONG SENTENCE WAS GIVEN, LEAVING ONLY AN ARTIFICIALLY LIGHT SENTENCE ON THE OTHER OFFENCE OR OFFENCES WILL BE AVOIDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TILL AUGUST 10.

BILL TO REDUCE DELAY IN COURT CASES

COMMITTAL PROCEEDINGS HAD BEEN DECLINING IN IMPORTANCE IN RECENT YEARS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID TODAY.

IN MOST CASES, THEY WERE REALLY NO MORE THAN A TIME-CONSUMING FORMALITY WHICH, BECAUSE OF CONGESTION OF THE LISTS IN MAGISTRATES COURTS, SERVED ONLY TO DELAY THE TRIAL ITSELF, HE SAID.

+THIS DECLINE HAS ALREADY BEEN RECOGNISED BY THE USE OF WRITTEN STATEMENTS TO AVOID CALLING PROSECUTION WITNESSES,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

MR THOMAS WAS MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS ON AN INDICTABLE OFFENCE) BILL 1983, WHICH WILL REDUCE THE DELAY IN THE JUDICIAL PROCESS BY PROVIDING FOR AUTOMATIC COMMITTAL OF DEFENDANTS WHO ARE CHARGED WITH AN INDICTABLE OFFENCE, UNLESS THEY ELECT THAT THERE SHOULD BE A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY.

TO HELP THE ACCUSED, LEGAL AID WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ELIGIBLE DEFENDANTS AT THIS STAGE OF ELECTING WHETHER OR NOT TO AGREE TO AN AUTOMATIC COMMITTAL.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TO AUGUST 10.

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SAME PUNISHMENT SOUGHT FOR ATTEMPTED OFFENCES

A BILL ALLOWING THE COURTS TO IMPOSE THE SAME PUNISHMENT IN RESPECT OF ATTEMPTS, CONSPIRACIES AND INCITEMENTS AS IT MAY IMPOSE IN RESPECT OF THE SUBSTANTIVE OFFENCE, WAS READ A SECOND TIME IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL, THE ACTING LAW DRAFTSMAN, THE HON JAMES FINDLAY, POINTED OUT THAT AN EXCEPTION TO THIS WOULD BE IN THE CASE OF CAPITAL OFFENCES WHERE LIFE IMPRISONMENT MAY BE IMPOSED.

+PUNISHMENT SHOULD BE DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE MORAL BLAMEWORTHINESS OF THE OFFENDER. GENERALLY, THE INEFFICIENT OR UNLUCKY CRIMINAL SHOULD NOT BE ENTITLED TO A DISCOUNT ON THAT SCORE.

+THOSE WHO ATTEMPT OR CONSPIRE TO COMMIT OFFENCES, OR INCITE OTHERS TO DO SO, SHOULD NOT, AS A GENERAL RULE, BE TREATED MORE LENIENTLY THAN THOSE WHO SUCCEEDED IN IMPLEMENTING THEIR PLANS.

+THIS PRINCIPLE SHOULD GIVE WAY ONLY WHERE THE PUNISHMENT FOR THE SUBSTANTIVE OFFENCE IS DEATH,+ HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TO AUGUST 10.

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BILL REQUIRES BANKS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION

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IN MANY CASES INVOLVING COMMERCIAL CRIME, DRUG TRAFFICKING OR KIDNAPPING PROCEEDS OF THE CRIME ARE LAUNDERED THROUGH BANKS OR DEPOSIT TAKING COMPANIES, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON PATRICK WILLIAMSON, SAID TODAY.

STOLEN OR ILLEGAL GOODS CAN ALSO BE STORED IN SAFETY DEPOSIT BOXES OR OTHERWISE HELD IN THE CUSTODY OF A BANK, MR WILLIAMSON SAID, MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE POLICE FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE SAID THAT IN ORDER TO INVESTIGATE SUCH CASES, THE POLICE MAY APPLY TO A MAGISTRATE FOR A SEARCH WARRANT UNDER THE POLICE FORCE ORDINANCE.

+BEFORE SUCH A WARRANT IS OBTAINED, HOWEVER, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO FIND OUT WHETHER, AND IF SO PRECISELY WHERE, A PERSON HAS AN ACCOUNT OR STORAGE FACILITY WITH A BANK OR DTC.

+WITHOUT THIS INFORMATION IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE POLICE TO OBTAIN A SEARCH WARRANT,+ HE SAID.

THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL WAS TO EMPOWER THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE TO REQUIRE BANKS AND DEPOSIT TAKING COMPANIES TO REVEAL WHETHER PARTICULAR PERSONS SUSPECTED OF HAVING COMMITTED AN INDICTABLE OFFENCE, HAVE OR HAD AN ACCOUNT WITH THEM.

BANKS WOULD ALSO BE REQUIRED TO REVEAL WHETHER SUCH A PERSON HAS OR HAD ACCESS TO A SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX OR ANY PROPERTY OTHERWISE STORED WITH THEM, HE POINTED OUT.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TO AUGUST 10.

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AMENDMENT TO CONSPIRACY LAW SOUGHT

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THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL WOULD ALLOW THE COURTS TO JUDGE A PERSON ACCUSED OF CONSPIRACY ON THE MERITS OF HIS OWN CASE AND NOT ON THE BASIS OF THE EVIDENCE ADDUCED AGAINST THE OTHER ALLEGED CONSPIRATORS, THE ACTING LAW DRAFTSMAN, THE HON JAMES FINDLAY, SAID TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR FINDLAY EXPLAINED THAT WHERE ALL THE PERSONS WITH WHOM AN ACCUSED WAS ALLEGED TO HAVE CONSPIRED HAD BEEN ACQUITTED, THE LAW OF HONG KONG REQUIRED THAT HE ALSO BE ACQUITTED NO MATTER HOW STRONG THE EVIDENCE MIGHT BE AGAINST HIM.

/+THE REASON

+THE REASON FOR THIS RULE IS THAT, BECAUSE A PERSON CANNOT CONSPIRE WITH HIMSELF, HIS CONVICTION WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE ACQUITTALS OF THE CO-CONSPIRATORS; THESE ACQUITTALS DECREEDING THEIR INNOCENCE.

+THAT IS WHAT THE LAW SAYS. IN REAL LIFE, WE KNOW THAT ACCUSED ARE SOMETIMES ACQUITTED, NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE INNOCENT, BUT BECAUSE THE EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM IS INSUFFICIENT,+ HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TILL AUGUST 10.

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MOSQUITO BREEDING FINES INCREASED

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THE MAXIMUM FINE FOR MOSQUITO BREEDING WAS DOUBLED TO \$10 000, AND THE MAXIMUM DAILY FINE INCREASED FROM \$100 TO \$250 BY A RESOLUTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE MOTION TO INCREASE FINES IN THE NINTH SCHEDULE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON HENRY CHING, SAID THAT MALARIA CASES HAD GRADUALLY INCREASED FROM 47 IN 1978 TO 80 LAST YEAR.

+ALTHOUGH THIS INCREASE IS DUE TO A HIGHER NUMBER OF IMPORTED CASES, THE EXISTENCE OF VECTOR MOSQUITOES MAKES EVERY MALARIA CASE, IMPORTED OR LOCALLY CONTRACTED, A POTENTIAL RESERVOIR FOR A MAJOR OUTBREAK,+ MR CHING SAID.

+THE INCREASING NUMBER OF MALARIA CASES THEREFORE MAKES THE ELIMINATION OF VECTOR MOSQUITOES MORE IMPORTANT, AND THERE IS THUS A NEED TO STRENGTHEN MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST THE BREEDING OF MOSQUITOES,+ HE SAID.

SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION, THE HON ANDREW SO, UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, SAID THE BEST METHOD OF PREVENTING MALARIA WAS TO STOP THE BREEDING OF MOSQUITOES BY KEEPING THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT CLEAN AND BY DISPOSING OF ALL STAGNANT WATER.

+THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND ALL UNITS CONCERNED HAVE SPARED NO EFFORT IN CLEANING HONG KONG AND HOLDING ANTI-MOSQUITO CAMPAIGNS AND THE RESULTS HAVE BEEN QUITE SATISFACTORY,+ HE SAID.

MR SO SAID THE HIGHER FINES WERE NECESSARY BECAUSE THEY COULD HAVE +A DETERRENT EFFECT+.

HE SAID STATISTICS, FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE YEAR SHOWED THERE WERE 254 PROSECUTIONS INVOLVING CONSTRUCTION SITES AND DOMESTIC PREMISES WHERE WATER HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO GO STALE, RESULTING IN THE BREEDING OF MOSQUITOES - AND 90 PER CENT OF THESE INVOLVED CONSTRUCTION SITES.

