



Library

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1980

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

POLICY ADDRESS DEBATE:-

VIGILANCE AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION MUST CONTINUE	1
HONG KONG HAS STRINGENT HEALTH CONTROL MEASURES	3
49 BUS ONLY LANES ON PLANNING BOARD	5
MEASURES TO DEAL WITH JUVENILE OFFENDERS	7
PROBLEMS FORESEEN IN EXTENDING COMPULSORY EDUCATION	9
UPSURGE OF JUVENILE CRIME UNDER FULL STUDY	11
IMPROVEMENTS TO EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ARRANGEMENTS	12
GOOD HOUSING NEWS FOR TWO DESERVING GROUPS	14
GOVERNMENT WILL PRESS CASE FOR HK STUDENTS IN UK	16
PROPOSALS FOR AID TO INDUSTRY HANDLED BY DIVERSIFICATION COMMITTEE	18
REASONS FOR PROPOSED CHANGES TO ABORTION LAW	19
TRIBUTE TO MR BREMRIDGE	20
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR KING'S ROAD SCHEME	20
SHA-TIN TO HOLD FIRST DANCE CONTEST	22
POK FU LAM WATER INTERRUPTION	22

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1980

- 1 -

VIGILANCE AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION MUST CONTINUE
* * * * *

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR JACK CATER, TODAY EMPHASISED THE NEED FOR CONTINUED VIGILANCE AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION DESPITE SOME ENCOURAGING SIGNS.

WINDING UP THE DEBATE ON THE MOTION OF THANKS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS, SIR JACK NOTED THAT THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARRESTED DAILY HAD DROPPED FROM 400 BETWEEN OCTOBER 1 AND 23 TO 25 A DAY OVER THE LAST SEVEN DAYS.

+UNDOUBTEDLY THE HIGH LEVEL OF ACTIVITY BY THE CHINESE SECURITY FORCES HAS MADE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THIS DRAMATIC CHANGE AND I SHOULD LIKE TO RECORD MY APPRECIATION OF THEIR COOPERATION AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE,+ HE SAID.

OUR MEASURES TOO WERE HAVING THEIR EFFECT: SIR JACK SAID REPORTS SUGGESTED THAT NEWS OF THE MEASURES HAD REACHED THE COMMUNES OF SOUTH CHINA - NO PROSPECTS OF WORK, NO CHANCE OF OBTAINING SERVICES FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND A REAL RISK OF DETECTION AND REMOVAL - AND AS A CONSEQUENCE HONG KONG HAD LOST ITS ATTRACTION.

+BUT THESE ARE STILL EARLY DAYS AND WE MUST ABOVE ALL AVOID COMPLACENCY,+ SIR JACK SAID. +THERE MUST BE NO RELAXATION OF OUR VIGILANCE.+

THE SECURITY FORCES, HE SAID, WILL REMAIN ON THE ALERT AND WILL BE STRENGTHENED NEXT YEAR BY ADDITIONAL TROOPS AS A FIFTH BATTALION IS FORMED.

IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, POLICE AND LABOUR DEPARTMENT WOULD BE EQUALLY ACTIVE IN SEEKING OUT THESE UNWELCOME ILLEGAL WOULD-BE RESIDENTS.

REFERRING TO ILLEGALS FROM PLACES OTHER THAN CHINA, SIR JACK MADE IT CLEAR THAT THESE PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LIABLE TO REMOVAL IF DETECTED, UNLIKE THOSE FROM CHINA +REACHING BASE.+

+THERE IS THEREFORE NO QUESTION OF BAD FAITH OR RETROACTIVE TREATMENT ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID. +IT IS SIMPLY A QUESTION OF THE PREVIOUS POLICY CONTINUING UNCHANGED.+

SIR JACK NOTED THAT TO ALLOW ANY FORM OF AMNESTY FOR SUCH PEOPLE WOULD NOT ONLY BE UNFAIR TO THOSE WHO HAVE FOLLOWED LAWFUL PROCEDURES, BUT WOULD SET A PRECEDENT WHICH WOULD NOT BE LOST, FOR EXAMPLE ON THE TENS OF THOUSANDS KNOWN TO BE WAITING IN MACAU.

+AT THE SAME TIME, I SHOULD LIKE TO REASSURE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, WHO MAY HAVE MISGIVINGS, THAT SUCH PERSONS WILL NOT BE REMOVED HASTILY NOR WITHOUT FULL CONSIDERATION OF THEIR PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES: IF GENUINE HARDSHIP AND DISTRESS WOULD RESULT, THEN THEIR CASE WILL BE HANDLED WITH UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHY.+

/TURNING TO

TURNING TO A SUGGESTION FROM THE HON ALEX WU THAT INTERPRETATION FACILITIES IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BE EXTENDED TO MANDARIN, SIR JACK THOUGHT IT BEST TO WAIT UNTIL MORE OF OUR HONG KONG PEOPLE CAN SPEAK AND UNDERSTAND MANDARIN BEFORE CONSIDERING SUCH AN EXTENSION.

+IN THE MEANTIME,+ HE SAID, +WE SHALL BE MAKING STRENUOUS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE FACILITIES FOR SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION FROM CANTONESE TO ENGLISH AND VICE VERSA, NOT ONLY IN THIS CHAMBER BUT IN OTHER MEETING ROOMS.+

COMMENTING ON A SUGGESTION FROM THE HON LYDIA DUNN, SIR JACK SAID MISS DUNN HAD A VALID POINT IN PROPOSING THAT GOVERNMENT SERIOUSLY CONSIDER, OR RECONSIDER SUGGESTIONS MADE IN THE PAST TO HIVE OFF SOME GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES.

+WE SHOULD ALSO POSITIVELY SEEK OUT AREAS WHICH MIGHT WITH ADVANTAGE BE 'HIVED-OFF' EITHER TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR OR SOME OTHER REGIME,+ HE SAID. +NOT NECESSARILY, NOR ONLY, IN THE BROAD AREAS SUGGESTED IN THE PAST, BUT ANY PART OF GOVERNMENT WHICH COULD MORE EFFICIENTLY, MORE ECONOMICALLY BE 'HIVED-OFF' IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH BETTER SERVICE.+

SUCH A TASK, HE WARNED, WOULD TAKE TIME BUT SHOULD NEVERTHELESS BE UNDERTAKEN.

ON ANOTHER POINT RAISED BY MISS DUNN, SIR JACK SAID THAT THE WORKING GROUP REVIEWING UNOFFICIAL PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT BOARDS AND COMMITTEES HAD COMPLETED ITS STUDY.

THE GROUP FOUND THAT, ON THE WHOLE, THE SYSTEM WAS WORKING WELL AND THAT A COMPREHENSIVE CROSS-SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY WAS MAKING AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG ACROSS A BROAD SPECTRUM OF GOVERNMENT'S ACTIVITIES.

+IT WAS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THERE REMAINS A NEED FOR CONTINUING AND INCREASING EFFORTS TO BE MADE TO LOCATE SUITABLE AND WILLING MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO COME FORWARD SO THAT THOSE ALREADY SERVING DO NOT FIND THEMSELVES REQUIRED TO SIT ON TOO MANY COMMITTEES,+ HE ADDED.

SIR JACK SAID THE GROUP FOUND THAT OF 307 STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES, 299 WERE STILL SERVING A USEFUL PURPOSE, THE REMAINDER HAVING COMPLETED A PARTICULAR TASK- THAT THE 75 PER CENT UNOFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP QUOTED BY MISS DUNN WAS ABOUT RIGHT- AND THAT THE INPUT FROM UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WAS EFFECTIVE AND APPRECIATED.

SIR JACK SAID THAT IN ORDER THAT THE SYSTEM MIGHT CONTINUE TO SERVE CURRENT NEEDS, IT WAS PROPOSED TO UNDERTAKE REGULAR REVIEWS EVERY TWO YEARS - THE FIRST TAKING PLACE NEXT JANUARY.

+AS PART OF THIS BIENNIAL EXERCISE, HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS WILL BE ASKED WHETHER BOARDS AND COMMITTEES IN THEIR AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY CAN BE CHAIRED BY AN UNOFFICIAL, IF THEY ARE NOT ALREADY,+ HE SAID.

- 3 -

SIR JACK EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO THE UNOFFICIALS FOR THE QUALITY OF THEIR SPEECHES AND FOR THEIR DEVOTION TO THE SERVICE OF THE COUNCIL AND OF THE PUBLIC.

HE ALSO EMPHASISED HIS APPRECIATION TO MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE FOR THE PATIENCE AND DEDICATION WITH WHICH THEY CARRIED OUT THEIR DUTIES, AND WARMLY WELCOMED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDING COMMISSION CONCERNING STAFF CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

HONG KONG HAS STRINGENT HEALTH CONTROL MEASURES
* * * * *

HONG KONG HAS BEEN FREE FROM MAJOR EPIDEMICS FOR A LONG TIME BECAUSE OF THE VERY STRINGENT CONTROL MEASURES BY THE HEALTH AUTHORITY AGAINST COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR THE HON K.L. THONG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THIS CONTROL MECHANISM, HE SAID, IS EMBODIED IN A COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM CONSISTING OF A NETWORK OF MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CLINICS, SPECIALIST CLINICS, CASUALTY DEPARTMENTS, OUTPATIENT CLINICS AND PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS.

