



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1975

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TOMORROW	1
MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY ENCOURAGES OVERSEAS CONTRACTORS TO FORM JOINT VENTURES WITH LOCAL FIRMS	2
ONE THIRD OF FORMER PAUL LEE WORKERS RE-EMPLOYED BY NEW CONTRACTORS	3
COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS BELIEVES THAT HONG KONG'S PENAL SYSTEM IS SECOND TO NONE	4
RETIREMENT OF EDUCATION INSPECTOR AFTER 34 YEARS' SERVICE ..	5
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION PRAISES MARYKNOLL PUPILS FOR PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE	6
RESTAURANT WAGE DISPUTE SETTLED	6

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1975

- 1 -

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TOMORROW
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, WILL INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) SEEKING APPROVAL FOR A 30 PER CENT INCREASE IN ANNUAL TELEPHONE RENTALS AND INSTALLATION CHARGES BEGINNING FROM MARCH 1, 1975.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE TELEPHONE (AMENDMENT) BILL SEEKING TO WAIVE ROYALTY PAYMENTS BY THE TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR 1974 AND 1975 AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A GOVERNMENT DIRECTOR TO THE BOARD OF THE TELEPHONE COMPANY WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE COUNCIL.

TWO OTHER MOTIONS -- ONE ON THE HOTEL ACCOMMODATION TAX ORDINANCE AND THE OTHER ON THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ORDINANCE WILL BE MADE BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL RESPECTIVELY.

THE FIRST SEEKS TO INCREASE THE RATE OF TAX IMPOSED UNDER THE HOTEL ACCOMODATION TAX ORDINANCE TO THREE PER CENT BEGINNING FROM APRIL 1, 1975 UNTIL MARCH 31, 1976 AND FURTHER TO INCREASE IT TO FOUR PER CENT FROM APRIL 1, 1976.

THE SECOND SEEKS TO EXTEND FOR THE TERM OF THREE YEARS ENDING ON APRIL 30, 1978 THE DURATION OF SECTIONS OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE APPLICATION BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO THE FULL COURT FOR THE REVIEW OF ANY SENTENCE PASSED BY ANY COURT.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ASKED THAT IN VIEW OF THE FINANCIAL UNCERTAINTIES SURROUNDING THE TELEPHONE COMPANY DISCLOSED BY ITS APPLICATION FOR INCREASED CHARGES WHAT WERE THE CONSIDERATIONS, IF ANY, FOR NOT SUSPENDING THE SHARES FROM BEING TRADED TO PREVENT ANY POSSIBILITY OF THOSE MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE IN ITS AFFAIRS GAINING AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE OVER THOSE MORE IGNORANT.

OTHER QUESTIONS TO BE RAISED BY THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL INCLUDE THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY ON THE CERTIFICATED MASTERS' DISPUTE- GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE FOR INDUSTRY TO AVOID BANKRUPTCIES DUE TO CASH FLOW PROBLEMS- THE SETTING UP OF PROPER COOKED FOOD BAZAARS IN NEW INDUSTRIAL ESTATES AND THE REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON UNREGISTRABLE DOCTORS.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1975

- 2 -

IN ADDITION TO THE TELEPHONE BILL, FIVE BILLS -- THE POST OFFICE BILL 1975, THE EVIDENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1975, THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (RECRUITING OF SEAMEN) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1975, THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES (EXTENSION OF GRANTS) BILL 1975 AND THE POLICE FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1975 -- WILL BE TABLED AT TOMORROW'S SITTING.

SESSIONAL PAPERS TABLED WILL BE THE SCHEDULE OF SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS APPROVED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL DURING THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1974/75, THE SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 1974, THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS OF THE GRANTHAM SCHOLARSHIPS FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 1974, THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC ANNUAL REPORT 1973/74 AND THE BALANCE SHEET AND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT OF THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 31, 1974.