+WE HAVE TO MAKE A STILL GREATER EFFORT, THEREFORE, TO FIGHT THE BREEDING OF MOSQUITOES, EDUCATE THE PUBLIC AND PROSECUTE OFFENDERS,+ MR SO SAID.

BILL TO CLEAR UP UNCERTAINTY

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THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE SUPREME COURT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 WAS TO CLEAR UP THE UNCERTAINTY CONCERNING THE BUSINESS WHICH MAY BE TRANSACTED IN THE SUPREME COURT DURING ITS VACATIONS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

AT THE MOMENT THE SUPREME COURT ORDINANCE PRESCRIBES WHAT BUSINESS MAY BE CONDUCTED DURING VACATIONS.

BUT THE RULES OF THE SUPREME COURT ALSO DEAL WITH VACATION BUSINESS.

THE UNCERTAINTY HAD ARISEN BECAUSE DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS OF THE WORD +PLEADING+ WERE USED IN THE ORDINANCE AND THE RULES, MR THOMAS SAID ON THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL.

THE BILL PROPOSES THAT, APART FROM CRIMINAL TRIALS, CRIMINAL APPEALS AND INCIDENTAL BUSINESS, THE BUSINESS WHICH MAY BE TRANSACTED DURING VACATIONS WILL BE AS PRESCRIBED BY THE RULES OF COURT, SO AS TO REMOVE OVERLAPPING OF THE ORDINANCE AND THE RULES.

THE OPPORTUNITY WAS ALSO TAKEN TO CHANGE THE TITLE OF +COMMISSIONER OF THE HIGH COURT+ TO +DEPUTY JUDGE OF THE HIGH COURT+, MR THOMAS SAID.

COMMISSIONERS ARE PEOPLE APPOINTED FROM AMONG ELIGIBLE PERSONS TO ACT AS HIGH COURT JUDGES WHEN THERE IS A VACANCY ON THE BENCH OR WHEN A TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT IS NECESSARY.

+THEY ARE KNOWN AS DEPUTY JUDGES IN ENGLAND AND WALES AND IT IS PROPOSED THAT WE FOLLOW SUIT IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TO AUGUST 10.

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ENERGY CONSERVATION DRIVE KEPT UP

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THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO THE PROMOTION OF ENERGY CONSERVATION DESPITE THE CURRENT WORLD SURPLUS OF OIL, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ANDREW SO, MR YEUNG SAID THAT IN THE PAST, THE TIGHTENING OF THE GLOBAL OIL SUPPLY HAD BEEN BEHIND HONG KONG'S INTRODUCTION OF ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES, INCLUDING INTENSIVE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS.

/BECAUSE OF

BECAUSE OF THE WORLD OIL SURPLUS SINCE 1980, IT HAD NOT BEEN NECESSARY FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO REPEAT THESE CAMPAIGNS.

INSTEAD, THE GOVERNMENT HAD CARRIED OUT A NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS ON SEVERAL MAJOR BUILDINGS AND INSTALLATIONS THAT ARE LARGE CONSUMERS OF ELECTRICITY, WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING WHETHER SAVINGS IN POWER CONSUMPTION COULD BE ACHIEVED, MR YEUNG SAID.

THESE STUDIES INCLUDE MURRAY BUILDING, THE KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, QUEEN ELIZABETH AND OTHER HOSPITALS, THE AIRPORT AND THE INCINERATOR PLANTS.

+MOST OF THESE STUDIES HAVE BORNE FRUIT, AND IT IS ON THE BASIS OF THIS ACCUMULATED EXPERIENCE THAT THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE DREW UP, IN 1981, A PAMPHLET ON ENERGY CONSERVATION IN BUILDINGS,+ MR YEUNG SAID.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS GUIDELINES FOR AN ENERGY CONSCIOUS BUILDING DESIGN, AND HAS BEEN MADE FREELY AVAILABLE TO FIRMS AND PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT.

