



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1983

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1983

BILL 'GIVEN CLOSE SCRUTINY'

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APART FROM PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS, THERE WAS LITTLE OPPOSITION TO THE ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS) BILL 1983, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT SAID TODAY.

IN MOVING SEVERAL AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE, PRIOR TO THE THIRD READING, MR SCOTT SAID THAT UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS HAD GIVEN IT CLOSE SCRUTINY AND HAD LISTENED TO THE VIEWS OF BODIES AND INDIVIDUALS WITH AN INTEREST IN ITS PROPOSALS.

+SEVERAL MEMBERS HAVE SPOKEN CLEARLY AND FORCEFULLY, AND I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE FRANKNESS WITH WHICH THE BILL HAS BEEN DISCUSSED BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL,+ HE SAID.

MR SCOTT REPEATED HIS OBSERVATION THAT UNDER THE SCHEME, THE PROPORTION OF PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS WHO WOULD BE LIABLE TO DISQUALIFICATION WOULD BE NO HIGHER THAN THE PROPORTION OF ALL DRIVERS LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED.

+IN BOTH CASES IT IS THE PERSISTENT OFFENDER, WHO THROUGH HIS BAD DRIVING HABITS ENDANGERS THE LIVES OF OTHER ROAD USERS, WHO WILL PUT HIS LICENCE IN JEOPARDY,+ HE SAID.

THE DRIVING OFFENCE POINTS SCHEME, MR SCOTT SAID, WAS NOT A PANACEA BUT ONE ELEMENT IN THE STRATEGY TO PROMOTE ROAD SAFETY AND TO ENCOURAGE BETTER DRIVING.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE PROPOSALS WOULD HAVE AN IMPACT ON BAD DRIVING AND ON UNSAFE USE OF ROADS.

MR SCOTT SAID THAT IT WAS PROPOSED TO IMPLEMENT THE SCHEME IN ABOUT AUGUST 1984, COINCIDENT WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE IMPACT OF THE SCHEME WOULD BE REVIEWED AFTER ONE YEAR OF OPERATION AND, MORE SIGNIFICANTLY AT THE END OF THE SECOND YEAR, WHEN THE FIRST PERIOD OF ACCUMULATION OF PENALTY POINTS HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1983

- 2 -  
+DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS+ BILL BACKED

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FOUR MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC GROUP OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS CONSIDERING THE ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS) BILL 1983 TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL.

THEY WERE THE HON WONG LAM, THE HON K.C. CHAN, THE HON MARIA TAM AND DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP.

ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE AD HOC GROUP THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING THAT MUCH AS SHE AGREED WITH AND SUPPORTED THE SPIRIT OF THIS BILL, SHE HAD TO ABSTAIN.

MR WONG HEARTILY SUPPORTED THE BASIC SPIRIT OF THE BILL +TO IMPROVE THE DRIVING HABITS OF DRIVERS WHO DISREGARD THE SAFETY OF OTHERS.+

MR CHAN SAID HE ONLY SUPPORTED THIS BILL IN PRINCIPLE IN THE BELIEF THAT +IT MAY HELP TO CUT DOWN THE CASUALTY LIST FROM TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.+

MRS CHOW SAID THAT WHETHER +ONE IS A DRIVER OR A PEDESTRIAN, ONE CANNOT BUT AGREE WHOLE-HEARTEDLY THAT UNSAFE DRIVING BEHAVIOUR SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED AND PERSISTENT OFFENDERS OF SUCH BEHAVIOUR SHOULD BE TAKEN OFF THE ROAD FOR THE SAKE OF SAFETY FOR ALL.+

DR IP SAID: +THE BILL FINALLY ALLOWS GOVERNMENT AN ON-GOING ASSESSMENT OF DRIVERS OF THEIR CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUBLIC SAFETY.

+AS PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE, LET US HOPE THAT THIS BILL SERVES TO DETER EACH AND EVERY DRIVER ON THE ROAD FROM UNSAFE DRIVING, RATHER THAN TO SERVE AS A WARNING ONLY TO THOSE WHO SO QUICKLY SCORE POINTS. OUR PUBLIC WILL THEN BE SAFER ON THE ROADS.+

DR IP POINTED OUT THAT IN 1981 THERE WERE 27 249 ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS OF WHICH 7 965 WERE HOSPITALISED AND 514 DIED. +IT IS OBVIOUS THAT MANY DRIVERS HAVE FORGOTTEN THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUBLIC SAFETY.+

THREE MEMBERS, MR WONG, MRS CHOW AND DR IP QUERIED THE INCLUSION OF ITEMS 7 TO 11 AND 16 WHICH +HAD NO DIRECT BEARING ON ROAD SAFETY.+

MR WONG DESCRIBED SUCH OFFENCE POINTS AS +A KIND OF DOUBLE PENALTY.+ +THE GOVERNMENT, BY INVOKING THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE, IS ALREADY ABLE TO PUNISH THE OFFENDER WITH FINES OR IMPRISONMENT. OFFENCE POINTS WILL ONLY INCREASE THE PENALTY, AND PROVIDE A GREATER DETERRENT EFFECT,+ SAID MR WONG.

+I THINK THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD DELETE ALL SUCH ITEMS FROM THE SCHEDULE OF THE BILL,+ SAID MR WONG.

/MRS CHOW .....

MRS CHOW SAID THAT ITEMS 7, 8, 9 AND 11 HAD REMAINED ON THE SCHEDULE, ADDING THAT +THEY ARE NOT THEMSELVES UNSAFE DRIVING BEHAVIOUR ALTHOUGH THEY ARE RELATED TO OR CONSEQUENTIAL FROM UNSAFE DRIVING BEHAVIOUR.+

+ALTHOUGH THE ADMINISTRATION HAS AGREED SINCE OUR DISCUSSIONS TO DROP ITEMS 10 AND 16, IT WOULD BE WRONG OF ME TO ACCEPT THIS COMPROMISE, FOR A MAJOR PRINCIPLE OF THE BILL IS AT STAKE.

DR IP SAID: +WHILE WE PENALISE THE IRRESPONSIBLE DRIVERS, WE MUST ENSURE THAT RESPONSIBLE ONES ARE NOT UNNECESSARILY HARASSED.

+ALTHOUGH I WAS FINALLY CONVINCED THAT ALL THE OFFENCES AS LISTED IN THIS BILL AFTER AMENDMENTS MAY BE DIRECTLY RELATED TO SAFETY ON THE ROAD, I'LL LIKE ALSO TO ADD THAT UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, THEY MAY NOT BE. AND IF NOT, SUCH OFFENCES SHOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO DISQUALIFICATION.

+ 'FAILING TO STOP AFTER AN ACCIDENT', 'FAILING TO GIVE PARTICULARS AFTER AN ACCIDENT' AND 'FAILING TO REPORT AN ACCIDENT' MAY BEAR DIRECT RELATIONSHIP TO UNSAFE DRIVING ONLY WHEN SOMEONE IS INJURED.

+ONE MAY BE FORCED TO CROSS DOUBLE WHITE LINES TO OVERTAKE A BROKEN-DOWN CAR IN FRONT. ONE MAY HAVE TO PASS A RED LIGHT TO GIVE WAY TO AN AMBULANCE BEHIND. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, WHEN DUE CARE IS TAKEN, SUCH ACTS SHOULD IMPOSE NO DANGER. ON THE CONTRARY, DANGER IS LITERALLY AVOIDED,+ SHE SAID.