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MTRPA TO KEEP CENTRAL REGISTER
OF LOCAL CONTRACTORS
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THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY IS TO KEEP A CENTRAL REGISTER OF LOCAL CONTRACTORS INTERESTED IN JOINING UP WITH INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTORS TO UNDERTAKE WORKS CONNECTED WITH THE MTR PROJECT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AUTHORITY SAID THE INTENTION WAS TO ENCOURAGE OVERSEAS CONTRACTORS TO FORM JOINT VENTURES WITH LOCAL COMPANIES SO THAT THE MAXIMUM USE WOULD BE MADE OF LOCAL RESOURCES.

HE SAID THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF VERSATILE AND EFFICIENT ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL FIRMS IN HONG KONG WITH CASTING, EXTRUDING AND GENERAL ENGINEERING CAPABILITIES.

+BY MAINTAINING A CENTRAL REGISTER,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID, +WE HOPE TO ACT AS A MIDDLEMAN BETWEEN LOCAL AND OVERSEAS CONTRACTORS IF NECESSARY.+

TWENTY-FIVE CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACTS AND TEN OTHERS FOR ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL WORKS ARE TO BE LET. TENDERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE CALLED FOR PROGRESSIVELY FROM APRIL.

A BROCHURE CONTAINING PRELIMINARY INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO PROSPECTIVE TENDERERS HAS RECENTLY BEEN PUT ON SALE.

COPIES OF THE BROCHURE AT US\$10 EACH CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICES OF THE AUTHORITY AND THE LONDON OFFICE OF FREEMAN FOX AND PARTNERS, CONSULTING ENGINEERS TO THE AUTHORITY.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1975

- 3 -

FORMER PAUL LEE WORKERS RE-EMPLOYED
BY NEW CONTRACTORS
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ABOUT ONE THIRD OF THE FORMER WORKFORCE OF THE FAILED PAUL LEE ENGINEERING CO. LTD. HAVE BEEN RE-EMPLOYED BY THE NEW CONTRACTORS ENGAGED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THEY WERE RE-HIRED FOLLOWING A REQUEST FROM SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO THE NEW CONTRACTORS TO TAKE ON AS MANY OF THE EX-PAUL LEE WORKERS AS POSSIBLE.

WORK ON EIGHT FORMER PAUL LEE PROJECTS HAS BEEN STEADILY BUILDING UP OVER THE LAST TWO OR THREE WEEKS.

DURING THIS PERIOD, THE NEW CONTRACTORS HAVE HIRED 132 -- OR 32 PER CENT -- OF THE 412 WORKERS FORMERLY DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE PAUL LEE COMPANY.

OFFICIALS OF BOTH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION ON THE PROJECTS.

THE GOVERNMENT RE-ENTERED THE SITES ON NOVEMBER 6 LAST YEAR, AND ARRANGED FOR A SPECIAL EX-GRATIA PAYMENT -- BELIEVED TO BE ABOUT \$150,000 TO \$200,000 -- TO THE PAUL LEE COMPANY TO PAY ITS WORKERS BACK WAGES UP TO THAT DATE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THE RATE OF EMPLOYMENT OF EX-PAUL LEE WORKERS WAS EXPECTED TO BE STEPPED UP AS WORK ON THE PROJECTS ACCELERATED IN THE COMING WEEKS.

HE ADDED : +OF COURSE, A NUMBER OF THE COMPANY'S FORMER EMPLOYEES HAVE PROBABLY FOUND OTHER JOBS IN THE MEANTIME.

+HOWEVER, THE NEW CONTRACTORS -- HSIN CHONG, GAMMON, HARBOUR, PAUL Y, AND FOOK LEE -- RESPONDED ENCOURAGINGLY TO A REQUEST THAT THEY TAKE ON THE EX-LEE WORKERS WHERE POSSIBLE.

+THIS HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN THE FACT THAT IN A VERY SHORT SPACE OF TIME, NEARLY ONE THIRD OF THE COMPANY'S WORKFORCE IS BACK ON THE PROJECTS WITH THE NEW CONTRACTORS.+

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/4

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1975

HONG KONG'S PENAL SYSTEM SECOND TO NONE
SAYS COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS

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THE PENAL SYSTEM IN HONG KONG IS SECOND TO NONE. FURTHERMORE, HONG KONG PROBABLY LEADS THE WORLD IN THE TREATMENT OF DRUG ADDICTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY MR. TOM GARNER, COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS, WHEN HE ADDRESSED A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF NORTH KOWLOON THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON.