MR YEUNG SAID THAT A SUSTAINED EFFORT WAS ALSO BEING MADE IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS WHERE ENERGY CONSERVATION FEATURES IN THE CURRICULUM, WITH THE OBJECT OF CULTIVATING PROPER CONCEPTS OF ENERGY CONSERVATION IN THE MINDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

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EVENING CLINICS HANDLE 3 500 PATIENTS DAILY

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UP TO 3 500 PATIENTS ARE TAKEN CARE OF DAILY BY THE 15 GOVERNMENT EVENING MEDICAL CLINICS WHICH OPERATE THROUGHOUT HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR S.F. LAM, SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON DR HENRIETTA IP, DR LAM SAID EVENING MEDICAL CLINICS WERE STARTED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO RELIEVE THE OVERWORKED ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES BY TAKING CARE OF NON-EMERGENCY CASES.

+THESE CLINICS WERE INITIALLY IN THOSE DISTRICTS WHERE THE REGIONAL HOSPITALS WITH THE ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS WERE,+ HE SAID.

+SUBSEQUENTLY, WITH THE EXPANSION OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES IN DISTRICT HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CENTRES, MORE SUPPORTING CLINICS WERE OPENED,+ HE ADDED.

/DR LAM

DR LAM SAID THESE CLINICS ALSO SUPPLEMENT THE DAY OUT-PATIENT SERVICES, PROVIDING A MEANS FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT ATTEND CLINICS DURING THE DAY BECAUSE OF THEIR WORK, OR FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT AFFORD THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE EVENINGS.

THERE ARE 15 GOVERNMENT EVENING CLINICS PROVIDING 43 DOCTOR SESSIONS.

FIVE CLINICS ARE ON HONG KONG ISLAND WITH 14 DOCTOR SESSIONS PER EVENING, SIX ARE LOCATED IN KOWLOON WITH 19 SESSIONS AND FOUR ARE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WITH TEN SESSIONS.

+A TOTAL OF 3 000 TO 3 500 PATIENTS ARE TAKEN CARE OF EVERY EVENING,+ SAID DR LAM.

+IN THE SUBVENTED HOSPITALS, AS PART AND PARCEL OF THEIR SERVICE, ONE HOSPITAL ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND THREE IN KOWLOON, PROVIDE A TOTAL OF SIX DOCTOR SESSIONS IN THE EVENING AND THEY SEE BETWEEN 350 TO 400 PATIENTS,+ HE SAID.

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BILL TO ENABLE HEUNG YEE KUK TO SELL PROPERTY

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THE HEUNG YEE KUK WAS PLANNING TO SELL ITS PROPERTY IN TAI PO AND USE THE PROCEEDS TO BUILD A SECONDARY SCHOOL THERE, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON IAN MACPHERSON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR MACPHERSON WAS SPEAKING ON THE SECOND READING OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 WHICH SEEKS TO PROVIDE MORE FLEXIBILITY FOR THE KUK IN MANAGING ITS PROPERTY.

HE SAID THE KUK HAD RECENTLY COMPLETED THE REDEVELOPMENT OF ITS PROPERTY IN TAI PO AND INTENDED TO SELL OR LET REDEVELOPED PROPERTY, USING THE PROCEEDS TO PROMOTE ITS OBJECTIVES.

+SPECIFICALLY THE KUK WILL PUT PART OF THIS MONEY TOWARDS THE CAPITAL COST OF THE HEUNG YEE KUK TAI PO SECONDARY SCHOOL,+ HE SAID.

AT PRESENT, THE KUK IS ONLY AUTHORISED TO ACQUIRE AND HOLD ITS PROPERTY IN TRUST AND CANNOT DISPOSE OF OR MORTGAGE ITS PROPERTY.

THE BILL, IF PASSED, WILL ENABLE THE KUK TO SELL ITS PROPERTY OR MORTGAGE IT AS SECURITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING ITS OBJECTIVES.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TILL AUGUST 10.

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NEW 'SUPER STAR' INTERCOM SYSTEM OFFERED
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THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY IS NOW ABLE TO OFFER, FOR SALE OR RENT, A NEW EXCHANGE CONNECTED INTERCOMMUNICATION SYSTEM, KNOWN AS THE 'SUPER STAR' SYSTEM, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON K.Y. YEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS SPEAKING ON THE MOTION TO ADD TO PART THREE OF THE SCHEDULE TO THE TELEPHONE ORDINANCE THE CHARGES PROPOSED BY THE COMPANY FOR THE INSTALLATION, RENTING, MAINTENANCE AND REMOVAL OF THE SYSTEM AND ITS ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT.

THE CHARGES WERE CONSIDERED REASONABLE BY THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR YEUNG SAID.