TURNING TO ENFORCEMENT, MR WONG POINTED OUT THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW OFFENCE POINTS ORDINANCE WOULD +GREATLY INCREASE THE CHANCE OF FRICTION BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND DRIVERS (PARTICULARLY PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS).+

MR WONG SAID: +THE GOVERNMENT MUST GIVE CLEARER DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS OF THESE ITEMS WHICH ARE MORE LIKELY TO LEAD TO DISPUTES.

+THERE SHOULD ALSO BE MORE DEFINITE GUIDANCE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND SEVERE PENALTIES FOR UNFAIR ALLEGATIONS, SO AS TO REDUCE THE ANXIETIES OF DRIVERS AND THE CHANCES OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND DRIVERS.+

MR CHAN SAID: +TO ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVE OF INCREASING ROAD SAFETY WITHOUT CREATING UNDUE HARDSHIP TO DRIVERS MUCH DEPENDS ON THE TACT, EDUCATED MANNERS, REASONABLE ATTITUDE AND TOLERANCE OF OUR LAW ENFORCING OFFICERS ON THE BEAT.

+AS CAN BE HEARD DAILY IN THE STREETS, WHEN A DRIVER COMMITS A MINOR OFFENCE AND APOLOGISES FOR IT, THE BETTER OFFICERS LET HIM OFF WITH A WARNING; THE INDIFFERENT ONES TELL THE DRIVER TO SPEAK TO THE MAGISTRATE AND THE BAD ONES EITHER TELL THE DRIVER THAT HE WILL ADDITIONALLY BE PROSECUTED FOR OBSTRUCTING AN OFFICER IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTIES, OR UPGRADE HIS CARELESS DRIVING CHARGE TO ONE OF DANGEROUS DRIVING (THE OLD TERM FOR RECKLESS DRIVING).

+DEPENDING ON THE MANNER IN WHICH THE CONSTABLE WRITES HIS REPORT, IN NON-ACCIDENT CASES THE CHARGE COULD BE UPGRADED AS THE DRIVER HAS NO SAY UNTIL HE APPEARS BEFORE THE MAGISTRATE.+

MRS CHOW ECHOED THE CONCERN FELT BY MANY MOTORISTS, PROFESSIONAL OR OTHERWISE, THAT +QUITE A NUMBER OF POLICE OFFICERS HAVE A RATHER STRANGE WAY OF HANDLING TRAFFIC OFFENDERS.+

+ABUSE OF POWER AT THE LEVEL OF EXECUTION IS CERTAINLY NOT UNHEARD OF. EMOTIONAL CONFRONTATION BETWEEN MOTORISTS AND POLICEMEN IS THE RESULT OF POOR HANDLING BY THE OFFICERS.

+AGAINST SUCH A BACKGROUND, IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO INCREASE THE POWER OF THE OFFICER FURTHER,+ MRS CHOW SAID.

MISS TAM SAID: +IN ENFORCING THE LAW SOME DISCRETIONARY LEEWAY IS SOMETIMES PERMISSIBLE.

+FOR INSTANCE, A CONTAINER TRUCK CROSSING THE DOUBLE WHITE LINES SHOULD, ACCORDING TO THE BILL, INCUR THREE PENALTY POINTS. THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER MAY AFTER CONSIDERING THE EXPLANATION OFFERED BY THE DRIVER, ALLOW THE TRUCK TO CROSS THE DOUBLE WHITE LINES IN A SAFE MANNER MAKING A TURN, IF TRAFFIC CONDITIONS ON THE ROAD PERMIT AT THAT TIME.

+WITH REGARD TO THE TWO OFFENCES OF CAUSING DEATH BY RECKLESS DRIVING AND RECKLESS DRIVING WHICH INCUR PENALTY POINTS, THIS COUNCIL HAS BEEN ASSURED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DURING A DEBATE ON THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE 1982 THAT INDIVIDUAL CASES WILL BE SCRUTINISED BY HIS CHAMBER BEFORE PROSECUTIONS ARE INSTITUTED.

+THIS WOULD BE A POWERFUL GUARANTEE FOR THE FAIR ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAW.+

DR IP SAID THAT NO MAN-MADE LAW WAS PERFECT AND EXCEPTIONS MUST ALWAYS BE ALLOWED.

THE UNOFFICIALS NOTED THE CONCERN AMONG PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIONS TO UMELCO AND THE AD HOC GROUP.

MR CHAN SAID: +IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE NUMBER OF PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS WHO ARE DISQUALIFIED ANNUALLY AND THE INCREASE IN OFFENCES OF DRIVING WITHOUT A VALID LICENCE SHOULD BE CAREFULLY MONITORED AND THAT THESE FIGURES SHOULD BE COMPARED WITH ANY DECREASE IN TRAFFIC CASUALTIES.

+AS THESE ARE HARD TIMES OF INCREASING UNEMPLOYMENT, INFLATION, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY, NO ADDITIONAL BURDEN SHOULD BE IMPOSED ON PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOOD AND NO UNNECESSARY CONFRONTATION SHOULD BE CREATED IN OUR COMMUNITY.+

MRS CHOW SAID: +THE DRIVERS HAVE, IN MY VIEW, BEEN QUITE OBJECTIVE AND DISPASSIONATE IN THEIR APPROACH.

+FURTHERMORE, THEY ARE MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE ACTUAL CONDITIONS ON OUR ROADS AND THEIR VIEWS SHOULD NOT BE ALTOGETHER IGNORED.+

LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL APPROVED  
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THE AD HOC GROUP OF 12 UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CONVENED BY THE HON PETER C. WONG TO EXAMINE THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) MOVED AMENDMENTS TO EIGHT CLAUSES OF THE BILL DURING THE COMMITTEE STAGE.

THE AMENDMENTS WERE PROPOSED BY THREE MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC GROUP, THE HON S.L. CHEN, THE HON JOHN SWAINE AND THE HON MARIA TAM.

MR CHEN MOVED AMENDMENTS TO CLAUSES 11 AND 30(D) TO RESTORE THE ORIGINAL SPIRIT OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE REGARDING THE PROTECTION ON RENT INCREASE AND SECURITY OF TENURE TO BE GIVEN TO DEPENDENT FAMILY MEMBERS OF A DECEASED TENANT.

+SUCH PROTECTION WILL NOW BE LIMITED TO THOSE DEPENDENT FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WERE RESIDING WITH THE TENANT AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH, AND WILL NOT BE PASSED ON IN PERPETUITY,+ SAID MR CHEN.

MR SWAINE MOVED AMENDMENTS TO FOUR CLAUSES OF THE BILL.

+THE AMENDMENTS TO CLAUSES 15(H) AND 37(A) WILL HAVE THE EFFECT OF RETAINING THE TWO-YEAR RESTRICTION ON THE LANDLORD'S POWER TO DEAL WITH RE-POSSESSED PREMISES AS FROM THE DATE OF THE ORDER OR DECISION OF THE LANDS TRIBUNAL,+ HE SAID.

THE AMENDMENT TO CLAUSE 24(B) WILL LIMIT THE POWER OF THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION TO REQUIRE THE SUPPLY OF INFORMATION TO SUCH AS IS REASONABLY REQUIRED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENFORCING PART II.