+THIS SYSTEM OF PREVENTION AND CONTROL IS FURTHER COMPLEMENTED BY THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT LABORATORIES, HEALTH OFFICES AND REGIONAL HOSPITALS FOR LABORATORY DIAGNOSIS, ISOLATION, INVESTIGATION AND TREATMENT OF CONTACTS AND CASES,+ HE ADDED.

DR THONG WAS COMMENTING ON EARLIER SUGGESTIONS BY DR THE HON HARRY FANG IN THE DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS, THAT HEALTH SCREENING BE PROVIDED FOR IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA TO DETECT AND PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

+AS LONG AS THIS CONTROL MECHANISM IS EFFICIENT AND WELL MAINTAINED,+ SAID THE DIRECTOR, +THERE IS LITTLE DANGER OF ENDEMIC DISEASES AFFECTING THE COMMUNITY IN EPIDEMIC PROPORTIONS.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT ONE ESSENTIAL FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE EFFICIENT WORKING OF THE CONTROL MECHANISM WAS THAT IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA HAVE SHOWN MUCH THE SAME PREVALENCE AND PATTERN OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AS IN HONG KONG.

HE ADDED THAT THIS PATTERN HAD OVER THE YEARS REMAINED BY AND LARGE SIMILAR AND CONSTANT.

THIS, DR THONG EXPLAINED, WAS TO BE EXPECTED BECAUSE OF THE CLOSE GEOGRAPHICAL AND IDENTICAL CLIMATIC AND ETHNIC FACTORS AND THE PRACTICALLY FREE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE OVER THE YEARS TO AND FRO ACROSS THE COMMON BORDER.

+THUS, FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA MAY BE REGARDED AS A HOMOGENOUS GROUP WHICH CAN AND IS MOST CONVENIENTLY AND APPROPRIATELY COVERED BY THE NORMAL CONTROL MECHANISM WHICH I HAVE JUST DESCRIBED,+ HE ADDED.

/FROM TIME

FROM TIME TO TIME, ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE IS AN INFLUX OF IMMIGRANTS, THERE MAY BE AN INCREASED INCIDENCE IN CERTAIN ENDEMIC DISEASES.

HOWEVER, SUCH TEMPORARY INCREASE, SAID DR THONG, HAS BEEN AND CAN BE CONTAINED BY THE NORMAL SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL MECHANISM.

IN THE RECENT OUTBREAK OF RABIES, FOR INSTANCE, THE FIRST HUMAN CASE WAS DIAGNOSED CLINICALLY AND CONFIRMED BY LABORATORY METHODS IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT THE DISEASE HAS BEEN ABSENT FOR A QUARTER OF A CENTURY, HE SAID.

DETECTION IN TURN IMMEDIATELY SET IN MOTION, AND WITHOUT PANIC, THE NECESSARY PREVENTIVE AND OTHER CONTROL MEASURES ON THE PART OF BOTH THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AND THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, HE ADDED.

DR THONG POINTED OUT THAT RABIES IS A COMMUNICABLE DISEASE WHICH PRIMARILY AFFECTS WARM-BLOODED MAMMALS USUALLY OF THE FOUR-FOOTED VARIETY WITH NOTABLE EXCEPTIONS.

+ITS EPIDEMIOLOGY IS SUCH THAT ANY HEALTH SCREENING DIRECTED AT SYMPTOMLESS IMMIGRANTS WOULD BE QUITE UNPRODUCTIVE AND WOULD NOT BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF GOOD PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE,+ HE SAID.

THE DIRECTOR SAID THAT IN THE AREA OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROLS, HONG KONG HAS EXCELLED IN COMPARISON WITH EVEN THE MOST ADVANCED COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD.

+THIS ACHIEVEMENT IS ALL THE MORE SIGNIFICANT IN THAT WE HAVE BEEN AN OASIS FREE FROM MAJOR EPIDEMICS IN THE MIDST OF TERRITORIES WHERE COMMUNICABLE DISEASES OF PUBLIC HEALTH IMPORTANCE EXIST EITHER IN EPIDEMIC OR ENDEMIC FORM,+ HE SAID.

THE ACHIEVEMENT IS DUE TO THE EFFECTIVE HEALTH SCREENING AND HEALTH EDUCATION ACTIVITIES, WHICH HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THE PORT HEALTH AND PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.

+THAT THIS SYSTEM HAS PROVEN RELIABLE AND EFFICIENT FOR A CONSIDERABLE LENGTH OF TIME IN THE PAST, HAVING WITHSTOOD THE IMPACT OF CONSTANT AS WELL AS SUDDEN AND REPEATED MASSIVE INFLUX OF IMMIGRANTS, IS STRONG TESTIMONY THAT IT IS STILL OUR BEST DEFENCE AGAINST EPIDEMICS OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES,+ SAID THE DIRECTOR.

COMMENTING ON DR FANG'S OTHER SUGGESTION FOR A CORPORATE BOARD SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT IN HOSPITALS, DR THONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY BEEN CONSIDERING SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS IN THE COURSE OF ITS REVIEW OF THE STRUCTURE AND SYSTEM OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR SOME TIME.

THE PROPOSED SYSTEM, KNOWN AS THE +COGWHEEL SYSTEM+, ENVISAGED THAT A REGIONAL HOSPITAL BE MANAGED BY A MANAGEMENT TEAM CONSISTING OF A CHAIRMAN WHO WILL ALSO BE CHAIRMAN OF A MEDICAL COMMITTEE ELECTED AND APPOINTED FROM AMONGST CONSULTANTS, HE SAID.

THE TERM OF OFFICE FOR THE CHAIRMAN WHO WILL IN EFFECT FUNCTION AS A PART-TIME ADMINISTRATOR TO THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL, SHOULD BE THREE TO FIVE YEARS AND THAT THE CHAIRMANSHIP SHOULD BE ROTATED AMONG SUITABLY QUALIFIED CONSULTANTS.

THE CHAIRMAN WOULD BE SUPPORTED BY A SENIOR HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR AND A CHIEF NURSING OFFICER.

WITHIN THIS SYSTEM THERE WILL BE OTHER SMALLER DIVISIONAL COMMITTEES CONSISTING OF CONSULTANTS AND OTHER PRACTITIONERS GROUPED INTO SPECIALTIES, DEALING WITH VARIOUS SUBJECTS IN THE HOSPITAL.

THE CHAIRMEN OF SUCH DIVISIONAL COMMITTEES WILL BE REPRESENTED ON THE MAIN MEDICAL COMMITTEE.

IN THIS WAY, ALL INTERESTS ARE REPRESENTED AND COORDINATED AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MANAGEMENT IS GIVEN TO THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

DR THONG POINTED OUT THAT THIS IS A RELATIVELY NEW CONCEPT IN HONG KONG AND THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT AND SUCCESS OF SUCH A SYSTEM WILL DEPEND ON A VARIETY OF FACTORS, SUCH AS SELECTING INDIVIDUALS AMONG THE CONSULTANTS AND OTHER STAFF OF THE RIGHT CALIBRE.

HE SAID IT IS THE INTENTION TO CARRY OUT A PILOT PROJECT IN A SELECTED HOSPITAL BASED ON THE COGWHEEL SYSTEM AS SOON AS IT IS PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE AND TO EXTEND GRADUALLY TO OTHER HOSPITALS IF THE SCHEME PROVES TO BE WORKABLE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

49 BUS ONLY LANES ON PLANNING BOARD

* * * *

THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS TO DEVELOP MOST, IF NOT ALL OF THE 49 ROUTES FOR BUS ONLY LANES, IDENTIFIED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, OVER A PERIOD OF ABOUT 18 MONTHS.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATE ON THE MOTION OF THANKS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS.

MR JONES SAID FEASIBILITY STUDIES HAD ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED ON FIVE SCHEMES ON THE MAINLAND, WHICH WERE AWAITING IMPLEMENTATION, AND BASIC DATA COLLECTION WORK HAD STARTED ON SIX OTHER SCHEMES.

ON HONG KONG ISLAND, THREE IMPORTANT SCHEMES AFFECTING KING'S ROAD, CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND POK FU LAM ROAD ARE MOVING AHEAD AND THE FIRST TWO WILL BE FULLY INTRODUCED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, HE SAID.

COMMENTING ON POINTS RAISED BY THE UNOFFICIALS IN THE DEBATE, MR JONES SAID HE DETECTED A +GRUDGING RECOGNITION+, IN THEIR SPEECHES, THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S RECENT PERFORMANCE IN PROVIDING NEW FORMED LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT +MIGHT, AFTER ALL, NOT HAVE BEEN TOO BAD+. HE ASSURED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO DO ITS BEST.