THE NEW SYSTEM, HE EXPLAINED, IS AN IMPROVEMENT ON, AND HAS THREE ADVANTAGES OVER, THE SYSTEMS AVAILABLE.

FIRST, IT IS QUICKER TO INSTALL, IS MORE RELIABLE AND REQUIRES LESS ROOM- SECOND, IT WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THREE CAPACITIES WITH UP TO 60 EXTENSIONS, AND THIRD, IT WILL BE ABLE TO PERFORM A NUMBER OF TELEPHONIC TASKS, SUCH AS LAST NUMBER RE-DIAL AND ABBREVIATED DIALLING, THAT WERE BEYOND THE SCOPE OF EARLIER SYSTEMS, HE SAID.

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QUICK ACTION NEEDED FOR SEIZURE - CHING
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THE SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 IS TO EMPOWER THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION WHERE THERE ARE CLEAR BREACHES OF THE LAW CONCERNING HEALTH WARNINGS ON PACKETS OF CIGARETTES, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON HENRY CHING, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN MOVING THE BILL THROUGH ITS SECOND READING, MR CHING SAID THAT ITS PURPOSE WAS SIMPLY TO EMPOWER THE SERVICE TO SEIZE, AND TO DETAIN AS EXHIBITS, PACKETS OF CIGARETTES, INCLUDING THE CIGARETTES IN THEM, WHICH DO NOT CARRY THE HEALTH WARNINGS AND TAR GROUPS RATINGS.

THE LAW WHICH MAKES THESE REQUIREMENTS WILL COME INTO FORCE FROM AUGUST 15 THIS YEAR.

+EXISTING LEGISLATION DOES NOT GIVE THIS POWER TO THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE, AND THE DIFFICULTY IS THAT BY THE TIME THE ASSISTANCE OF THE POLICE HAS BEEN OBTAINED, THE OFFENDING GOODS MAY HAVE BEEN REMOVED,+ MR CHING EXPLAINED.

THE BILL, IF ENACTED, WILL ALSO ENABLE THE SERVICE TO APPLY TO A MAGISTRATE FOR THE FORFEITURE OF PACKETS OF CIGARETTES WHICH DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS, HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TILL AUGUST 10.

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TRIBUTE TO BENNETT AND TOPLEY

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TODAY PAID TRIBUTE TO TWO MEMBERS WHO WILL BE RETIRING FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL -- UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, THE REV. JOYCE BENNETT, AND THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR KENNETH TOPLEY.

SIR EDWARD SAID MISS BENNETT WOULD BE LEAVING HONG KONG THIS SUMMER AFTER +34 YEARS OF SELFLESS DEVOTION TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, INCLUDING SEVEN YEARS OF STALWART SERVICE TO THE COUNCIL+.

+I THINK THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WOULD READILY AGREE THAT HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN HONG KONG HAS BEEN INCALCULABLE. SHE HAS ALSO BROUGHT TO OUR PROCEEDINGS A PASSION AND A WARMTH WHICH HAS CAPTURED THE IMAGINATION OF THE PUBLIC AND DEMANDED THE ATTENTION OF OFFICIALS CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR EDUCATION, AND THROUGH HER USE OF THE SEARCHING SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION, FREQUENTLY KEPT THEM ON THEIR FEET TO PROVE IT,+ SIR EDWARD SAID.

CONTINUING, SIR EDWARD SAID: +IT WAS ONLY APPROPRIATE THEN THAT I SHOULD MOVE ON TO MR TOPLEY WHO HAS, ONLY RECENTLY, SHOWN THIS COUNCIL WHAT FLAIR HE HAS FOR PUBLIC DEBATE.

+MR TOPLEY HAS SERVED THE ADMINISTRATION IN MANY FIELDS, BUT ON THIS COUNCIL HIS ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN, AGAIN, PRIMARILY EDUCATION -- FIRST AS DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THEN AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW POST-SECONDARY AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND NOW AS SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SIR EDWARD SAID +THE TOPLEY YEARS+ HAVE SEEN GREAT PROGRESS IN EDUCATION IN HONG KONG, MARKED BY THE ADVENT OF FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION IN FORM THREE, THE 1978 WHITE PAPER AND THE OVERALL REVIEW OF EDUCATION.

+GREAT PROGRESS, AND THE PROMISE OF MORE, A COMMITMENT WHICH WE SHALL KEEP,+ THE GOVERNOR ADDED.