THE AMENDMENT TO CLAUSE 25 WILL ENSURE THAT AN OFFENCE IS COMMITTED ONLY IF THERE IS NO REASONABLE EXCUSE FOR THE WITHHOLDING OF INFORMATION OR FOR OTHER OBSTRUCTION OF THE COMMISSIONER IN THE EXERCISE OF HIS POWERS.

MISS TAM MOVED AMENDMENTS TO CLAUSE 15(G) AND THE INSERTION OF A NEW CLAUSE 40B TO AMEND SECTION 119P OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE TO MAKE SURE THAT A SUB-TENANT, WHO HAS BECOME THE DIRECT TENANT IN ABSENTEE PRINCIPAL TENANT CASES, WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SUB-LET AGAIN WITHOUT THE LANDLORD'S WRITTEN PERMISSION, EVEN THOUGH THE SUB-LETTING IS NOT IN BREACH OF CONTRACTUAL TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL TENANCY.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON DONALD LIAO, IN HIS SPEECH THANKED MEMBERS WHO HAD SPOKEN ON THE BILL.

THE OBJECT OF THE BILL, MR LIAO SAID, WAS NOT TO STIMULATE THE PROPERTY MARKET, BUT RATHER TO BALANCE THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS AND ASPIRATIONS OF BOTH LANDLORDS AND TENANTS.

+IN SO FAR AS THE REMOVAL OF RENT CONTROL LEGISLATION ENCOURAGES A STABLE AND PRODUCTIVE PRIVATE PROPERTY MARKET, IT IS AN END WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO BE PURSUED AS PART OF OUR OVERALL HOUSING POLICY,+ MR LIAO SAID.

THE BILL HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF WIDE CONSULTATION WITH UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC, HE POINTED OUT.

THE COMMITTEE STAGE AMENDMENTS PROPOSED WERE THE OUTCOME OF THIS CONSULTATIVE PROCESS, HE SAID.

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#### SECURITY MEASURES PROMISED ON AIRPORT TAX COLLECTION

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ASSURANCE WAS GIVEN BY THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON DOUGLAS BLYE AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT ALL REASONABLE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS AND MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN TO SAFEGUARD THE MONEY COLLECTED AND TO PROTECT AIRLINE STAFF RESPONSIBLE FOR COLLECTING THE AIR PASSENGER DEPARTURE TAX.

MR BLYE ADDED THAT HE WOULD NOT, FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, WISH TO DISCLOSE PUBLICLY EXACTLY WHAT THOSE MEASURES WERE, AND SAID: +I CAN ALSO ASSURE MEMBERS THAT STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO GUARD AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE FLOW OF PASSENGERS MAY BE DISRUPTED BY COLLECTION OF MONEY AT THE CHECK-IN COUNTERS.

+THE SITUATION WILL BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW TO ENSURE THAT PROBLEMS ARE DEALT WITH PROMPTLY AND APPROPRIATELY.

MR BLYE WAS SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE AIR PASSENGER DEPARTURE TAX BILL.

IN THANKING MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEBATE ON THE BILL, WHICH WAS PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS, MR BLYE REFERRED ALSO TO POINTS RAISED BY DR THE HON RAYSON HUANG. HE DID NOT, MR BLYE SAID, SHARE DR HUANG'S ASSESSMENT THAT IT WAS A DRASTIC MEASURE WHICH MIGHT WELL PROVE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

+IT IS A MEASURE WHICH WILL PRODUCE A REASONABLE CONTRIBUTION IN REVENUE AND SO ASSIST IN BALANCING THE 1983-84 BUDGET,+ HE SAID.

THE TAX, HE SAID, WOULD NOT FALL INDISCRIMINATELY ON THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AS A WHOLE, BUT ON THOSE RESIDENTS AND NON-RESIDENTS ALIKE WHO COULD AFFORD TO TRAVEL BY AIR.

MR BLYE SAID ALSO THAT HE DID NOT THINK THE TAX WOULD RESULT IN A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF TOURISTS VISITING HONG KONG.

REFERRING TO THE HON BILL BROWN'S COMMENTS ON THE BILL, MR BLYE SAID HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE VIEWS OF THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS' MONETARY POLICY GROUP AND ALSO FOR THE GROUP'S SUPPORT -- +AT LEAST IN PRINCIPLE+ -- FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF THE TAX.

/HE ALSO .....

HE ALSO THANKED THE GROUP FOR ITS UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN MEETING SOME OF THE POINTS IT RAISED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION.

MR BLYE LATER MOVED TWO AMENDMENTS AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE.

HE EXPLAINED THAT AN AMENDMENT TO CLAUSE 1 MEANT THAT THE ORDINANCE WOULD COME INTO OPERATION TOMORROW (THURSDAY, JUNE 9).

IN MOVING A SECOND AMENDMENT, FOR A NEW CLAUSE 18, HE SAID MANY EMPLOYERS IN HONG KONG UNDERTOOK, AS PART OF THE CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT THEY OFFERED, TO PAY PASSAGES AND TRAVELLING EXPENSES OF EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

THIS SECOND AMENDMENT WAS TO REMOVE ANY CONTRACTUAL LIABILITY FOR THE NEW TAX ON THE PART OF EMPLOYERS (INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT) IN RESPECT OF EMPLOYEES WHO HAD THE PRESENT PASSENGER SERVICE CHARGE PAID AS PART OF THEIR CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

+THE GOVERNMENT HAS THEREFORE CONSIDERED IT APPROPRIATE TO PROVIDE EXPLICITLY FOR THE REMOVAL OF ANY SUCH LIABILITY, BY THE ADDITION OF NEW CLAUSE 18.

+THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT EMPLOYERS DO NOT NORMALLY PAY THEIR EMPLOYEES' PERSONAL TAXES. HOWEVER, IF INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYERS WISH TO ASSUME SUCH LIABILITY IN RESPECT OF THE AIR PASSENGER DEPARTURE TAX, THEY MAY OF COURSE DO SO,+ HE SAID.

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#### PROVISION FOR CHANGE OF TAX SCALE WELCOMED

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A CLAUSE ENABLING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE SCALE OF THE AIR PASSENGER DEPARTURE TAX AS AND WHEN NECESSARY, WAS WELCOMED BY THE HON BILL BROWN TODAY.

MR BROWN WAS SPEAKING DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE AIR PASSENGER DEPARTURE TAX BILL 1983 AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR BROWN, CONVENOR OF THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS' MONETARY POLICY GROUP EXAMINING THE BILL, SUPPORTED THE MOTION.

HE SAID THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS' GROUP HAD NO REAL ARGUMENT WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF THE BILL WHICH IMPOSED A TAX ON PASSENGERS DEPARTING BY AIR FROM HONG KONG.

+I, AND A NUMBER OF MY UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES, HOWEVER, HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS IN THE BUDGET DEBATE AS TO THE AMOUNT OF THIS TAX.

+WE BELIEVE IT UNFORTUNATE OUR SUGGESTION THAT THE TAX ALSO BE LEVIED ON DEPARTURES BY SEA, THUS ENABLING IT TO BE REDUCED, HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION,+ HE SAID.

/HOWEVER, .....

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT THEIR WORRIES REGARDING THE LIKELY EFFECTS OF THIS BILL ON THE TOURIST INDUSTRY AND ON THE HONG KONG ECONOMY AT LARGE WERE MITIGATED TO SOME EXTENT BY THE PROVISION.