/HE REFUTED

HE REFUTED SOME OF THE CRITICISMS OF THE HON T.S. LO WHOSE SPEECH, HE SAID, FOR HIM AT LEAST, +HAD ABOUT IT A CURIOUSLY NOSTALGIC FLAVOUR OF DEJA VU, FOR VIRTUALLY ALL THE MATTERS HE RAISED HAVE BEEN THOUGHT ABOUT AND DEBATED LONG AND HARD OVER THE YEARS, BOTH WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION AND IN THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.+

MR JONES SAID MR LO HAD, IN MAKING GREAT PLAY WITH PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE DEVOTED TO ROADS AND RAILWAYS, NOT MENTIONED THAT ACTUAL EXPENDITURE ON THEM THROUGH THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME HAD, IN FACT, BEEN INCREASING SUBSTANTIALLY.

FURTHERMORE, MR LO DID NOT MAKE IT CLEAR THAT BY 'RAILWAYS' HE WAS REFERRING ONLY TO THE KCR AND OMITTED THE MTR +PERHAPS BECAUSE, TO DRAW ATTENTION TO MTR EXPENDITURE ON THIS PARTICULAR OCCASION WOULD RATHER SPOIL HIS ARGUMENT,+ MR JONES SAID.

MR JONES POINTED OUT THAT TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON ROADS AND RAILWAYS, INCLUDING THE MTR, WAS ABOUT \$2 800 MILLION LAST YEAR AND WOULD BE ABOUT \$2 600 MILLION THIS YEAR, +NOT A BAD RECORD BY ANY STANDARDS+.

STILL ON THE ISSUE OF THE MTR, AND IN REPLY TO THE HON DAVID NEWBIGGING, MR JONES SAID A GREAT DEAL OF WORK WAS CURRENTLY BEING DONE ON THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE TRANSPORT SYSTEM MOST SUITABLE FOR THE HONG KONG ISLAND CORRIDOR, AND IT WAS HOPED THAT A DECISION WOULD BE REACHED IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

HE ADDED THAT, IN THE LONGER TERM, CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO POSSIBILITIES FOR FUTURE HARBOUR CROSSINGS, AND MR NEWBIGGING'S IDEA OF A RAIL LINK FROM EASTERN HONG KONG ISLAND TO THE EXISTING MTR AT KWUN TONG WAS NOT BEING LOST SIGHT OF.

ON OTHER TRANSPORT MATTERS, MR JONES SAID A CONSULTANCY WAS JUST ABOUT TO BE LET ON MEANS TO IMPROVE THE OPERATIONS OF THE CONTAINER TRADE GENERALLY, TO INCREASE THE THROUGHPUT AT THE CONTAINER PORT AND TO ALLEVIATE CONGESTION IN ITS ENVIRONS.

CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO DEVELOPMENTS SIMILAR TO THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE JUBILEE STREET PIER RECENTLY APPROVED, WHERE PRACTICABLE, AND ANY ARRANGEMENTS MADE WOULD PROBABLY BE INCLUDED IN FRANCHISES TO BE ISSUED UNDER THE NEW FERRIES SERVICES BILL UNDER PREPARATION.

HE SAID PROVIDING MORE CAR PARKING SPACES AS WOULD MEET DEMAND IN VERY CONGESTED AREAS WOULD ONLY WORSEN CONGESTION, AND WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WAS TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT OFF-STREET SPACES TO MATCH THE CAPACITY OF THE ROADS. EXCESSIVE ILLEGAL PARKING ON THE STREETS WILL HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH BY MORE ENFORCEMENT ACTION, HE SAID.

HE AGREED WITH MR LO THAT A LARGE PART, +IF NOT THE GREATER PART OF HONG KONG'S TRANSPORT PROBLEMS+ STEM FROM THE GROWING NUMBERS OF VEHICLES ON THE ROADS, PARTICULARLY PRIVATE CARS -- THERE WAS A NET INCREASE OF 17 PER CENT OR SOME 27 000 CARS REGISTERED OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS -- AND MEASURES WOULD NEED TO BE TAKEN BEFORE LONG TO CURB THIS GROWTH.

AS TO MR LO'S CALL FOR +A STRONG TRANSPORT SECRETARIAT+, MR JONES SAID THERE WAS UNDER-ESTIMATION OF THE MEASURES THAT HAD ALREADY BEEN TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE CO-ORDINATING MACHINERY AMONG THE DEPARTMENTS.

APART FROM THE TAC, THERE WAS A STRONG OVERALL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE AT HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OR HEAD OF DIVISION LEVEL, UNDER WHICH WAS A NETWORK OF INTER-RELATED INTER-DEPARTMENTAL GROUPS DEALING WITH PARTICULAR SUBJECTS.

THE SYSTEM IS NOW WORKING WELL AND IT IS PERIODICALLY EXAMINED TO SEE WHETHER FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS CAN BE MADE, HE SAID.

MR JONES ALSO WELCOMED THE SUPPORT GIVEN FOR THE NEW 'KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN' CAMPAIGN AND SAID WAYS AND MEANS FOR STRONGER ENFORCEMENT AND HEAVIER FINES WERE BEING EXPLORED.

THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE REFUSE STORAGE CHAMBERS IN ALL NEW BUILDINGS, AS SUGGESTED BY THE HON F.K. HU, WAS ALSO BEING GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION, HE SAID.

-----0-----

MEASURES TO DEAL WITH JUVENILE OFFENDERS

* * * * *

THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME JUVENILE COURTS WILL BE INCREASED TO FOUR BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JOHN GRIFFITHS TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING IN THE DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS, MR GRIFFITHS SAID SINCE SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, A NEW JUVENILE COURT STARTED SITTING TWO DAYS A WEEK IN TSUEN WAN MAGISTRACY TO DEAL WITH ALL JUVENILE CASES ARISING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES EXCEPT FOR SAI KUNG.

THIS WAS IN ADDITION TO THE ONE IN THE SAN PO KONG MAGISTRACY, SITTING FULL-TIME AND DEALING WITH CASES ARISING IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, AND THE ONE IN CAUSEWAY BAY MAGISTRACY, SITTING THREE DAYS A WEEK AND DEALING WITH HONG KONG AND OUTLYING ISLANDS.

FURTHERMORE, MR GRIFFITHS SAID, A NEW COURT ROOM IS PRESENTLY BEING CONSTRUCTED ON THE TOP FLOOR OF CAUSEWAY BAY MAGISTRACY AND IN DUE COURSE THIS WILL BECOME A FULL-TIME JUVENILE COURT.

HE ALSO HOPED THAT ANOTHER JUVENILE COURT IN NORTH KOWLOON MAGISTRACY WOULD BEGIN TO SIT BY THE END OF 1980, BRINGING TO FOUR, THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME JUVENILE COURTS IN OPERATION.

THIS, MR GRIFFITHS SAID, WOULD HELP TO REDUCE THE WORKLOAD OF THE MAGISTRACIES DEALING WITH JUVENILE CASES TO MANAGEABLE PROPORTIONS AND AVOID THE PROBLEMS TO WHICH THE HON MISS JOYCE BENNETT HAD EARLIER IN THE DEBATE MADE REFERENCE.

+OF COURSE THE PRIME OBJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT MUST BE TO PREVENT JUVENILE CRIME OCCURRING AT ALL, FOR PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE. BUT TO HOPE TO PREVENT IT ENTIRELY IS PERHAPS TO WISH FOR PARADISE.

/+SO THE

+SO THE JUVENILE COURTS MUST INEVITABLY CONTINUE TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT TWO-FOLD ROLE, BOTH TO PUNISH OFFENDERS AND AT THE SAME TIME, IF POSSIBLE, TO PREVENT THE REPETITION OF OFFENCES BY YOUNG PEOPLE. TO FULFIL THESE ROLES THEY MUST BE PROPERLY STAFFED AND ACCOMMODATED,+ HE SAID.

MR GRIFFITHS NOTED THAT THE JOB OF DEALING WITH JUVENILE OFFENDERS WAS A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT AND DELICATE ONE. +IT REQUIRES SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF INSIGHT IN THE MAGISTRATE ENTRUSTED WITH THE TASK, SO THAT THE RIGHT BLEND OF FIRMNESS AND UNDERSTANDING, OF AUTHORITY AND INFORMALITY IS ACHIEVED.+

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THERE ARE, FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS, ONLY LIMITED NUMBER OF MAGISTRATES AVAILABLE WHO HAVE THE REQUIRED QUALITIES AND TEMPERAMENT SUITABLE FOR THE SPECIALISED WORK OF THE JUVENILE COURTS.

ON COURT ACCOMMODATION, MR GRIFFITHS REVEALED THAT IT WAS PROPOSED THAT AS AND WHEN NEW COURT BUILDINGS WERE BUILT, FOR INSTANCE DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS OR SO AT KWUNG TONG, TUEN MUN, SHA TIN AND WAN CHAI, SEPARATE JUVENILE COURT FACILITIES WOULD BE INCLUDED IN EACH.

