



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, JULY 11, 1975

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INDIVIDUAL'S ROLE IN SOCIAL WELFARE OUTLINED
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THE INDIVIDUAL CITIZEN MUST BE PREPARED TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN SOCIAL WELFARE INSTEAD OF ONLY STANDING BY AND WATCHING OTHERS DO THE WORK, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING TO MEMBERS OF THE KOWLOON LIONS CLUB AT THEIR LUNCHEON MEETING, HE SAID THE INDIVIDUAL MUST SHOW MORE POSITIVE INTEREST AND PERSONAL CONCERN ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF THE LESS FORTUNATE.

+HE MUST NOT BE A PASSIVE OBSERVER LEAVING IT TO THE GOVERNMENT, TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS, TO OTHERS, TO DO SOMETHING. HE MUST BE PREPARED TO STEP IN AND GIVE A HAND.+

THE FIRST AND EASIEST METHOD, MR. LEE POINTED OUT, WAS THROUGH HARD CASH BY PROVIDING A SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO ENABLE THEM TO FLOURISH AND EXPAND IN THE TRULY +VOLUNTARY+ SENSE.

DONATIONS TO THE COMMUNITY CHEST AND THE PURCHASE OF LOTTERY TICKETS WERE OTHER OPTIONS OPEN TO THE INDIVIDUAL BUT THERE ARE ALSO WAYS WHICH ARE MORE DIRECT AND JUST AS EFFECTIVE.

AS EXAMPLES, HE SAID SEVERAL LIONS CLUBS HAD RECENTLY DONATED A NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS AT THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL WORK TRAINING, ANOTHER MADE A DONATION FOR A NEW NURSERY IN TSZ WAN SHAN AND THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG MADE A CONTRIBUTION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW WING TO THE FANLING YOUTH HOSTEL.

MR. LEE POINTED OUT THAT THE INDIVIDUAL CAN ALSO GIVE OF HIS TIME, TALENT AND ENERGY IN A NUMBER OF PRACTICAL WAYS:

- * HE CAN OFFER TO SERVE ON VOLUNTARY AGENCY COMMITTEES AND ON VARIOUS ADVISORY COMMITTEES. IN SO DOING HE NOT ONLY IDENTIFIES HIMSELF WITH THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY BUT ALSO BRINGS TO BEAR INVALUABLE OUTSIDE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE.
- * HE CAN GIVE PERSONAL SUPPORT TO PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED SOCIAL WORKERS OVER A WIDE AREA OF ACTIVITIES INCLUDING YOUTH WORK AND AMONG THE HANDICAPPED.
- * HE CAN KEEP UP TO DATE WITH SOCIAL WELFARE NEEDS AND BRING THESE TO THE NOTICE OF GOVERNMENT AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR.

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+IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES WE ARE ALL VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED FOR SOCIAL WELFARE IN THE BROAD SENSE- AND WHEN GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES STEP IN TO HELP THE DISTRESSED AND BEWILDERED THERE IS WIDESPREAD PUBLIC APPROVAL. THE SUCCESSFUL RECEPTION OF THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES REPRESENTS A GOOD EXAMPLE,+ HE SAID.

+BUT IT IS NOT JUST A QUESTION OF APPROVING- IT IS ONE OF BEING PREPARED TO SEE WHAT WE CAN DO TO IMPROVE AND DEVELOP AVAILABLE SERVICES. STRONG AND LASTING WELFARE PROVISIONS DEPEND UPON GOOD AND SENSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN FULL PARTNERSHIP WITH STRONG AND RESPONSIVE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WHO MUST TO SOME CONSIDERABLE EXTENT BE AUTONOMOUS, RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN WORK, AND NOT OBLIGED TO RELY RETIRELY ON GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION.+

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE NOTED THAT IN THE CURRENT YEAR SUBVENTIONS STAND AT A RECORD \$47.6 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF ALMOST 600 PER CENT OVER THE \$8 MILLION IN 1967-68. GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON SOCIAL WELFARE TOO HAD RISEN FROM \$35 MILLION TO \$300 MILLION THIS YEAR.