MR BROWN SAID UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS NOTED THE CONCERN RAISED BY CERTAIN AIRLINE STAFF UNIONS THAT THE LARGE SUM OF MONEY TO BE COLLECTED DAILY AT THE AIRPORT CHECK-IN COUNTERS COULD POSE A SERIOUS SECURITY RISK.

+I WOULD ASK THE ADMINISTRATION TO GIVE AN ASSURANCE THAT ADEQUATE SECURITY PROVISIONS WILL BE ARRANGED AT THE AIRPORT CHECK-IN COUNTERS TO ALLEVIATE SUCH RISKS,+ HE SAID.

NOTWITHSTANDING ANY SUCH ASSURANCE, HE WAS OF THE VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF THIS TAX WERE TO BE COLLECTED AT SEPARATE COLLECTION POINTS FROM THE AIRLINE CHECK-IN COUNTERS.

HE QUERIED WHETHER THE COLLECTION OF TAX IN ADDITION TO THE SECURITY CHECKING OF LUGGAGE, PLUS THE NORMAL CHECK-IN PROCEDURES, COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT CONSIDERABLE DISRUPTION TO THE FLOW OF PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

+I GIVE NOTICE NOW THAT AFTER A FEW MONTHS OF OPERATION I SHALL BE ASKING QUESTIONS IN THIS COUNCIL TO SEEK CONFIRMATION THAT THESE COLLECTION PROCEDURES HAVE NOT RESULTED IN ANY LOSS OF EFFICIENCY IN THE OPERATION OF OUR AIRPORT,+ HE SAID.

MR BROWN POINTED OUT THAT THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS' GROUP HAD RAISED SEVERAL POINTS, TO WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION RESPONDED.

SOME OF THE POINTS WERE:

- \* AN ASSURANCE THAT THE AIRLINES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ISSUE A RECEIPT WHEN THEY COLLECT THE TAX FROM DEPARTING PASSENGERS. SUCH RECEIPTS WOULD BE RETAINED BY PASSENGERS TO CLAIM TRAVELLING EXPENSES FROM EMPLOYERS WHERE APPROPRIATE.
- \* THE RATIONALE FOR NOT GRANTING EXEMPTION, OR AT LEAST A REDUCED RATE, TO PASSENGERS WHO ARE IN HONG KONG ONLY FOR AN OVERNIGHT STOP. IT WAS LEARNED THAT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD CREATE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES IN THE CALCULATION OF TAX RETURNS AND WAS THEREFORE NOT VIABLE.
- \* WITH REGARD TO THE INCLUSION OF THE TAX IN THE AIR FARE IT WAS INDICATED THAT IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE TAX COULD ONLY FEASIBLY BE APPLIED TO AIRLINE TICKETS PURCHASED IN HONG KONG AND AS SUCH REPRESENTED ONLY ABOUT 25 PER CENT OF THE AIR DEPARTURE TRAFFIC.

REFERRING TO THE TWO AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID WHILE THE FIRST WAS OF A TECHNICAL NATURE, THE SECOND (CLAUSE 18) SERVED A GOOD PURPOSE IN THAT IT CLARIFIED THE POSITION.

+EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES WILL THUS BE IN A POSITION TO NEGOTIATE AFRESH ON WHETHER AND IN WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES THE TAX SHOULD BE PAYABLE BY THE EMPLOYER,+ HE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1983

UNOFFICIAL MEMBER 'UNCONVINCED'

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UNOFFICIAL MEMBER DR HON RAYSON HUANG TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID THAT THE PROPOSED AIR PASSENGER DEPARTURE TAX, +MIGHT WELL PROVE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE+ AS A MEASURE TO RAISE REVENUE.

HE STATED THIS DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE AIR PASSENGER DEPARTURE TAX BILL 1983 AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

+IN MY SPEECH IN THIS COUNCIL IN MARCH, I SPOKE OF MY AVERSION TO DRASTIC MEASURES IN GENERAL, AND THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION IS ONE THAT FALLS INTO THIS CATEGORY.

DR HUANG SAID HE REMAINED UNCONVINCED AS TO THE WISDOM OF THIS BILL AND WOULD ABSTAIN FROM VOTING.

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BAN PLANNED ON USE OF HORMONES FOR POULTRY

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO BAN THE USE OF SYNTHETIC HORMONES IN LOCALLY BRED POULTRY AND TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF MEAT CONTAINING HORMONE RESIDUES.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS.

THE PRACTICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF THE POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION WERE BEING URGENTLY CONSIDERED, MR JACOBS SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI ON THE USE OF GROWTH-PROMOTING CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS IN THE LOCAL POULTRY INDUSTRY.

ONE COURSE OF ACTION UNDER CONSIDERATION WAS TO APPLY TO THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD TO HAVE HEXOESTROL, A SYNTHETIC HORMONE, DE-REGISTERED UNDER THE PHARMACY AND POISONS REGULATIONS, MR JACOBS SAID.

THIS, HE ADDED, WOULD MAKE THE SALE AND IMPORTATION OF HEXOESTROL IN HONG KONG ILLEGAL AND WOULD PUT AN END TO ITS USE IN THE LOCAL POULTRY INDUSTRY.

ANOTHER MEASURE BEING CONSIDERED WAS TO AMEND THE HARMFUL SUBSTANCES IN FOOD REGULATIONS SO THAT THE SALE, IMPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ANY POULTRY CONTAINING DETECTABLE AMOUNTS OF HORMONE RESIDUES WOULD BE AN OFFENCE, HE DISCLOSED.

WITH THESE TWO MEASURES, ALL POSSIBLE CAUSES FOR CONCERN WOULD BE REMOVED, MR JACOBS ADDED.

HEXOESTROL HAS BEEN USED LOCALLY FOR 30 YEARS, AND HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEEN BANNED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

MR JACOBS SAID THAT NEVERTHELESS, THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION WAS BASED ON PRESENT-DAY KNOWLEDGE.

THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAD SO FAR RECEIVED NO REPORT OF CASES ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE TOXIC EFFECTS OF SYNTHETIC HORMONE RESIDUES IN FOOD, HE SAID.

BUT HE ADDED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO CORRELATE THE CAUSES AND EFFECT IN ANY PARTICULAR CASE.

+THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE SO FAR INDICATES THAT HORMONE RESIDUES IN MEAT POSE POTENTIAL HEALTH HAZARDS.

+WHILE THERE MAY BE NO CONCLUSIVE PROOF IN ANY PARTICULAR CASE THAT CANCER HAS BEEN CAUSED BY THE HORMONE RESIDUE, THE LABORATORY EVIDENCE FROM TEST ANIMALS DOES GIVE SUFFICIENT CAUSE FOR CONCERN,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

THE SOUTH CHINA BREEDS OF CHICKEN PREFERRED BY THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WERE SLOW GROWING, HE SAID.

IMPLANTATION OF HEXOESTROL MADE THEM READY FOR SALE EARLIER, THUS REDUCING FEED AND LABOUR COSTS AND INCREASING THE LOCAL SUPPLIES, HE SAID.

VIRTUALLY ALL COCKERELS AND AN ESTIMATED 10 PER CENT OF PULLETS REARED LOCALLY WERE THUS IMPLANTED, HE ADDED.