REPLYING TO OTHER POINTS RAISED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, MR GRIFFITHS SAID A NEW DRAFT BILL ON PROPERTY LAW WAS PREPARED EARLY LAST MONTH AND SINCE THEN HAD BEEN CIRCULATING FOR COMMENTS. THE BILL REPLACED THE ONE WHICH WAS DROPPED ON THE ADVICE OF THE LAW SOCIETY THAT IT WAS LIKELY TO CAUSE CHAOS AND WOULD REQUIRE ALL SOLICITORS DOING CONVEYANCING IN HONG KONG TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH A TOTALLY NEW SYSTEM.

THE PROGRESS OF THE NEW BILL NOW DEPENDS ON THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF COMMENTS FROM VARIOUS INTERESTED GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND OUTSIDE BODIES SUCH AS THE LAW SOCIETY, HE SAID.

HE ALSO DISCLOSED THAT THE FIRST DRAFT OF A NEW STAMP BILL WAS COMPLETED AND WAS NOW OUT FOR CONSULTATION.

THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION AIMS TO REMOVE THE MANY ANOMALIES PRESENTLY EXISTING IN THE LAW WITHOUT CHANGING THE PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING THE PRESENT ORDINANCES. +FOR THE INTENTION IS THAT THE LIABILITY TO DUTY AND THE PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH THIS IS BASED WILL REMAIN THE SAME AS AT PRESENT,+ HE SAID.

MR GRIFFITHS ALSO OUTLINED THE CAUSES OF SO-CALLED DELAYS IN BRINGING FORWARD LEGISLATION.

+A GROWING VOLUME OF LEGISLATION HONG KONG CERTAINLY HAS, AND THAT IS ONE THING- BUT THE TREND IN ADDITION IS TOWARDS INCREASINGLY MORE COMPLEX AND SOPHISTICATED LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE SOLUTIONS FOR THE INCREASING COMPLEX SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WITH WHICH WE HAVE TO DEAL.

+THIS TREND, WHICH AFFECTS THE WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT AND NOT JUST LAWYERS, PLACES INCREASING DEMANDS ON EVERYBODY'S TIME AND ABILITIES.

+MOREOVER UNLESS LIMITLESS RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE, IT ALSO NECESSITATES A BALANCING OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES AGAINST COMPETING NEEDS,+ HE SAID.

/MR GRIFFITHS

MR GRIFFITHS ALSO NOTED THAT IF LEGISLATION WAS TO BE EFFECTIVE, IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT AS WIDE A CONSULTATION AS POSSIBLE SHOULD TAKE PLACE NOT ONLY AT THE POLICY-MAKING STAGE BUT ALSO WHEN POLICY HAD BEEN ENSHRINED IN A DRAFT BILL. SUCH CONSULTATION AS WELL AS THAT WITHIN GOVERNMENT TOOK TIME.

+ALL THIS BEING SAID, NEVERTHELESS A SHORTAGE OF OLDER AND MORE EXPERIENCED STAFF DOES EXIST IN THE DRAFTING DIVISION AND THIS INEVITABLY CAUSES SOME DELAY,+ HE ADDED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH THERE WAS A SHORTAGE OF MORE EXPERIENCED DRAFTSMEN. IN THE MEANTIME THEREFORE IT WAS NECESSARY FOR HIS DEPARTMENT TO CONTINUE THE SLOWER PROCESS OF PRODUCING THEIR OWN SENIOR AND EXPERIENCED DRAFTSMEN BY IN-SERVICE TRAINING OF THE JUNIOR MEMBERS OF THE DRAFTING DIVISION BY THEIR SENIOR COLLEAGUES, SO THAT THEY MAY EXPAND AND DEVELOP THEIR INDIVIDUAL CAPABILITIES WHILST ACQUIRING THE NECESSARY EXPERIENCE AND COMPETENCE TO TACKLE THE MORE DEMANDING AND DIFFICULT DRAFTING WORK.

+BUT SUCH SUPERVISION AND TRAINING IN ITSELF IS THE CAUSE OF SOME DELAY. MOREOVER, SOME, WHEN THEY ARE TRAINED, MAY NOT REMAIN IN HONG KONG FOR A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT REASONS, SO IT WILL HAVE TO BE A CONTINUING PROCESS.

+ONE AIM OF THE REORGANISATION OF MY CHAMBERS RECENTLY APPROVED BY THE FINANCE AND ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEES OF THIS COUNCIL, WAS TO CREATE A CAREER STRUCTURE DESIGNED TO HOLD IN HONG KONG SOME OF THE VERY ABLE BUT COMPARATIVELY INEXPERIENCED YOUNG LAWYERS PRESENTLY EMPLOYED AS MEMBERS OF MY CHAMBERS,+ HE SAID.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

PROBLEMS FORESEEN IN EXTENDING COMPULSORY EDUCATION

* * * * *

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON KEN TOPLEY, ADMITTED TODAY THAT SECONDARY SCHOOLS WERE BEGINNING TO ENCOUNTER PROBLEMS OF DISCIPLINE AND INDIFFERENCE AND THE CONNECTION WITH COMPULSORY EDUCATION SEEMED OBVIOUS.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THE MOTION OF THANKS TO THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS, MR TOPLEY POINTED OUT THAT THE EXTENSION OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION WAS NOT EXPECTED TO BE PAINLESS.

+WE HAVE, WITH OUR EYES OPEN, TAKEN PROBLEMS FROM OUR STREETS AND TRANSFERRED THEM TO THE CLASSROOM.

+WE HAVE GIVEN OURSELVES A HARD TASK BY LENGTHENING THE SPAN OVER WHICH CHILDREN ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN SCHOOL AND NOT AT WORK,+ HE SAID.

THE INCREASE IN JUVENILE CRIME, MR TOPLEY THOUGHT, COULD NOT BE DUE TO THE EXTENSION OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION. THE TREND ESTABLISHED ITSELF BEFORE COMPULSORY EDUCATION WAS INTRODUCED.

/MR TOPLEY

MR TOPLEY BELIEVED THAT THE MAIN THRUST TO RESOLVING THE MANY PROBLEMS SHOULD BE TOWARD MAKING SCHOOL MORE ATTRACTIVE RATHER THAN A PRISON FOR THE UNWILLING.

+WE ARE AT PRESENT SEEING TO THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK. WE ARE CONTEMPLATING A WHOLESALE RESTRUCTURING OF THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND SHALL TRY TO FIND OTHER WAYS OF MAKING MORAL EDUCATION MORE EFFECTIVE,+ HE SAID.

THE DIRECTOR SUGGESTED THAT THERE MAY BE NEED OF SPECIAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS CLOSE TO THE SCHOOLS FOR PUPILS WHO ARE, HOPEFULLY, TEMPORARILY RECALCITRANT.

A REGISTER OF ALL PUPILS, HE SAID, WOULD BE EXPENSIVE BUT A POWERFUL GUIDE FOR TRACKING THEIR PROGRESS THROUGH THE SYSTEM.

SPEAKING ON THE ROLE OF PARENTS, MR TOPLEY SAID: +WE HOPE BY REQUIRING ALL CHILDREN TO STUDY UNTIL THEY ARE 15 THAT THEY WILL BE BETTER PREPARED FOR LIFE BUT NOT ALL PARENTS SEE THEIR CHILDREN AS OTHER THAN A KIND OF INVESTMENT IN THE FAMILY.

+THERE ARE OTHER ASPECTS. SOCIETY AND THE CHILDREN THEMSELVES HAVE THEIR OWN CLAIMS. NOT ALL CHILDREN WISH TO OR ARE CAPABLE OF MEETING THEIR PARENTS' AMBITIONS. THEY NEED A DIFFERENT KIND OF EDUCATION TO ENABLE THEM TO REALISE THEMSELVES AND TO FIND THEIR OWN PLACE IN SOCIETY. THEIR PARENTS NEED TO RECOGNISE THIS. ONLY THEN CAN THE SCHOOL SYLLABI FIT THE NEEDS OF OUR CHILDREN.+

TURNING TO SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK, MR TOPLEY SAID IT SHOULD BE SEEN IN CONTEXT WITH THE FOLLOWING STATISTICS:

FOR THE SIX TO 11 AGE GROUP, ATTENDANCE IN DAY SCHOOLS ROSE FROM 98 PER CENT IN 1975 TO 99 PER CENT IN 1977, AND REACHED 100 PER CENT IN 1978.

IN 1977, BEFORE THE SECONDARY SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION WAS ABOLISHED, THE PROPORTION OF PRIMARY 6 LEAVERS WHO PROCEEDED TO FORM 1 WAS 85 PER CENT. THIS ROSE TO 96 PER CENT IN 1978 WHEN JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION BECAME FREE, AND TO 97 PER CENT IN 1979 WHEN JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION BECAME COMPULSORY. IN 1979, THE OVERALL PROPORTION OF 12 AND 13 YEAR OLDS ATTENDING DAY AND EVENING SCHOOLS WAS 96 PER CENT.