+GOVERNMENT FINANCE AND RESOURCES CAN BE HARNESSSED TO THE COMMON GOOD AND STRUCTURES CAN BE ESTABLISHED TO CHANNEL HELP TO WHERE IT DOES MOST GOOD. BUT IN THE END IT IS WHAT PEOPLE LIKE YOU ARE PREPARED TO DO WHICH MARKS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PIECE OF SOCIAL MACHINERY AND A LIVING ACTIVITY,+ HE SAID.

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NEW LOTTERY PROPOSED

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THE OPERATION OF LOTTERIES IN HONG KONG WILL BE STREAMLINED IF A BILL PUBLISHED TODAY IS APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE BILL SEEKS TO SET UP A HONG KONG LOTTERIES BOARD WHICH WILL ORGANISE AND CONDUCT REGULAR LOTTERIES.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT A NEW TYPE OF LOTTERY WAS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. IT WAS INTENDED THAT THE LOTTERY WOULD PROBABLY BE HELD ON A WEEKLY BASIS WITH THE PARTICIPANTS BEING ABLE TO SELECT THEIR OWN NUMBERS. IT MIGHT BE SIMILAR TO THE QUARTET SYSTEM, BUT DETAILS OF THE LOTTERIES WOULD HAVE TO BE DETERMINED BY THE BOARD.

THE LOTTERIES BOARD WILL COMPRISE SEVEN MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR. FOUR OF THE MEMBERS WILL BE STEWARDS OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB WHICH WILL BE RUNNING THE LOTTERIES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS PROPOSED THAT THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WOULD FILL THE OTHER THREE PLACES.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD WOULD BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR FROM AMONG THE SEVEN MEMBERS.

THE BILL, KNOWN AS THE BETTING DUTY (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1975, STIPULATES THAT AFTER THE DEDUCTION OF BETTING DUTY NOT LESS THAN 80 PER CENT OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE LOTTERIES WILL BE ALLOCATED IN PRIZES. THE DUTY HAS BEEN SET AT 25 PER CENT.

ALL SURPLUS PROCEEDS, AFTER EXPENSES, WILL GO TO SOCIAL WELFARE PROJECTS THROUGH THE LOTTERIES FUND AS IS THE CASE AT PRESENT.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE COLONIAL SECRETARY TO TAKE OVER THE FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE IN AUTHORISING THE BOARD TO CONDUCT LOTTERIES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE PRESENCE OF LARGE-SCALE ILLEGAL GAMBLING IN HONG KONG HAD MEANT THAT THE POLICE HAD TO DIVERT A DISPROPORTIONATE AMOUNT OF THEIR EFFORT TO COMBAT THE PROBLEM AND THIS TIED UP MANPOWER WHICH COULD BE MORE USEFULLY EMPLOYED IN OTHER AREAS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME. ILLEGAL GAMBLING ACTIVITIES ALSO PROVIDED OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORRUPTION.

+UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS OBVIOUSLY IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO TRY TO REDUCE ILLEGAL GAMBLING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, AND THE BEST WAY TO DO THIS IS TO PROVIDE CONTROLLED FORMS AS AN ALTERNATIVE.+

COMMENTING ON THE BILL, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE INTRODUCTION LAST YEAR BY THE JOCKEY CLUB OF OFF-COURSE BETTING ON HORSE RACING HAD DISCOURAGED THE USE OF ILLEGAL BOOKMAKERS. +THIS LATEST PROPOSAL IS INTENDED TO FURTHER EXTEND CONTROLLED FORMS OF BETTING SO THAT CONTINUED PRESSURE CAN BE APPLIED ON ILLEGAL GAMBLING.+

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BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION FEES TO BE REVISED
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FEES FOR A BIRTH CERTIFICATE, AN INSPECTION OR ALTERATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS RECORDS ARE TO BE REVISED TO HELP OFFSET PART OF THE OPERATING COST OF THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRY WHICH FACES AN ESTIMATED \$3.2 MILLION DEFICIT THIS YEAR.

THE REVISION IS PROPOSED UNDER THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1975 PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE.

THE BILL SEEKS TO INCREASE FROM \$2 TO \$5 THE FEE FOR THE POST-REGISTRATION OF A BIRTH WITHIN 12 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF BIRTH AND FROM \$15 TO \$30 FOR BIRTH REGISTRATION AFTER THAT PERIOD.