AT PRESENT, SIX BRANDS OF HEXOESTROL PELLETS ARE REGISTERED UNDER THE PHARMACY AND POISONS REGULATIONS AS PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS PERMITTED FOR USE IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY.

WITH ONE OR TWO EXCEPTIONS, FULL INSTRUCTIONS WERE GIVEN BY THE MANUFACTURERS IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE ON SAFE DOSAGE AND THE PERIOD THAT MUST ELAPSE BEFORE THE BIRD COULD BE CONSUMED, MR JACOBS POINTED OUT.

+IF HEXOESTROL IS PROPERLY USED, THERE SHOULD BE NO HORMONE RESIDUE REMAINING IN THE BIRD AT THE TIME OF CONSUMPTION BECAUSE THE HORMONE WILL HAVE BEEN FULLY METABOLISED AND EXCRETED.

+I UNDERSTAND THAT THE POSSIBLE HEALTH HAZARD TO HUMANS COULD THEREFORE BE AVOIDED,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

IF THE CORRECT DOSAGE WAS EXCEEDED OR IF THE FARMER PUT THE IMPLANTED BIRD ON THE MARKET BEFORE THE WITHDRAWAL PERIOD EXPIRED, HORMONES RESIDUES COULD REMAIN IN THE MEAT OF THE WHOLE BIRD, NOT JUST THE HEAD AND THE NECK WHERE HEXOESTROL WAS IMPLANTED, HE SAID.

FURTHERMORE, HE ADDED, THE RESIDUES DID NOT DECOMPOSE ON COOKING.

OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAD TESTED 38 FRESHLY SLAUGHTERED AND FROZEN CHICKENS RANDOMLY SAMPLED FROM THE MARKET TO TEST THE PRESENCE OF SYNTHETIC HORMONE RESIDUES.

OF THESE, 19 WERE LOCALLY BRED CHICKENS, FOUR OF WHICH SHOWED THE PRESENCE OF SYNTHETIC HORMONE RESIDUES UP TO A LEVEL OF 0.1 PART PER MILLION OF CHICKEN FLESH, MR JACOBS REPORTED.

FIVE OF THE SAMPLES WERE FROM CHINA, WITH TWO OF THEM SHOWING SIMILAR RESULTS.

THE REST -- IMPORTED FROM DENMARK, HOLLAND AND THE US -- YIELDED NEGATIVE RESULTS, HE SAID.

THE PATTERN OF CONSUMPTION OF CHICKENS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN SHOWED THAT IN 1982, THE ESTIMATED TOTAL WEIGHT OF LIVE CHICKENS, FROZEN CHICKENS AND FROZEN CHICKEN PARTS CONSUMED IN HONG KONG WAS 85 060 TONNES, MR JACOBS SAID.

OF THESE, HONG KONG PRODUCED 32 PER CENT AND CHINA SUPPLIED 23.5 PER CENT, WITH THE REMAINING 44.5 PER CENT PROVIDED BY OTHER COUNTRIES MOST OF WHICH HAD BANNED THE USE OF SYNTHETIC HORMONES, HE SAID.

+TO SAFEGUARD THE PUBLIC AGAINST THE POTENTIAL HAZARDS POSED BY LOCALLY REARED CHICKENS, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES HAS BEEN REGULARLY ADVISING CHICKEN FARMERS DISTRIBUTING PAMPHLETS ON THE PROPER USE OF SYNTHETIC HORMONES AND ON THE HEALTH HAZARDS ARISING FROM THEIR MISUSE.

+THE DIRECTOR HAS INCREASED HIS EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

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#### EDUCATION FUND BILL INTRODUCED

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A BILL WHICH SETS OUT THE CONDITIONS FOR THE OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN EDUCATION FUND FOR CHILDREN OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES OFFICERS WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN INTRODUCING THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES CHILDREN'S EDUCATION TRUST BILL 1983, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID THE CONDITIONS WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE CONTAINED IN THE POLICE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION TRUST ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 1119).

THE FUND, ESTABLISHED THROUGH A PRIVATE DONATION RECEIVED BY THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT EARLY THIS YEAR, PROVIDES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF CHILDREN OF THE DEPARTMENT'S JUNIOR OFFICERS AND FOR THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN OF THOSE OFFICERS.

THE FUND WOULD BE MANAGED BY A COMMITTEE, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OFFICERS CONCERNED TO ENSURE THAT THE VIEWS OF THE BENEFICIARIES WOULD BE FULLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, MR JEAFFRESON EXPLAINED.

THE BILL ALSO INCLUDES PROVISION FOR AN INVESTMENT ADVISORY BOARD TO ADVISE ON HOW THE FUND SHOULD BE INVESTED.

THE BILL WAS READ A SECOND TIME, WITH DEBATE ADJOURNED TILL JUNE 29.

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## POSITION ON CIVIL DEBT

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THE WAY AHEAD WAS TO RETAIN IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE THE DEBTOR HAD CONCEALED HIS ASSETS OR HAD PUT HIS ASSETS BEYOND THE REACH OF HIS CREDITORS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JOHN GRIFFITHS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

POINTING OUT THAT HE WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY, MR GRIFFITHS SAID THESE TWO MATTERS SHOULD BE SHOWN TO BE THE CASE BEFORE AND NOT AFTER A DEBTOR WAS IMPRISONED.

+THE PRESENT POSITION IS THAT IT IS FOR ANY DEBTOR TO MAKE APPLICATION TO BE RELEASED AND HE WILL BE RELEASED UNLESS THE CREDITOR CAN SHOW ONE OR THE OTHER OF THOSE TWO GROUNDS,+ HE SAID.

MR GRIFFITHS WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PETER C. WONG WHO ASKED FOR THE LATEST POSITION REGARDING THE REVIEW OF THE ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES RELATING TO CIVIL DEBTS.

HE SAID HE RECEIVED A REPORT BY A WORKING GROUP COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AT THE END OF MAY.

+THE INTENTION IS THAT AFTER THE REPORT HAS BEEN LOOKED INTO AND AFTER THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS ARTICLE 11 HAS BEEN ASSESSED IN ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE PROBLEM, THE MATTER SHOULD BE DRAWN TO THE ATTENTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR THEM TO TAKE A VIEW UPON IT,+ HE SAID.

ARTICLE 11 PROVIDES THAT NO ONE SHOULD BE IMPRISONED MERELY ON THE GROUND OF INABILITY TO FULFIL A CONTRACTURAL OBLIGATION, HE ADDED.

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## MORE CIVIL SERVICE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

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A WOMAN'S MARITAL STATUS WOULD NO LONGER BE A CONSIDERATION IN SELECTION FOR ENTRY TO TRAINING COURSES FOR THE NURSING AND TEACHING PROFESSIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE HON MARTIN ROWLANDS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MARIA TAM, MR ROWLANDS SAID EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN THE CIVIL SERVICE WERE EXPANDING ALL THE TIME.

+WE NOW EMPLOY SOME 46 000 WOMEN ALTOGETHER, OF WHOM 21 400 ARE MARRIED. THERE ARE FOR EXAMPLE 3 000 MARRIED WOMEN IN THE NURSING SERVICE, 1 500 IN THE TEACHING GRADES AND 1 600 MARRIED WOMEN IN THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE,+ HE SAID.

/AS FOR .....