DURING THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1979 TO AUGUST 1980, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATED MORE THAN 13 000 CASES OF NON-ATTENDANCE IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND 3 000 CASES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

EXCLUDING 2 000 PRIMARY AND 2 300 SECONDARY PUPILS WHO WERE UNTRACEABLE, OVER-AGED OR SICK, ABOUT WHOM NO FURTHER ACTION COULD BE TAKEN, 93 PER CENT OF THE PRIMARY PUPILS AND 72 PER CENT OF THE SECONDARY PUPILS WERE FOUND TO HAVE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER SCHOOL OR WERE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL AS A RESULT.

ON THE DEPARTMENT'S STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS, MR TOPLEY SAID HE WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH THEIR DEDICATION AND THE EFFECTIVE WORK THEY WERE DOING AND HE WAS CONFIDENT OF THE VERY FORCEFUL CONTRIBUTION WHICH THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE WHEN AT FULL STRENGTH.

THE NUMBER OF SUCH OFFICERS IS EXPECTED TO RISE TO 148 BY JANUARY 1981 AND TO 180 BY SEPTEMBER 1981.

+AS REGARDS SECONDARY SCHOOLS, OUR PLANS CALL FOR 90 SOCIAL WORKERS AND IN FACT THERE ARE 87 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS IN POSTS. WE SHALL KEEP A CAREFUL CHECK UPON THE PROGRESS OF THE SCHEME,+ MR TOPLEY SAID.

COMMENTING ON THE HON ALEX WU'S REMARKS ABOUT THE TEACHING OF MANDARIN, HE SAID A PILOT SCHEME WAS NOW UNDER WAY.

THE DEPARTMENT IS OFFERING TRAINING COURSES THIS YEAR FOR SOME 160 SERVING TEACHERS TO ENABLE A START TO BE MADE ON THE SCHEME IN 20 PILOT SCHOOLS AND ABOUT 80 VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS IN PRIMARY 4 IN SEPTEMBER 1981 AND GRADUALLY EXTEND TO FORM 3.

-----o-----

UPSURGE OF JUVENILE CRIME UNDER FULL STUDY

* * * * *

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON DENIS BRAY, SAID TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ADOPTED A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO STUDY THE SUDDEN UPSURGE IN JUVENILE CRIME IN THE LAST TWO YEARS.

THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE HAD INSTITUTED A +MULTI-PRONGED INVESTIGATION+ AND HAD ALREADY CONSULTED WIDELY ON THE SUBJECT, HE SAID.

MR BRAY WAS SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THE MOTION OF THANKS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGED SEVEN TO 15 PROSECUTED PER 100 000 OF THE POPULATION IN THAT AGE GROUP HAD RISEN FROM A STEADY 150-200 ANNUALLY IN 1964-78 TO 300 LAST YEAR AND PROBABLY 500 THIS YEAR.

THE STATISTICS CLEARLY NEED FURTHER INVESTIGATION FOR WE ARE NOT MUCH NEARER TO IDENTIFYING THE CAUSES OF THE UPSURGE YET, HE SAID.

MR BRAY SAID THE HEAD OF A TEAM FROM THE SOCIAL RESEARCH CENTRE OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY WHICH IN 1973 UNDERTOOK A SCIENTIFIC SURVEY ON THE CAUSES OF JUVENILE CRIME AND DELINQUENCY HAD BEEN CONTINUING WORK IN THIS AREA AND HAD JUST THIS YEAR PRODUCED A FOLLOW-UP STUDY ON +FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS AND DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR+.

THE HEAD OF THE TEAM, DR AGNES NG, HAD ALSO HELPED TO DRAW UP A PROGRAMME OF STUDY AIMED SPECIALLY AT THE NEW SITUATION REVEALED BY THE 1979 AND 1980 FIGURES.

/REFERRING TO

REFERRING TO THE REPORT OF THE SOCIAL RESEARCH CENTRE PUBLISHED IN 1975 SUBSEQUENT TO THE SURVEY, MR BRAY SAID SOME VERY IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS ON REMEDIAL ACTION WERE ENDORSED BY THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE AND A PROGRAMME PLAN HAD BEEN DRAWN UP TO ESTABLISH THE VARIOUS SERVICES IN A CO-ORDINATED AND SYSTEMATIC MANNER.

+THE PROGRAMME PLAN FOR PERSONAL SERVICES AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE IS IN ITS SECOND YEAR OF OPERATION. IT HAS ONLY BEEN POSSIBLE TO AIM FOR A VERY BASIC STANDARD OF SERVICE IN THE THREE MAIN AREAS WHICH ARE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK, OUTREACHING SOCIAL WORK AND FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION.

+ONCE THIS IS ACHIEVED, IN MOST CASES BY NEXT YEAR, THE PLAN ENVISAGES AN IMPROVEMENT IN STANDARDS AND THE QUALITY OF SERVICES,+ MR BRAY SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE NOW FELT THE TARGETS AND RESOURCE PRIORITIES OF THAT PLAN SHOULD BE REVIEWED, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION ANY FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE COMMITTEE'S FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS.

+IT IS ALSO HOPED THAT SUFFICIENT RESOURCES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN TIME TO STRENGTHEN THE EFFORT IN THIS FIELD,+ MR BRAY SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

IMPROVEMENTS TO EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ARRANGEMENTS

* * * * *

THE MOST IMMEDIATE PRIORITY FOR IMPROVEMENT TO THE PRESENT EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION SYSTEM IS TO STREAMLINE PROCEDURES TO ENABLE INJURED EMPLOYEES TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS MORE SPEEDILY.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON JOHN HENDERSON, SAID THIS AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN RESPONSE TO POINTS RAISED BY FOUR UNOFFICIALS IN THE DEBATE ON THE MOTION OF THANKS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS.

THE POINTS CONCERNED LABOUR RELATIONS, LABOUR DISPUTES, RECREATION FOR INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES, WELFARE OF INJURED WORKERS, IMPROVEMENT TO THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION SYSTEM AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

MR HENDERSON ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS NO MARKED DETERIORATION IN THE PRESENT POSITION OF LABOUR DISPUTES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

SPEAKING OF IMPROVEMENT TO THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION SYSTEM, MR HENDERSON SAID HE INTENDED TO INTRODUCE SEVERAL FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE LATER IN THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE COUNCIL.

ONE OF THESE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS WOULD DISPENSE WITH THE NEED FOR EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS CONCERNING THE AMOUNTS OF COMPENSATION IN CASES INVOLVING TEMPORARY INCAPACITY OF LESS THAN 14 DAYS AND NO PERMANENT DISABILITY. INSTEAD, SUCH CASES WOULD BE DEALT WITH BY CERTIFICATES ISSUED DIRECTLY BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

/ANOTHER AMENDMENT

ANOTHER AMENDMENT WOULD STIPULATE THAT IN MORE SERIOUS CASES WHERE THE EMPLOYER DID HAVE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT, THE EMPLOYER WOULD BE REQUIRED TO DO THIS WITHIN 21 DAYS OF THE ASSESSMENT OF THE EMPLOYEE'S DISABILITY BY THE COMPENSATION ASSESSMENT BOARD.

THE NEXT PRIORITY AFTER THESE MEASURES MUST BE THE ENACTMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY OF COMPULSORY INSURANCE TO WHICH THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL REFERRED IN HIS POLICY SPEECH, MR HENDERSON SAID.

NEVERTHELESS, HE POINTED OUT, EVEN UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM ONLY A VERY SMALL PROPORTION OF INJURED WORKERS HAD TO GO TO DEPARTMENTS OTHER THAN THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR NEEDS TO BE MET.

ONLY FATAL CASES AND DISPUTED NON-FATAL CASES HAD TO BE REFERRED TO THE COURTS FOR SETTLEMENT. IN SUCH CASES THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HELPED THE INJURED PERSON OR HIS DEPENDANTS TO OBTAIN ASSISTANCE FROM THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, WHERE NECESSARY, AND CLOSE LIAISON WAS MAINTAINED WITH ALL THESE DEPARTMENTS TO ENSURE THAT THE CASES WERE DEALT WITH AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

IN COMMENT ON LABOUR RELATIONS AND THE +SPATE OF LABOUR DISPUTES+, THE COMMISSIONER SAID THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAD SET UP A PROMOTIONAL UNIT WITHIN THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE TO ADVISE EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES ON SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS AND MACHINERY FOR IMPROVING LABOUR RELATIONS AND EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE COMMUNICATIONS.

THE +SPATE OF LABOUR DISPUTES+ SHOULD BE VIEWED IN PERSPECTIVE, HE STRESSED. THERE WAS NO MARKED DETERIORATION IN THE POSITION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AS SOME PEOPLE APPEARED TO THINK WAS THE CASE.