IT ALSO PROPOSES TO INCREASE FROM \$2 TO \$5 THE FEE FOR A CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OR ALTERATION OF THE NAME OF A CHILD.

FOR AN ADDITION TO OR ALTERATION OF THE NAME OF A CHILD AFTER 42 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF BIRTH, A FEE INCREASE FROM \$5 TO \$20 IS PROPOSED.

THE BILL ALSO SEEKS TO INCREASE FROM \$2 TO \$5 THE FEE FOR A PARTICULAR SEARCH OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS RECORDS AND FROM \$25 TO \$30 THAT FOR A GENERAL SEARCH OF SUCH RECORDS.

OTHER FEES PAYABLE TO THE REGISTRY WILL ALSO BE REVISED.

THE PROPOSED INCREASES ARE EXPECTED TO RAISE AN EXTRA \$500,000 A YEAR.

COMMENTING ON THE FEE REVISION, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: +THE PROPOSED PERCENTAGE INCREASE MAY SEEM HIGH, BUT THE COST IN TERMS OF MONEY TO INDIVIDUALS IS LOW.+

HE NOTED THAT EVEN WITH THE PROPOSED INCREASES, PUBLIC FUNDS WILL STILL HAVE TO SUBSIDISE THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRY TO THE EXTENT OF ABOUT \$2.7 MILLION A YEAR.

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GOVT. BONDS BILL
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UNDER A BILL GAZETTED TODAY, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MAY AUTHORISE THE RAISING OF LOANS BY THE ISSUE OF HONG KONG DOLLAR DENOMINATED BONDS.

THESE POWERS MAY BE USED TO RAISE MONEY TO HELP OFFSET THE ESTIMATED \$429 MILLION DEFICIT IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE LOANS (GOVERNMENT BONDS) BILL WILL ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE BONDS FOR RAISING LOANS FOR SUCH PURPOSES AS MAY BE APPROVED BY RESOLUTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE BILL PROVIDES THAT THE POWER OF DETERMINING THE PRICE AND DENOMINATION OF GOVERNMENT BONDS AND THE RATE OF INTEREST PAYABLE ON THEM WILL BE VESTED WITH THE GOVERNOR.

THE RAISING OF MONEY THROUGH THE ISSUE OF HONG KONG DOLLAR DENOMINATION WAS MENTIONED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH LAST FEBRUARY ALONG WITH OTHER PROPOSALS TO FINANCE THE PROJECTED DEFICIT.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT SUBJECT TO NECESSARY AMENDMENTS TO THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE BEING APPROVED, IT WAS INTENDED THAT BONDS ISSUED UNDER THE BILL WOULD BE FREE OF INTEREST TAX.

THERE IS ALSO PROVISION IN THE BILL FOR BONDS ISSUED UNDER THE HONG KONG (REHABILITATION) LOAN ORDINANCE TO BE EXCHANGED FOR GOVERNMENT BONDS ON AGREED TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

THE BILL ALSO EXEMPTS GOVERNMENT BONDS FROM STAMP DUTY.

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SSEE RESULTS TO BE ANNOUNCED NEXT THURSDAY

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THE RESULTS OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION ARE EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE AT PRIMARY SCHOOLS FROM NEXT THURSDAY (JULY 17), BARRING UNFORESEEN DIFFICULTIES, THE SECRETARY OF THE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCED TODAY.

HEADS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS ARE BEING ADVISED WHEN AND WHERE TO COLLECT THE RESULTS.

THIS YEAR INDIVIDUAL RESULTS WILL NOT BE ISSUED TO NEWSPAPERS. +THIS IS BEING DONE TO SAVE TIME AND PARENTS WILL BE ABLE TO LEARN THEIR CHILDREN'S RESULTS AT LEAST TWO DAYS EARLIER THAN WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE IF THE PRESS LIST HAD TO BE COMPILED AND CHECKED,+ THE SECRETARY SAID.

THIS YEAR RESULTS ALSO TAKE ON A DIFFERENT GROUPING SYSTEM. FOR MANY YEARS IT HAD BEEN THE PRACTICE TO GROUP CANDIDATES INTO 'BLOCKS' ACCORDING TO THEIR EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE. THOSE CANDIDATES IN BLOCKS ONE TO SEVEN WERE ELIGIBLE FOR FIVE-YEAR PLACES AND THOSE IN BLOCK EIGHT WERE ELIGIBLE FOR THREE-YEAR PLACES. THE REMAINDER WERE GROUPED INTO A FURTHER TEN TO TWELVE BLOCKS.