AS FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF MARRIED WOMEN FOR TRAINING BY THE POLICE, MR ROWLANDS POINTED OUT THAT THE POSITION WAS RATHER DIFFERENT.

+BECAUSE OF THE INTENSIVE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS OF THE FORCE, IT HAS BEEN THE POLICY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE NOT TO APPOINT MARRIED MEN OR MARRIED WOMEN FOR TRAINING AS INSPECTORS.

+FOR THE SAME REASON IT IS FORCE POLICY NOT TO RECRUIT MARRIED WOMEN FOR TRAINING AS CONSTABLES,+ HE SAID.

MR ROWLANDS ADDED THAT IN PURSUANCE OF THE GENERAL POLICY NOT TO PLACE ANY BAR ON THE APPOINTMENT OF EITHER MEN OR WOMEN TO POSTS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE, HE WAS PROPOSING TO LIFT THE BAR AGAINST THE APPOINTMENT OF MEN TO THE SECRETARIAL AND TYPING GRADES.

+WHILE I WOULD NOT EXPECT THIS TO CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY THE PATTERN OF RECRUITMENT TO THE SECRETARIAL AND TYPING GRADES, I DO RECOGNISE THAT THERE IS HERE A POINT OF LOGIC,+ HE SAID.

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CONTROLS ON UNDESIRABLE ADVERTS +ADEQUATE+  
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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JOHN GRIFFITHS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT EXISTING CONTROL MEASURES WERE ADEQUATE TO DETER OFFENDERS UNDER THE UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS ORDINANCE.

HE SAID PROSECUTIONS WERE INSTITUTED WHEN COMPLAINTS UNDER THE UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS ORDINANCE WERE RECEIVED BY THE AUTHORITIES.

AS RECENTLY AS FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, HE SAID, THE PUBLISHER AND EDITOR OF A NEWSPAPER WERE CONVICTED FOR AN ADVERTISEMENT, WHICH WAS FALSE, ADVERTISING A CURE FOR VENEREAL DISEASE.

HE WAS ANSWERING A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHEUNG YAN-LUNG WHO ASKED HOW MANY PERSONS HAD BEEN PROSECUTED DURING EACH OF THE PAST FIVE YEARS UNDER THE UNDESIRABLE MEDICAL ADVERTISEMENTS ORDINANCE AND WHETHER EXISTING CONTROL MEASURES WERE ADEQUATE TO DETER OFFENDERS.

MR GRIFFITHS REGRETTED THAT HE COULD NOT GIVE ANY STATISTICS BECAUSE THE POLICE DID NOT RECORD DETAILS OF THE NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS BROUGHT UNDER THE ORDINANCE IN QUESTION.

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## LES RECEIVES 12 000 JOB OFFERINGS

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LAST MONTH EMPLOYERS NOTIFIED MORE THAN 12 000 VACANCIES TO THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (LES) OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, REPRESENTING AN 80 PER CENT INCREASE OVER APRIL AND 63 PER CENT OVER MAY OF 1982. THE FIGURE INCLUDED 4 530 TEMPORARY SUMMER JOBS.

THIS WAS REVEALED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHEN ANSWERING A QUESTION FROM THE REV THE HON JOYCE BENNETT, WHO ASKED IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SECONDARY SCHOOL LEAVERS SEEKING ASSISTANCE FROM THE LES AND WHAT ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE TO HELP THE STUDENTS IN FINDING SUITABLE JOBS.

MR HENDERSON AGAIN APPEALED TO EMPLOYERS TO MAKE MORE USE OF THE FREE SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE LES BY INFORMING THEM OF VACANCIES.

MEANWHILE AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, THE LES EMPLOYED TEMPORARY CLERICAL STAFF TO COPE WITH THE SEASONAL INCREASE OF JOB-SEEKERS.

THIS YEAR A TOTAL OF 26 TEMPORARY CLERKS WOULD BE EMPLOYED, OF WHOM 18 WERE ALREADY IN POST AND A FURTHER EIGHT WOULD START NEXT MONTH, MR HENDERSON SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT EVERY YEAR, AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION, USUALLY IN THE LATTER HALF OF MAY, THERE WAS AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 50 PER CENT IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE REGISTERING WITH THE LES FOR EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR ABOUT FOUR MONTHS.

NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, THE MAJORITY OF THESE REGISTRANTS WERE FRESH SCHOOL LEAVERS LOOKING FOR JOBS, EITHER PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY, HE SAID.

FOLLOWING THE USUAL PATTERNS OF THE PAST FEW YEARS, THE NUMBER OF REGISTRATIONS IN MAY THIS YEAR WAS 56 PER CENT MORE THAN IN APRIL BUT SHOWED A SLIGHT DECREASE OF FIVE PER CENT OVER MAY 1982.

ASSURING THE COUNCIL THAT THE LES WOULD TRY ITS BEST TO HELP REGISTRANTS FIND SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT, MR HENDERSON STRESSED THAT THE LES ONLY ACTED AS A MIDDLEMAN AND THAT IT COULD NOT CREATE JOBS BY ITSELF.

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## ADVANTAGE SEEN IN OVERHEAD TRAFFIC SIGNALS

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A REPORT ON A TEST OF OVERHEAD TRAFFIC LIGHT SIGNALS HAS RECOMMENDED THAT SUCH SIGNALS SHOULD BE USED TO COMPLEMENT, RATHER THAN REPLACE THE POLE-MOUNTED SIGNALS WHICH MOTORISTS EXPECT TO SEE, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON ALAN SCOTT, SAID TODAY.

THE REPORT, WHICH WAS COMPLETED BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE DIVISION IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR, ALSO CONCLUDED THAT OVERHEAD SIGNALS USED WITH A DARK BACKING BOARD HAD SOME ADVANTAGE OVER POLE-MOUNTED SIGNALS IN TERMS OF VISIBILITY, AND COULD BE USEFUL ON ROADS WHERE THE SPEED OF VEHICLES IS RELATIVELY HIGH, HE SAID.

IN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON WONG LAM AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR SCOTT SAID THAT SIGNALS FOR THE TEST HAD BEEN INSTALLED ON CANTILEVER MASTS AT THE JUNCTIONS OF FENWICK STREET-HENNESSY ROAD AND FERRY STREET-JORDAN ROAD.

HE SAID THAT THE DIVISION WAS ALSO IDENTIFYING OTHER POSSIBLE LOCATIONS FOR OVERHEAD SIGNALS.

THE COST OF INSTALLING A SIGNAL WAS ESTIMATED AT \$25 000, AND THIS COST HAD TO BE JUSTIFIED ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRAFFIC GROUNDS, HE ADDED.

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#### REPORT ON WORKERS' PROBLEMS BEING PREPARED

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A REPORT WAS BEING PREPARED BY THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY WORKERS OF COMPANIES IN RECEIVERSHIP, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON KENNETH TOPLEY TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR TOPLEY EXPLAINED THAT THE WORKING GROUP APPOINTED IN OCTOBER 1982, HAD ALSO STUDIED THE PRACTICE IN SOME 20 COUNTRIES CONCERNING WAGE PROTECTION IN THE EVENT OF INSOLVENCY OF AN EMPLOYER.

HE WAS RESPONDING TO A REQUEST FOR A PROGRESS REPORT BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI, ON THE GROUP'S WORK.