THE NUMBERS OF WORK STOPPAGES AND WORKING DAYS LOST UP TO THE END OF OCTOBER THIS YEAR WERE LESS THAN THE EQUIVALENT FIGURES FOR 1978 AND 1979 WITH THE FIGURE FOR THE NUMBER OF TRADE DISPUTES ONLY marginally higher.

IN COMPARATIVE TERMS THESE FIGURES WERE IN ANY CASE LOW, AND FOR EXAMPLE THE 20 000 WORKING DAYS LOST SO FAR THIS YEAR - 14 000 WERE ATTRIBUTABLE TO ONE DISPUTE ONLY.

+HOWEVER WE ARE DRAWING CONCLUSIONS FROM THE PATTERN AND COURSE OF DISPUTES OVER THE LAST YEAR OR TWO, AND WE ARE CURRENTLY REVIEWING THE LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS FOR SEVERANCE PAY ON REDUNDANCY TO SEE WHERE IMPROVEMENTS AND AMENDMENTS MAY BE NECESSARY.

+THERE IS A CLEAR NEED TO EXAMINE THE FIELD OF 'UNREASONABLE DISMISSALS' AND THIS WE ARE ALSO UNDERTAKING WITH A VIEW TO MAKING PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONSULTATION,+ SAID MR HENDERSON.

ON RECREATION FOR INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES, MR HENDERSON SAID HE WOULD WISH TO SEE FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS FIELD WITHIN OUR RESOURCES. HOWEVER HE DID NOT THINK IT WOULD BE PRACTICABLE TO MAKE PRIORITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES IN THE USE OF FACILITIES.

/IN HIS

IN HIS VIEW, THIS POINT AROSE FROM THE DIFFERENCE IN HOLIDAYS AVAILABLE TO INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES AS OPPOSED TO OFFICE WORKERS OR STUDENTS, AND THIS DISPARITY SHOULD BE TACKLED IN THE LONGER TERM.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD THEREFORE BE CARRYING OUT A MORE DETAILED EXAMINATION OF THE GENERAL HOLIDAY AND STATUTORY PAID HOLIDAY POSITION NEXT YEAR.

ON INDUSTRIAL TRAINING, MR HENDERSON PLEDGED TO DO HIS BEST TO SEE THAT, AFTER THE NECESSARY CONSULTATIONS, THE REQUIRED LEGISLATION TO SET UP A STATUTORY INDUSTRIAL TRAINING AUTHORITY TO BE FINANCED FROM THE GENERAL REVENUE WOULD BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE COUNCIL LATER IN THE CURRENT SESSION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOOD HOUSING NEWS FOR TWO DESERVING GROUPS
* * * * *

THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON DONALD LIAO, TODAY ANNOUNCED GOOD NEWS ON TWO FRONTS FOR DESERVING GROUPS -- FAMILIES LIVING IN OLD ESTATES AND THE ELDERLY.

REPLYING TO POINTS RAISED BY HIS UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS, MR LIAO ANNOUNCED A SPECIAL QUOTA OF 4 000 ADDITIONAL FLATS FOR FAMILIES LIVING IN OLD RESETTLEMENT ESTATES PLUS ANOTHER SPECIAL QUOTA OF 300 FLATS FOR THE ELDERLY.

CONCERNING OLD ESTATES, HE SAID THE REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME HAD ALREADY REHOUSED MORE THAN 100 000 PEOPLE IN MODERN SELF-CONTAINED ACCOMMODATION AND WAS STEADILY CONTINUING IN THE ESTATES CONCERNED.

IN ADDITION, FAMILIES HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRANSFER TO NEW AND BETTER FLATS UNDER VARIOUS ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDING RELIEF OF OVERCROWDING.

ALSO THERE WAS THE ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION THIS YEAR OF 4 000 NEW FLATS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRIMARY HOUSING SCHEME.

+AS A RESULT OF ALL THESE EFFORTS, THE OVERALL POPULATION OF ALL THE MARK I AND II ESTATES HAS ALREADY BEEN REDUCED DURING THE LAST EIGHT YEARS BY MORE THAN 36 PER CENT AND THIS MOVEMENT WILL ACCELERATE IN THE COMING YEARS,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE CURRENT PRODUCTION OF 35 000 FLATS A YEAR, MR LIAO SAID THIS HAD MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE IN ITS ALLOCATION POLICIES AND MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF SPECIAL GROUPS SUCH AS ELDERLY PEOPLE LIVING IN POOR CONDITIONS.

+I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT IN ADDITION TO EXISTING PROGRAMMES FOR THIS GROUP, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS RECENTLY AGREED TO SET ASIDE A QUOTA OF FLATS EACH YEAR FOR PRIORITY ALLOCATION TO GROUPS OF THREE ELDERLY PERSONS WHO HAVE REGISTERED ON THE AUTHORITY'S WAITING LIST,+ HE SAID.

ON A SUGGESTION THAT THE PRODUCTION OF PUBLIC HOUSING BE FURTHER INCREASED, HE SAID IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT 35 000 FLATS WAS VERY HIGH BY ANY STANDARDS AND +ANY INCREASE MUST BE GRADUAL AND TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES+.

TURNING TO THE GENERAL HOUSING SITUATION, MR LIAO SAID THAT THE LATEST REVIEW OF THE SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING, AND OF CURRENT HOUSING POLICIES, SHOWED A STEADILY IMPROVING HOUSING SITUATION SINCE 1973 AND FORECAST FURTHER IMPROVEMENT TO CONTINUE INTO THE MID-80'S.

+GIVEN THE RECENT MEASURES INTRODUCED BY GOVERNMENT TO CONTAIN IMMIGRATION AND ASSUMING THE CURRENT HIGH LEVEL OF PRODUCTION OF 65 000 FLATS PER YEAR OVERALL IS MAINTAINED, THEN THE PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS IN PERMANENT DOMESTIC ACCOMMODATION IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY,+ HE SAID.

+IF THIS LEVEL OF PRODUCTION CAN BE IMPROVED BY A STEADY GROWTH OF SAY FIVE PER CENT ANNUALLY FROM THE MID-1980'S, THE SHORTFALL OF SELF-CONTAINED HOUSING WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED BY THE END OF THE PRESENT DECADE.

+EVERY EFFORT IS NOW BEING MADE TO OBTAIN SUFFICIENT LAND AND OTHER RESOURCES TO THIS END.+

IN RESPONSE TO THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR HOME OWNERSHIP IN HONG KONG AND TO SUPPLEMENT THE PRIVATE SECTOR'S OUTPUT OF 30 000 FLATS, MR LIAO SAID GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO CONTINUE ITS HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME TO PROVIDE AT LEAST 5 000 FLATS A YEAR.

+A NEW PROGRAMME FOR MIDDLE-INCOME FAMILIES WILL BE INTRODUCED FROM 1983/84 ONWARDS AS AN EXTENSION TO THE CURRENT HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME,+ HE SAID.

+ELIGIBILITY FOR THIS NEW SCHEME WILL BE ANNOUNCED NEARER THE TIME OF COMPLETION OF THE FLATS AND THIS WILL MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS SOLVING THE HOUSING PROBLEMS OF WHAT HAS BECOME KNOWN AS THE 'SANDWICHED' SOCIETY.+

THIS PROGRAMME WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY PRIVATE DEVELOPERS ON THE LINES OF THE SUCCESSFUL PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEMES, HE ADDED.

FINALLY MR LIAO WARNED THAT IN WORKING TOWARDS A SOLUTION TO HONG KONG'S HOUSING PROBLEMS +IT IS CLEAR THAT THE CONTINUED APPLICATION OF RESOURCES BY BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE DEVELOPERS WILL BE NEEDED FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.+

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1980

- 16 -

GOVERNMENT WILL PRESS CASE FOR HK STUDENTS IN UK
* * * * *

THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON ERIC HO TODAY ASSURED THAT HONG KONG WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS ITS CASE ON THE STATUS OF HONG KONG STUDENTS PURSUING STUDIES IN UK ALTHOUGH +WE HAVE LOST OUT FOR THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR+.

SPEAKING IN THE DEBATE ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR HO SAID HE SHARED THE HON ALEX WU'S REGRET THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD NOT DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN STUDENTS FROM DEPENDENT TERRITORIES FROM OTHER OVERSEAS STUDENTS IN THEIR REVISED FEE CHARGING POLICY COMMENCING THIS AUTUMN, PARTICULARLY AS SOME FOREIGN STUDENTS WERE GRANTED HOME STUDENT STATUS.

HOWEVER HE NOTED THAT THE STRONG REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS HAD BEEN RECEIVED WITH SYMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING.