THE PRINCIPLE WAS GENERALLY FOLLOWED THAT BLOCKS HAD EQUAL MARK-RANGES (THE EXCEPTIONS BEING THE FIRST, EIGHTH AND LAST BLOCKS). THIS RESULTED IN SOME BLOCKS BEING EXTREMELY LARGE (E.G. 29,107 IN BLOCK EIGHT LAST YEAR) OTHERS VERY SMALL (ONLY 148 IN BLOCK ONE).

AFTER VERY LONG AND CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, THE S.S.E.E. COMMITTEE ADVISED, AND THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION ORDERED, THAT THE BLOCK-SYSTEM SHOULD BE MODIFIED.

THIS YEAR, WINNERS OF FIVE-YEAR PLACES WILL BE GROUPED INTO FIVE BLOCKS, CALLED X1, X2, X3, X4 AND X5, EACH HAVING APPROXIMATELY 3,600 PUPILS= WINNERS OF THREE-YEAR PLACES WILL FORM TWO BLOCKS, Y1 AND Y2, EACH HAVING ABOUT 15,000 PUPILS= AND THE REMAINDER WILL BE IN FIVE BLOCKS, Z1, Z2, Z3, Z4 AND Z5, EACH HAVING ABOUT 9,600 PUPILS.

+THE LETTERS 'X', 'Y' AND 'Z' HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE NEW BLOCKS DO NOT CORRESPOND TO THE OLD,+ THE SECRETARY SAID.

A MEASURE OF CONTINUITY WILL BE PROVIDED, HOWEVER, BY MAINTAINING THE OLD GRADE-SYSTEM FOR THE INDIVIDUAL SUBJECTS, CHINESE, ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS. THESE GRADES WILL BE BASED, AS FORMERLY, ON THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL MARK-INTERVALS.

+IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE COMBINATION OF THE NEW BLOCK-SYSTEM WITH THE TRADITIONAL GRADE-SYSTEM WILL PROVIDE A MORE USEFUL AND INFORMATIVE PICTURE OF EACH PUPIL,+ THE SECRETARY SAID.

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\$18 MILLION DEFICIT RECORDED IN APRIL

THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 1975 SHOW A DEFICIT OF \$18 MILLION COMPARED WITH A DEFICIT OF \$33 MILLION IN APRIL LAST YEAR.

TOTAL REVENUE FOR THE MONTH AT \$405 MILLION WAS \$68 MILLION MORE THAN IN APRIL 1974 DUE MAINLY TO INCREASES IN RATES AND INTERNAL REVENUE.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE AT \$423 MILLION WAS \$53 MILLION MORE THAN FOR THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR MAINLY BECAUSE OF INCREASED SPENDING ON PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS AND PAYMENT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

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117 RECEIVE SILVER AWARDS

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN BOYS AND GIRLS RECEIVED THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH SILVER AWARD THIS AFTERNOON FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY, AT THE MARINERS' CLUB.

HE TOLD THE WINNERS THAT THEY HAD GAINED THE SILVER AWARD FOR PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT RATHER THAN GROUP ACHIEVEMENT.

+IT IS GOOD TO FACE PROBLEMS AS AN INDIVIDUAL - AS A PERSON. BUT DO NOT FORGET THAT INDIVIDUALS FROM GROUPS, AND THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR INDIVIDUALS TO WORK TOGETHER IN GROUPS FOR THE PROGRESS OF ALL,+ MR. TOPLEY SAID.

THE DIRECTOR EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THEY WOULD GO ON TO WORK FOR THE GOLD AWARD REMEMBERING THIS.

EARLIER, AT THE JOINT GRADUATION CEREMONY OF SALVATION ARMY SCHOOLS AT TSZ WAN SHAN, MR. TOPLEY SPOKE ABOUT CHARACTER TRAINING AND PRAISED THE SALVATION ARMY FOR ITS WORK IN THE EDUCATIONAL FIELD AS WELL AS ITS CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES.

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