EARLIER HE REVEALED THAT COMPARED TO THE LATEST FIGURE AVAILABLE FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM AND ALLOWING FOR THE DIFFERENCE IN THE SIZE OF POPULATION, HONG KONG'S PRISON POPULATION IS 150 PER CENT HIGHER.

+THERE IS AT PRESENT CONFINED WITHIN PENAL INSTITUTIONS OVER 8,200 PRISONERS -- THIS IS SOME 2,000 MORE THAN THE ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED.+

+YET DESPITE THIS OVERCROWDING -- AND THIS HAS BEEN A PERENNIAL PROBLEM -- THE PENAL SYSTEM IN HONG KONG IS SECOND TO NONE. FURTHERMORE WE PROBABLY LEAD THE WORLD IN THE TREATMENT OF DRUG ADDICTS,+ HE STRESSED.

THAT WE ARE IN THE FOREFRONT, HE ADDED, AMPLY REFLECTS THE EFFICIENCY OF THE STAFF. +IT IS THEY -- THEMSELVES -- WHO HAVE DESTROYED THAT ONCE POPULAR AND TAUNTING MYTH THAT THE ROLE OF A PRISON OFFICER IS SIMPLY THAT OF A TURN-KEY. IF THERE WAS ANY GRAIN OF TRUTH IN THIS, THEN SURELY IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO HAVE SO MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF INSTITUTIONS.+

FURTHER ELABORATING, MR. GARNER SAID, +THE AVERAGE CITIZEN MAY HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT PRISONERS LIVE IN SUB-HUMAN CONDITIONS AND ARE OFTEN ILL-TREATED BY THE STAFF. THIS UGLY, MEDIEVAL PRACTICE IS HISTORY. ILL TREATMENT IS A METHOD OF THE PAST AND IT WILL STAY THAT WAY.+

ON OTHER 'FACTS ABOUT PRISONS', THE COMMISSIONER SAID THAT FEW PEOPLE ARE AWARE THAT THERE IS A LOW ESCAPE RATE FROM OUR PENAL INSTITUTIONS -- A FACT WHICH IS PROBABLY THE ENVY OF MANY COUNTRIES IN THE COMMONWEALTH AND PROBABLY IN THE WORLD.

SPEAKING ABOUT THE MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON AT STANLEY, MR. GARNER SAID, +IT IS WITH SOME SATISFACTION I CAN SAY THAT 1974 SAW THE LOWEST NUMBER OF ASSAULT CASES IN STANLEY PRISON FOR THE PAST 22 YEARS, WHICH HAVE AVERAGED 62 PER YEAR. LAST YEAR THERE WAS ONLY TEN CASES IN ALL. A FAR CRY FROM 1953 WHEN THERE WERE 90 CASES OF ASSAULT AND EVEN AS RECENT AS 1971 WHEN THERE WERE 91 CASES OF SUCH INCIDENTS.+

THE COMMISSIONER DESCRIBED THE STEADY DECLINE OF ASSAULTS INSIDE STANLEY AS SHOWING A VERY DEFINITE INDICATION OF THE DEGREE OF CONTROL NOW EXISTING IN THAT INSTITUTION.

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ON THE REFORMATION OF YOUNG OFFENDERS MR. GARNER HAD THIS TO SAY, +SINCE THE DETENTION CENTRES CAME INTO OPERATION IN JUNE, 1972, A TOTAL OF 1,412 YOUNG OFFENDERS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 14 AND 21 HAVE BEEN ADMITTED. OF THIS 78 PER CENT OR A TOTAL OF 1,112 WERE ADMITTED FOR OFFENCES ASSOCIATED WITH CRIME OF VIOLENCE.+

THE SUCCESS RATE CONTINUES TO HOLD AT AROUND 90 PER CENT AND MR. GARNER NOTED THAT THIS WAS NO MEAN ACHIEVEMENT AND INDEED A CREDIT TO THE STAFF WHO HAD PUT SO MUCH EFFORT INTO IT.