MR HO SAID IT WOULD NOT BE EASY TO DETERMINE THE PRECISE EFFECT OF THE HIGHER FEES ON NEW ADMISSIONS AS THE EXACT NUMBERS OF HONG KONG STUDENTS TAKING DEGREE COURSES IN BRITISH UNIVERSITIES AND POLYTECHNICS OR ELSEWHERE WERE NOT AVAILABLE.

WITH THE CHANGE IN CLASSIFICATION IN STATUS FROM +HOME+ TO +OVERSEAS+, WITH EFFECT FROM SEPTEMBER 1980, OF HONG KONG STUDENTS WHO HAD BEEN ATTENDING UK SCHOOLS FOR THREE YEARS OR MORE BEFORE UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE, BRITISH STATISTICS MAY WELL SHOW LITTLE CHANGE, OR EVEN AN INCREASE IN NEW ADMISSIONS OF HONG KONG STUDENTS TO BRITISH UNIVERSITIES THIS AUTUMN.

HOWEVER, THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT FOR UK STUDENT VISAS IN RESPECT OF FIRST DEGREE COURSES FOR THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF 1980 SHOW A DROP OF 256, OR 39 PER CENT FROM THE FIGURE FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF LAST YEAR, MR HO SAID.

+THIS REDUCTION IN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS PROCEEDING TO BRITAIN IS ROUGHLY OFFSET BY A PROPORTIONAL INCREASE IN STUDENT VISA APPLICATIONS FOR PLACES IN NORTH AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS,+ HE ADDED.

MR HO SAID WHAT WAS APPARENTLY HAPPENING WAS A SIGNIFICANT MOVE AWAY FROM UK TO CANADA AND USA AND IF THIS TREND CONTINUED IN THE LONGER TERM IT COULD ONLY MEAN A FURTHER WEAKENING OF OUR LINKS WITH UK.

COMMENTING ON OTHER POINTS RAISED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS ON HIGHER EDUCATION, MR HO SAID WHILE A REVIEW OF POST-SECONDARY AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION WAS ORDERED BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL, THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE (UPGC) WAS ASKED AT THE SAME TIME TO WORK ON A FOUR PER CENT ANNUAL GROWTH RATE IN UNIVERSITY PLACES FOR THE 1981/84 TRIENNIUM AND TO ADVISE ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS IN TERMS OF RESOURCES.

THE UPGC WAS ALSO ASKED TO ASSUME THIS FOUR PER CENT GROWTH RATE FOR THE 1984/87 TRIENNIUM. THIS SHOULD RESULT IN AN INCREASE OF OVER 700 UNIVERSITY PLACES BY THE 1986/87 ACADEMIC YEAR.

/+IT WILL

+IT WILL, OF COURSE, BE OPEN TO THE REVIEW COMMITTEE TO INCREASE OR MODIFY THIS GROWTH RATE FOR THE 1984/87 TRIENNIAL BUT PRELIMINARY PLANNING TO PROVIDE FOR THESE EXTRA NUMBERS NEED NOT BE DELAYED,+ HE SAID.

ON THE HON S.L. CHEN'S SUGGESTION THAT TUITION FEES AT THE UNIVERSITIES AND THE POLYTECHNIC SHOULD REFLECT THE FULL COSTS, PROVIDED THAT THE NEEDY WERE SUBSIDISED UNDER AN ADJUSTED STUDENT FINANCE SCHEME, MR HO EXPRESSED DOUBT OVER ITS PRACTICABILITY.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, ON THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IT HAD BEEN DECIDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD REVIEW EACH YEAR THE LEVEL OF FEES TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY THE UPGC FOR GRANT PURPOSES IN FOUR YEARS TIME.

ON SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, MR HO SAID THE QUALIFYING AGE FOR THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE, NOW AT 70, COULD WELL BE LOWERED AS OUR SOCIETY BECAME MORE AFFLUENT AND OUR SOCIAL SERVICES MORE DEVELOPED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT AT PRESENT THE ELDERLY WHO ARE IN FINANCIAL NEED ALREADY QUALIFY FOR AN EQUIVALENT OLD AGE SUPPLEMENT FROM THE AGE OF 60 THROUGH THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME.

HE AGREED WITH DR THE HON HARRY FANG THAT THERE IS AN URGENT NEED TO BUILD MORE CARE AND ATTENTION FACILITIES OR INFIRMARIES FOR THE ELDERLY.

MR HO SAID AT PRESENT 11 SITES HAD ALREADY BEEN IDENTIFIED, AND AN ADDITIONAL 1 400 SUCH PLACES WERE EXPECTED TO BECOME AVAILABLE BY 1982. HE ALSO ASSURED THAT EFFORTS AT LOCATING SUITABLE SITES WOULD BE SUSTAINED IN ORDER THAT THE TARGET OF MEETING FULL DEMAND MIGHT BE ACHIEVED BY ABOUT 1983.

ON DR FANG'S PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE HOUSING FOR THE MIDDLE-INCOME ELDERLY, MR HO AGREED THAT THIS RELATIVELY LESS VULNERABLE GROUP SHOULD ALSO DESERVE SOME ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT, BUT UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THERE WERE ENOUGH SITES TO MEET THE ESSENTIAL DEMAND OF OTHER TYPES OF WELFARE AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS UNDER PLANNING, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY THE GRANT OF LAND TO THEM ON CONCESSIONARY TERMS.

+HOWEVER, I CAN SEE NO REASON WHY A PUBLIC CHARITY SPONSORING A PROJECT FOR THE ELDERLY OF MIDDLE-INCOME BACKGROUND WHO HAVE A CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED SOCIAL NEED FOR THESE FACILITIES SHOULD NOT APPLY TO THE LOTTERIES FUND FOR A BUILDING LOAN, PROVIDED THEY OBTAIN THE NECESSARY LAND ON WHICH TO BUILD SUCH HOMES THROUGH THEIR EFFORTS,+ HE SAID.

IN REPLY TO OTHER SUGGESTIONS BY DR FANG, MR HO SAID WORK ON PROVIDING MORE DROPPED KERBS ALONG THE PAVEMENTS IN CENTRAL DISTRICT FOR THE CROSSING OF PERSONS IN WHEELCHAIRS WAS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH.

FURTHER CONSIDERATION WOULD ALSO BE GIVEN TO HIS PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE BUILDING ORDINANCE TO ALLOW BUILDERS AN INCREASE IN BUILDING VOLUME TO PROVIDE ACCESS FOR WHEELCHAIRS, WHEN THE FINAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S REVIEW COMMITTEE ON THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED TO BUILDINGS WAS SUBMITTED.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1980

- 18 -

PROPOSALS FOR AID TO INDUSTRY HANDLED BY
DIVERSIFICATION COMMITTEE
* * * *

THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON POINTED OUT TODAY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT PROPOSALS BY THE HON WONG PO-YAN AND THE HON S.L. CHEN IN THE DEBATE ON THE MOTION OF THANKS FOR THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS HAD BEEN COVERED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION.

THE POINT OF MR WONG'S SUGGESTION FOR +INCREASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND BETTER COORDINATION+ TOWARDS +PROMOTING AND COORDINATING OUR OWN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN A MORE ACTIVE MANNER+ HAD BEEN CONSIDERED IN DETAIL BY THE COMMITTEE, MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

+THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACCORDINGLY ESTABLISHED A STANDING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WITH THE TERMS OF REFERENCE THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED.

+THE BOARD IS SPECIFICALLY CHARGED WITH DRAWING UP PROGRAMMES IN RESPECT OF TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WORK, IN RESPECT OF TRANSFERS OF TECHNOLOGY, AND IN RESPECT OF APPLIED RESEARCH OF RELEVANCE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIES- AND IT WILL MONITOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE PROGRAMMES,+ HE SAID.

AS TO THE SUGGESTION, MENTIONED BY MR CHEN, FOR THE CREATION OF A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION TO ASSIST INDUSTRIES, MR JEAFFRESON SAID THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAD CONSIDERED THE RATE OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG AND CONCLUDED ON THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO IT THAT HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES WERE NOT UNDER CAPITALISED.

+SUBSEQUENT EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT, IF ANYTHING, HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIES ARE NOW BETTER CAPITALISED,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE POINTED OUT THAT INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG HAD RELIED MAINLY ON THE COMMERCIAL BANKS TO PROVIDE CAPITAL FINANCE.

+IT CONCLUDED THAT COMMERCIALLY VIABLE BUSINESSES DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE ENCOUNTERED DIFFICULTY IN RAISING CAPITAL FINANCE FROM THIS SOURCE, A VIEW WHICH THE MAIN INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS HAD GENERALLY ENDORSED,+ MR JEAFFRESON SAID.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1980

- 19 -

REASONS FOR PROPOSED CHANGES TO ABORTION LAW

* * * *

THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON ERIC HO, IN INTRODUCING THE OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980 IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY STRESSED THAT THE PROPOSED PERMISSION FOR ABORTION OF AN ABNORMAL FOETUS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH SAVING PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, WHICH HAS BEEN SUGGESTED BY SOME NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS.