MR TOPLEY SAID HE EXPECTED THE REPORT SETTING OUT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GROUP TO BE READY BY THE END OF THIS MONTH.

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#### ANTI-HIJACKING MEASURES

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THE GOVERNMENT WAS SATISFIED WITH THE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AGAINST HIJACKING AT KAI TAK AIRPORT, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION RAISED BY THE HON S.L. CHEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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#### NO DIFFERENCE IN PRISONER TREATMENT

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THERE WAS NO DIFFERENCE IN THE STANDARDS OF TREATMENT APPLIED TO PRISONERS, BOTH CRIMINAL OFFENDERS AND CIVIL JUDGMENT DEBTORS, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID TODAY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON JOHN SWAINE.

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GOVERNOR PAYS TRIBUTE TO ATTORNEY GENERAL

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, TODAY PAID TRIBUTE TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JOHN GRIFFITHS, FOR THE VALUABLE SERVICES RENDERED BY HIM.

BEFORE ADJOURNING THE COUNCIL, SIR EDWARD POINTED OUT THAT MR GRIFFITHS WOULD BE LEAVING THE SERVICE OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT VERY SHORTLY.

+JOHN GRIFFITHS HAS BEEN ATTORNEY GENERAL SINCE MAY 1979 AND I WOULD LIKE TO RECORD MY APPRECIATION, AS I AM SURE MY PREDECESSOR WOULD HAVE WISHED TO RECORD HIS, OF THE VALUABLE SERVICES WHICH JOHN GRIFFITHS HAS RENDERED BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THIS CHAMBER, WHERE HE HAS ACTED AS THE GOVERNMENT'S CHIEF LEGAL ADVISER, THE HEAD OF THE HONG KONG BAR, AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CROWN IN ALL ITS LEGAL ACTIONS IN HONG KONG,+ THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SIR EDWARD SAID HE WAS SURE THAT ALL MEMBERS WERE ALSO GRATEFUL FOR THE WAY IN WHICH MR GRIFFITHS HAD SO OFTEN ENRICHED AND ENLIVENED THE PROCEEDINGS WITH HIS STYLE AND WIT.

MR GRIFFITHS WOULD BE LONG REMEMBERED AS HAVING BEEN, IN ALL SENSES, ONE OF THE BEST ADVOCATES IN THE COUNCIL, SIR EDWARD SAID.

MR GRIFFITHS WAS NOW RESUMING HIS PRACTICE AT THE BAR, AND HE WISHED HIM AND MRS GRIFFITHS, ON BEHALF OF MEMBERS, +A HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL FUTURE.+

SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, THE HON ROGER LOBO SAID:

+AS ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR GRIFFITHS HAS ALWAYS BEEN ACCESSIBLE TO US. HE HAS SHOWN GREAT PATIENCE IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH US IN THE UMELCO OFFICE.+

MR GRIFFITHS FREQUENTLY SUCCEEDED IN RECONCILING WIDELY DIFFERENT VIEWS BETWEEN UNOFFICIAL AND OFFICIAL MEMBERS, MR LOBO SAID.

+THE RESULT HAS BEEN THE PASSING OF LEGISLATION WHICH HAS LARGELY ENJOYED THE UNANIMOUS SUPPORT OF THIS COUNCIL, AND WE ARE MUCH INDEBTED TO HIM FOR HELPING TO ACHIEVE SUCH A HEALTHY AND CONSTRUCTIVE CONCENSUS,+ MR LOBO SAID.

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NINE BILLS PASSED  
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NINE BILLS WERE PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THEY ARE: THE AIR PASSENGER DEPARTURE TAX BILL 1983, THE EXCHANGE FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE WATERWORKS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS) BILL 1983, THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE LANDS TRIBUNAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE PRISONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983, THE DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 AND THE PUBLIC ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983.

ONE BILL -- THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES CHILDREN'S EDUCATION TRUST BILL 1983 -- WAS INTRODUCED AND READ A SECOND TIME. DEBATE ON THIS WAS ADJOURNED TILL JUNE 29.

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LAWS GOVERNING HOMOSEXUAL CONDUCT  
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THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION OF HONG KONG TODAY RELEASED ITS REPORT ON THE LAWS GOVERNING HOMOSEXUAL CONDUCT.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION, MR JOHN GRIFFITHS, SAID IN RELEASING THE REPORT THAT THE TOPIC HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY RESEARCHED FOR THE COMMISSION INITIALLY BY A SUB-COMMITTEE HEADED BY MR JUSTICE T.L. YANG OF THE COURT OF APPEAL, AND BY THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION'S SECRETARIAT, PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE TOPIC BY THE COMMISSION ITSELF, WHOSE REPORT WAS UNANIMOUS.

MR JUSTICE YANG'S SUB-COMMITTEE HAD BEEN GIVEN THE TASK OF A FACT FINDING INQUIRY INTO THE INCIDENCE OF HOMOSEXUALITY IN HONG KONG. THEY CONFIRMED THAT, CONTRARY TO COMMON BELIEF, THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE COMMUNITY IN HONG KONG CONSISTING OF MEMBERS OF ALL RACES WHO, BY NATURAL INCLINATION, ARE HOMOSEXUAL. THIS WAS CONFIRMED BY BOTH MEDICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL EXPERTS TO EXIST IN ALL COMMUNITIES, WHATEVER THEIR RACE.

THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION FOUND IN ITS RESEARCH THAT UNLIKE THE LEGAL PROTECTION AFFORDED BY THE CRIMINAL LAW TO FEMALES UNDER THE AGE OF 21 YEARS, LITTLE OR NO LEGAL PROTECTION IS AFFORDED TO YOUNG MALES.

THE REPORT EXPLAINS THAT THE LAW AS IT STANDS AT PRESENT DOES NOT MAKE IT AN OFFENCE FOR A PERSON TO LIVE OFF THE EARNINGS OF A MALE PROSTITUTE; NOR IS IT AN OFFENCE TO TAKE A YOUNG MALE OUT OF THE POSSESSION OF HIS PARENTS AGAINST THEIR WILL FOR HOMOSEXUAL PURPOSES; NOR TO PROCURE A YOUTH FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOMOSEXUAL EXPLOITATION. THE COMMISSION IS OF THE VIEW THAT THE CURRENT LEGISLATION IS DEFICIENT IN THIS PARTICULAR AND OTHER IMPORTANT REGARDS. THEREFORE IT ADVISES THAT THIS AREA OF THE LAW SHOULD BE CONSIDERABLY STRENGTHENED BY THE CREATION OF APPROPRIATE OFFENCES IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH PROCURERS OF YOUNG MEN FOR PROSTITUTION, WITH THE EXPLOITATION OF YOUNG MEN FOR HOMOSEXUAL PURPOSES, AND WITH THE PROBLEMS OF HOMOSEXUAL PROSTITUTION.

THE COMMISSION CONCLUDED THAT ALL YOUTHS OF BOTH SEXES SHOULD BE PROTECTED AGAINST COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION AND SEXUAL ABUSE. SIMILARLY, PROTECTION OF MALE MENTALLY DEFECTIVE PERSONS FROM SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE SAME WAY AS FEMALE DEFECTIVES ARE PROTECTED IS ALSO RECOMMENDED BY THE CREATION OF A SIMILAR CRIMINAL OFFENCE. THESE PROTECTIONS ARE NOT FOUND IN THE CURRENT LAW.