HE WISHED THEM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND EVERY HAPPINESS.

THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HON ROGER LOBO, SPEAKING OF MISS BENNETT, SAID: +AS A MISSIONARY, SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, PRIEST AND MEMBER OF THIS COUNCIL, MISS BENNETT HAS LEFT HER MARK IN MANY FIELDS OF PUBLIC SERVICE. SHE IS ALSO A GOOD COLLEAGUE.

+YOUNG PEOPLE IN PARTICULAR, OWE A GREAT DEAL TO MISS BENNETT'S TIRELESS EFFORTS BOTH, INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THIS COUNCIL.+

+CONSCIENCE, CONVICTION, COURAGE AND COMMITMENT ARE QUALITIES WHICH HAVE MARKED MISS BENNETT'S CONTRIBUTION TO OUR BUSINESS. WE SHALL MISS HER AND HER PLACE WILL NOT BE EASILY FILLED.+

MR LOBO SAID MR TOPLEY HAD STEERED THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN HONG KONG.

+NO ONE WOULD PRETEND MR TOPLEY HAS HAD AN EASY TASK, AND HIS STOUT DEFENCE OF HIS POLICIES AND HIS WILLINGNESS TO ACCOUNT FOR THEM IN THIS COUNCIL HAS ENRICHED AS WELL AS ENLIVENED OUR PROCEEDINGS,+ MR LOBO SAID.

GOVERNOR TO REPORT ON TALKS TO EXCO
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT HE WOULD BE REPORTING TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON THE SINO-BRITISH TALKS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

SPEAKING TO NEWSMEN AT THE AIRPORT ON HIS RETURN FROM PEKING, SIR EDWARD SAID THERE HAD BEEN ANOTHER TWO USEFUL DAYS OF TALKS.

+AND IT IS ALREADY ANNOUNCED THAT THE NEXT SESSION WILL BE NEXT WEEK,+ HE SAID. +I SHALL BE GOING BACK TO PEKING ON MONDAY.+

SIR EDWARD SAID HE WOULD BE TAKING SOME LEAVE AFTER NEXT WEEK'S SESSION, BUT THAT HE AND THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO CHINA, SIR PERCY CRADOCK, WOULD BE IN LONDON EARLY IN SEPTEMBER TO REVIEW THE POSITION WITH MINISTERS.

+AFTER THAT, I PLAN TO RETURN TO HONG KONG QUITE QUICKLY BECAUSE THE TALKS RESUME IN SEPTEMBER AND I ALSO HAVE TO MAKE MY FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

+SO ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO A BUSY AUTUMN,+ HE ADDED.

SIR EDWARD WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG, SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AND MR TAN GAN, VICE-CHIEF EDITOR OF THE XINHUA NEWS AGENCY (HONG KONG BRANCH).

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GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN CAREERS EDUCATION STRESSED
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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE MORE CAREERS RESOURCES FOR CAREERS EDUCATION AND WILL STEP UP TRAINING FOR CAREERS TEACHERS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, DR JAMES HAYES, WHEN HE AND THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR COLVYN HAYE, JOINTLY OFFICIATED AT THE OPENING OF A TWO-DAY RESIDENTIAL SEMINAR ON CAREERS EDUCATION AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG THIS MORNING.

THE SEMINAR IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SEMINAR, DR HAYES EXPLAINED, WAS TO PROVIDE PARTICIPANTS WITH THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON CAREERS EDUCATION AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN DAY-TO-DAY WORK.

AT A SIMILAR SEMINAR HELD LAST YEAR, IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT A SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT IN CAREERS EDUCATION WAS THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING RESOURCE MATERIALS TO HELP GENERATE CAREERS AWARENESS AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE, AND THIS YEAR'S SEMINAR IS A FOLLOW UP OF THIS IMPORTANT SUBJECT.

PRIOR TO THE SEMINAR, THE PARTICIPANTS WERE ISSUED WITH PRACTICAL EXERCISES FOR STUDENTS IN THE AREA OF CAREERS PREPARATION, COVERING JOB SATISFACTION, JOB EXPLORATION AND CAREERS DECISION-MAKING. TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE LAYOUT OF THESE EXERCISES, A FULL DISCUSSION SESSION WILL TAKE PLACE TOMORROW.