MR. GARNER ALSO BELIEVES THAT PARENTS DO CARE FOR THEIR CHILDREN WHO GET INTO TROUBLE AND THIS IS BORNE OUT BY THE FACT THAT ONLY THREE PER CENT OF THE INMATES HAVE FAILED TO RECEIVE VISITS DURING THEIR PERIOD OF DETENTION.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

COPIES OF THE FULL TEXT OF MR. TOM GARNER'S SPEECH AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF NORTH KOWLOON WILL BE BOXED SEPARATELY FOR COLLECTION THIS (TUESDAY) EVENING.

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EDUCATION INSPECTOR RETIRES

MR. CHOW PING-KONG, INSPECTOR OF TECHNICAL SUBJECTS IN THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, IS RETIRING TODAY AFTER 34 YEARS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS), MR. ARTHUR BROWN, YESTERDAY PRESENTED MR. CHOW WITH A MEMENTO FROM HIS FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES.

HE REMINDED THOSE PRESENT AT THE PARTY, WHICH WAS HELD AT THE DEPARTMENT'S CONFERENCE ROOM, THAT MR. CHOW HAD JOINED THE GOVERNMENT IN 1941 AS A WORKSHOP INSTRUCTOR.

DURING THE WAR HE JOINED AN IRONWORKS IN KWEILIN AS A TECHNICIAN AND THEN SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY IN KWEIYANG.

ON HIS RETURN TO HONG KONG, MR. CHOW REJOINED THE GOVERNMENT AND BEGAN AN EDUCATIONAL CAREER WHICH COVERED TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, KING GEORGE V SCHOOL, THE GRANTHAM TRAINING COLLEGE AND IN JULY 1961 THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE WHERE HE HAD SINCE BEEN SERVING.

IN 1969 MR. CHOW WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR ASSISTANT MASTER.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1975

- 6 -

MARYKNOLL PUPILS PLAY ACTIVE PART IN COMMUNITY SERVICE
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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY TODAY PAID TRIBUTE TO THE MARYKNOLL CONVENT SCHOOL FOR ENCOURAGING AND PREPARING ITS PUPILS TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OPEN DAY OF THE SCHOOL.

MR. TOPLEY SAID THAT WITH THIS TRAINING IT WAS NOT SURPRISING TO FIND SO MANY MARYKNOLL GIRLS OCCUPYING IMPORTANT PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS IN HONG KONG, PARTICULARLY THOSE PROFESSIONS INVOLVED IN SOCIAL SERVICE.

+THE MARYKNOLL SISTERS AND ALL THOSE WHO HAVE TAUGHT OR BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHOOL THROUGHOUT THE YEARS HAVE REASON TO BE PROUD OF THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS.

+TODAY THE SCHOOL HAS A HIGH REPUTATION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF HONG KONG AND OVERSEAS NOT ONLY FOR THE SOUND ACADEMIC ATTAINMENTS OF ITS PUPILS BUT ALSO THE SCHOOL'S WELL-KNOWN COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SERVICE,+ THE DIRECTOR SAID.

HE RECALLED THAT 50 YEARS AGO THE MARYKNOLL SISTERS ESTABLISHED THE SCHOOL WITH 12 KINDERGARTEN PUPILS. NOW IT HAS A TOTAL ENROLMENT OF MORE THAN 2,300 KINDERGARTEN, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PUPILS.

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RESTAURANT WAGE DISPUTE SETTLED
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THE WAGE DISPUTE INVOLVING 22 EMPLOYEES OF THE MING FONG RESTAURANT IN WESTERN DISTRICT WAS AMICABLY SETTLED, YESTERDAY.

AT A MEETING AT THE HONG KONG LABOUR RELATIONS OFFICE, THE PARTIES REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE PAYMENT OF CHINESE NEW YEAR BONUS AND STATUTORY HOLIDAY PAY.

PAYMENT WILL BE MADE ON FEBRUARY 6 AT THE RESTAURANT.

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