+I WISH TO ASSURE THIS COUNCIL THAT THIS PROPOSAL ARISES WHOLLY FROM A DESIRE TO SAVE A WOMAN FROM THE STRESS OF BEARING AN ABNORMAL CHILD SHE WOULD RATHER NOT HAVE, AND A FAMILY FROM THE DISTRESS AND BURDEN OF HAVING AN UNWANTED HANDICAPPED MEMBER WHICH WITH ADVANCES IN MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE CAN BE PREDICTED IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES,+ HE SAID.

HE STRESSED FURTHER THAT IF A PREGNANT WOMAN WISHES TO TAKE THE RISK OF CARRYING THE CHILD, +THE GOVERNMENT FULLY ACCEPTS THE BABY'S AND THE FAMILY'S ENTITLEMENT TO SCREENING AND SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY ALLOWANCE, WHERE APPROPRIATE, ARISING FROM OUR POLICY FOR INTEGRATING THE DISABLED IN THE COMMUNITY AND FROM OUR SOCIAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.+

AS FOR THE OTHER TWO CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH IT WAS PROPOSED TO ALLOW ABORTION -- PREGNANT GIRLS UNDER 17, AND PREGNANCY RESULTING FROM RAPE OR RAPE-RELATED OFFENCES REPORTED TO THE POLICE -- MR HO EXPLAINED THAT THE FIRST RECOGNISED THAT CONTINUATION OF THE PREGNANCY, IF UNWANTED, WOULD INVOLVE RISK OF INJURY TO THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF THE YOUNG WOMAN GREATER THAN IF PREGNANCY WERE TERMINATED, AND IT WAS SELF-EVIDENT IN THE SECOND THAT THE VICTIM OF SUCH HEINOUS CRIMES SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO SUFFER A DOUBLE PENALTY OF HAVING AN UNWANTED PREGNANCY AS WELL.

MR HO POINTED OUT THAT IN THE PROPOSALS TO PROTECT A VIABLE FOETUS (PREGNANCY OF MORE THAN 24 WEEKS' DURATION), AND AN UNBORN CHILD CAPABLE OF BEING BORN ALIVE (CARRIED BY A WOMAN PREGNANT FOR 28 WEEKS OR MORE), THE TIME LIMITS HAD BEEN GENERALLY ENDORSED BY THE PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS AS WELL AS THE PROFESSOR OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

ON THE UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980 WHICH WAS ALSO INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL, MR HO POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS INTENDED TO SAFEGUARD THOSE WOMEN +WHO ARE ENTITLED TO A THERAPEUTIC ABORTION BY STIFFENING THE LAW AGAINST THOSE WHO SEEK TO LURE THEM INTO TAKING AN APPARENTLY EASY, BUT ACTUALLY DANGEROUS, WAY OUT.+

DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING OF THE TWO BILLS WAS ADJOURNED.

----- 0 -----

/20

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1980

- 20 -

TRIBUTE TO MR BREMRIDGE

* * * *

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE TODAY PAID TRIBUTE TO THE HON JOHN BREMRIDGE AT HIS LAST SITTING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+HE HAS BEEN UNSPARING IN THE DEVOTION OF HIS TIME TO THE COUNCIL'S AFFAIRS, AS HE HAS TO ALL PUBLIC BUSINESS HE HAS TAKEN UP, AND HE HAS ENLIVENED AND ENRICHED OUR PROCEEDINGS WITH BOTH SOUND ADVICE AND WIT,+ SIR MURRAY SAID.

SIR MURRAY SAID MR BREMRIDGE, WHO WILL SHORTLY LEAVE HONG KONG ON RETIREMENT, FIRST CAME IN 1949.

HE WAS FIRST APPOINTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1974 AND THEN TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN 1977 AND HAD A VERY LONG RECORD OF DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE, INCLUDING THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE, AS ITS CHAIRMAN, ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION, PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION, TRADE AND INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD, TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION, AVIATION ADVISORY BOARD, PORT COMMITTEE, TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE COUNTRY PARKS BOARD.

THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, THE HON OSWALD CHEUNG JOINING IN THE TRIBUTE SAID MR BREMRIDGE HAS ONE ATTRIBUTE FOR WHICH UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER HIM, +AND THAT IS HIS SUPREME ABILITY TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN SHADES OF GRAY+.

+ANYONE CAN TELL BLACK FROM WHITE, FIRST CLASS FROM STANDBY, BUT IT WAS GIVEN TO MR BREMRIDGE TO PICK HIS WAY DEFTLY BETWEEN THE NICETIES OF A THREE PER CENT, OR A FOUR PER CENT, GROWTH IN STUDENT NUMBERS IN THE UNIVERSITIES, BETWEEN PRIORITY A1 OR A2 FOR THE FLYOVER IN STUBBS ROAD, D3 OR D4 FOR THE NEW POST OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PRESERVATION AND APPLICATION OF THE WISE COUNSEL CONTRIBUTED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS- AND THE LIKE,+ MR CHEUNG SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR KING'S ROAD SCHEME

* * * * *

A SERIES OF TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR THE KING'S ROAD BUS AND TRAM PRIORITY SCHEME:

TRAFFIC RE-ROUTING

FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 21),

- * SHELL STREET BETWEEN MERLIN STREET AND KING'S ROAD WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM TWO-WAY TO ONE-WAY WESTBOUND-
- * BOAT STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY NORTHWESTBOUND TO ONE-WAY SOUTHEASTBOUND-

/s/ FUK YUEN

- * FUK YUEN STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY SOUTHEASTBOUND TO ONE-WAY NORTHWESTBOUND-
- * ALL VEHICLES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM TURNING RIGHT FROM KING'S ROAD INTO CHEUNG HONG STREET.

NEW URBAN CLEARWAYS

THE FOLLOWING URBAN CLEARWAYS WILL BE DESIGNATED FROM FRIDAY,

- * THE SOUTHBOUND SECTION OF CHEUNG HONG STREET BETWEEN KING'S ROAD AND FORT STREET-
- * THE NORTHBOUND SECTION OF NORTH VIEW STREET BETWEEN FORT STREET AND KING'S ROAD-

FROM TUESDAY (NOVEMBER 25),

- * THE WESTBOUND SECTION OF KING'S ROAD BETWEEN MERCURY STREET AND A POINT 36 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH LAU LI STREET.

WITHIN THESE CLEARWAYS, ALL MOTOR VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM AND FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM DAILY.

EXTENSION OF URBAN CLEARWAYS

FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY, EXISTING URBAN CLEARWAYS WILL BE EXTENDED AS FOLLOWS:

- * THE EASTBOUND SECTION OF KING'S ROAD BETWEEN A POINT 77 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH JAVA ROAD AND FUK YUEN STREET WILL BE EXTENDED WESTWARD TO A POINT 25 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH LAU LI STREET-
- * THE WESTBOUND SECTION OF KING'S ROAD BETWEEN MANSION STREET AND FUK YUEN STREET WILL BE EXTENDED TO THE WEST BY 117 METRES.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1980

- 22 -

SHA TIN TO HOLD FIRST DANCE CONTEST
* * * *

THE FIRST DISTRICT-WIDE DANCE CONTEST IS TO BE HELD IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN NEXT JANUARY TO PROMOTE THE ART OF DANCE AND FRIENDSHIP AMONG LOCAL RESIDENTS.

THE EVENT IS BEING ORGANISED BY SHA TIN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE AND SHA TIN ARTS AND SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS.

THERE WILL BE THREE SECTIONS: THE CHILDREN'S SECTION IS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGED BELOW SIX AND THE JUNIOR SECTION IS FOR CHILDREN AGED FROM SIX TO 12. THOSE AGED OVER 12 CAN TAKE PART IN THE OPEN SECTION.

IN THE JUNIOR AND OPEN SECTIONS, THERE WILL BE FIVE CLASSES OF COMPETITION - ORIENTAL CLASSICAL DANCE, ORIENTAL FOLK DANCE, WESTERN FOLK DANCE, ORIENTAL DUET DANCE AND WESTERN DUET DANCE.

THE CONTEST WILL BE HELD IN KIANGSU-CHEKIANG COLLEGE ON JANUARY 4 AND WINNERS WILL PERFORM IN A SHOW TO BE HELD THE SAME EVENING.

ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A SOUVENIR AND THOSE WHOSE PERFORMANCE IS JUDGED EXCELLENT WILL BE AWARDED TROPHIES AND PRIZES. WELL-KNOWN DANCERS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ADJUDICATE.

THE DEADLINE FOR ENTRY IS DECEMBER 1. APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE OFFICE AT LEK YUEN ESTATE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

POK FU LAM WATER INTERRUPTION
* * * * *

WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN POK FU LAM WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 8 PM ON FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 21) TO 8 AM THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

THE PREMISES TO BE AFFECTED ARE AT BISNEY ROAD, CONSORT RISE, CROWN TERRACE AND SCENIC VILLA.

- - - - 0 - - - -