+IN FACT, TAKEN AS A WHOLE, THIS SUBJECT WILL ALSO FORM THE THEME OF TODAY'S LECTURES AND OPEN FORUM. HOPEFULLY, THIS YEAR'S SEMINAR WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR THE PRODUCTION OF A LOCAL CAREERS RESOURCE GUIDE BOOK AVAILABLE TO ALL CAREERS TEACHERS,+ HE SAID.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE SEMINAR, MR COLVYN HAYE POINTED OUT THAT THIS YEAR EACH STANDARD-SIZED AIDED AND GOVERNMENT SCHOOL WILL BE GETTING AN ADDITIONAL GRADUATE TEACHER TO PERMIT THE TIME-TABLING OF CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE.

SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT WITHIN LIMITS OF THE TIME-TABLE EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO ALLOT CAREER TEACHERS ADDITIONAL NON-TEACHING PERIODS TO ENABLE THEM TO CARRY OUT DUTIES SUGGESTED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

+AT LONG LAST WE HAVE SECURED OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF THE VITAL NATURE OF CAREERS EDUCATION BY THIS ADDITION OF STAFF TO ALL STANDARD AIDED AND GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOLS,+ HE ADDED.

MR HAYE FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT HIS DEPARTMENT HAD EXPANDED ITS CAREERS EDUCATION SECTION AND ITS CAREERS OFFICERS WERE WORKING WITH RENEWED ENTHUSIASM AND DEDICATION.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS, MR HAYE SAID: +TOGETHER WE ARE DOING MUCH TO PROVIDE A VITAL SERVICE IN CAREERS EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT FOR SCHOOLS.+

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DISTRICT BOARDS STRENGTHEN FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS * * * *

THE SETTING UP OF DISTRICT BOARDS HAD HELPED STRENGTHEN THE WORK IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS, THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, MR FRED TING, SAID TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY, MR TING SAID THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HAD TAKEN ON A HEAVIER RESPONSIBILITY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS.

THROUGH THE MANPOWER AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES RENDERED BY THE DISTRICT BOARDS, ANTI-NARCOTICS WORK AND PUBLICITY AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL HAD BEEN STRENGTHENED, HE ADDED.

+THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ATTACHING GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO ANTI-NARCOTICS WORK AND PUT IN GREAT EFFORT IN EDUCATING THE YOUNG PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT THIS YEAR'S ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN IN TSUEN WAN EMPHASISED THE EDUCATIONAL ASPECT.

FOUR EDUCATIONAL COMPETITIONS ON SLOGAN, POSTER DESIGN, ESSAY WRITING AND SINGING WERE HELD DURING THE MONTH-LONG CAMPAIGN.

+THE WINNING ENTRIES IN THE POSTER DESIGN AND SLOGAN COMPETITIONS WILL BE USED TO DRIVE HOME THE ANTI-DRUG MESSAGE TO LOCAL STUDENTS,+ HE SAID.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY, WHICH WAS FOLLOWED BY A FOLK SONG CONCERT, WERE THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR GORDON MORTIMER, AND THE PROGRAMME DIRECTOR OF COMMERCIAL RADIO 1, MR CHOW CHUNG.

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TENDERS SOUGHT TO CROWN LAND TENANCY

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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCY OF A PIECE OF CROWN LAND IN YUEN LONG.

THE FUNG CHEUNG ROAD SITE, MEASURING ABOUT 930.3 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR A FEE PAYING PUBLIC CARPARK.

THE TENANCY OF THE SITE IS FOR ONE YEAR AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS IS 12 NOON ON AUGUST 12.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT, THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE (YUEN LONG), YUEN LONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICE, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, YUEN LONG; THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE (KOWLOON WEST), KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD, 10TH FLOOR, KOWLOON.

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URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTIONS FOR PO ON ROAD

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FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JULY 29), THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF PO ON ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED AS RESTRICTED ZONES FROM 7 AM TO 12 MIDNIGHT DAILY:

- * THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY BETWEEN HING WAH STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 25 METRES TO THE WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH PO ON ROAD.
- * THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY BETWEEN HING WAH STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 25 METRES TO THE EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH PO ON ROAD.

WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONES, ALL MOTOR VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES AND THOSE WITH WRITTEN PERMISSIONS FROM THE AUTHORITY, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP AND SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS AND FROM LOADING OR UNLOADING GOODS.

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