ON THE QUESTION OF PUBLIC BEHAVIOUR, THE REPORT RECOMMENDS GREATER PROTECTION FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY FROM ANY OFFENSIVE BEHAVIOUR OF A SEXUAL NATURE IN PUBLIC, INCLUDING HOMOSEXUAL BEHAVIOUR, BY BANNING CONDUCT WHICH OFFENDS THE COMMON STANDARDS OF DECENCY OF THE COMMUNITY. IT RECOMMENDS THE CREATION OF A NEW OFFENCE OF INDECENT BEHAVIOUR WITH A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF A FINE OF \$5 000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR 12 MONTHS.

/FURTHER, IT .....

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FURTHER, IT RECOMMENDS THAT IT SHOULD BE AN OFFENCE FOR MALE PROSTITUTES TO SOLICIT FOR AN IMMORAL PURPOSE IN PLACES TO WHICH THE PUBLIC MAY HAVE ACCESS. THE COMMISSION ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT THE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES SHOULD CONSIDER AND DEAL WITH ANALAGOUS PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE FAMILY AND THE YOUNG, SUCH AS OBSCENE TELEPHONE CALLS, +PEEPING TOMS+ AND INDECENT PUBLICATIONS, AMONGST OTHERS.

IN SUMMARY, THE COMMISSION HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE LAWS ON HOMOSEXUAL BEHAVIOUR BE CONSIDERABLY TIGHTENED. THE ONLY AREA WHERE IT RECOMMENDS THAT THE PENALTY SHOULD BE REMOVED IS IN RESPECT OF CONSENSUAL SEXUAL CONDUCT BETWEEN NOT MORE THAN TWO MALES, IN TOTAL PRIVACY, AND PROVIDED BOTH ARE OVER 21 YEARS OF AGE. THIS PROPOSAL, THE COMMISSION EMPHASISES, DOES NOT IMPLY ANY MORAL APPROVAL OF HOMOSEXUALITY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMISSION SAID THAT THE REPORT HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO THE GOVERNMENT WHICH IS NOW CONSIDERING IT. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT WILL TAKE SOME TIME. A DECISION ON THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS WILL NOT BE TAKEN UNTIL THESE RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN FULLY CONSIDERED.

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#### NEW TAX PAYMENT STARTS TOMORROW

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THE AIR PASSENGER DEPARTURE TAX ORDINANCE WILL TAKE EFFECT TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AND ALL PASSENGERS LEAVING HONG KONG BY AIR WILL HAVE TO PAY THE NEW TAX AT THE RATE OF \$100 PER ADULT AND \$50 PER CHILD AGED BETWEEN TWO AND 12, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT ADVISED TODAY.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT AIRLINES WILL ONLY ACCEPT HONG KONG CURRENCY FOR PAYMENT OF THE TAX AT THEIR CHECK-IN COUNTERS.

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\$425 000 APPROVED FOR WELDERS  
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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED A COMMITMENT OF \$425 000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF WELDERS FOR THE PRINCE PHILIP DENTAL HOSPITAL.

THE NEW WELDERS, WHICH ARE USED FOR SUCH PURPOSES AS WELDING CORRECTIVE BRACES, ARE TO REPLACE THE 49 WELDERS PURCHASED ORIGINALLY FOR THE HOSPITAL BUT WHICH DID NOT FUNCTION PROPERLY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE FUNDS WERE SEPARATE FROM THE \$700 000 APPROVED FOR REMEDIAL WORK BEING CARRIED OUT ON SPECIALISED DENTAL EQUIPMENT AT THE HOSPITAL.

+THE SUPPLY OF SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT AT THE HOSPITAL IS NOW THE SUBJECT OF ARBITRATION AND IT IS NECESSARY, THEREFORE, TO PURCHASE THE REPLACEMENT WELDERS TO ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE TO DENTAL STUDENTS AT THE HOSPITAL,+ HE SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT THE PURCHASE WOULD NOT AFFECT THE LEGAL POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE CLAIM AGAINST THE SUPPLIER OF THE ORIGINAL WELDERS.

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KWAI CHUNG AND TAI PO LAUNCH TREE PLANTING DAY  
\* \* \* \*

SOME 100 DECIDUOUS ERYTHRINA CAFFRA WERE TODAY PLANTED ALONG THE ROAD SIDE OF KWAI SHING CIRCUIT NEAR KWAI SHING PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE IN KWAI CHUNG BY SCHOOL CHILDREN AND TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS.

THE KWAI CHUNG TREE PLANTING DAY WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD AND THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CURRENT MEI FA (BEAUTIFICATION) SCHEME OF THE CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN.

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY, THE CHAIRMAN OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD, MR NGAI YAU-KI, SAID THE SCHEME WAS ALSO AIMED AT AROUSING PUBLIC INTEREST AND TO GAIN THEIR SUPPORT FOR IT.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE STUDENTS WHO HELPED TO PLANT THE TREES, MR NGAI URGED THEM TO BRING HOME THE MEI FA MESSAGE AND HELP MINIMISE TREE VANDALISM.

HE ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE TREE PLANTING EXERCISE WOULD HAVE A PIONEERING EFFECT IN ENLISTING MORE ORGANISATIONS TO JOIN THE PLANTING AND HELP MAKE THE BEAUTIFICATION SCHEME A SUCCESS.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE URBAN SERVICES OFFICER OF KWAI CHUNG, MR CHAN TAI-YIU, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD, MR NGAI LATER PLANTED A YOUNG TREE TO HIGHLIGHT THE EVENT.

/MEANWHILE THE .....

MEANWHILE THE CHAIRMAN OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND WORKS COMMITTEE OF TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD, MR CHEUNG HON-KAU, ALSO CALLED ON NEW TOWN RESIDENTS TO HELP MAKE THE MEI FA SCHEME A SUCCESS.

SPEAKING AT A CEREMONY TO MARK THE FOURTH TAI PO DISTRICT TREE PLANTING DAY, MR CHEUNG SAID TREE PLANTING PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT.

+BEING RESIDENTS OF THE NEW TOWN, WE MUST CONTRIBUTE OUR EFFORTS TO MAKE OUR LIVING PLACE MORE GREEN AND GIVE GREATER ATTENTION TO THE CARE OF TREES AND PLANTS,+ MR CHEUNG SAID.

THE TREE PLANTING EXERCISE, ORGANISED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT, COINCIDED WITH THE SECOND MEI FA PHASE OF THE CURRENT CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN AND WAS HELD AT THE PLOVER COVE ROAD MINI-SOCCER PITCH.

MORE THAN 100 STUDENTS FROM FIVE LOCAL SCHOOLS AND MEMBERS OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD JOINTLY PLANTED 80 EVERGREEN YOUNG TREES AT THE PITCH.

THE URBAN SERVICES OFFICER OF TAI PO, MR PONG KIN-HONG, SAID THAT THE NTSD WILL CONTINUE TO PLANT TREES IN THE DISTRICT AND TO PROVIDE PLEASANT SURROUNDINGS FOR ALL PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT.

+WE WILL ALSO MAKE IT OUR TASK TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE CARE, MAINTENANCE AND PROTECTION TO THE TREES WE HAVE PLANTED,+ MR PONG ADDED.

ALSO TAKING PART IN THE EVENT TODAY WERE THE DISTRICT OFFICER OF TAI PO, MR CHAN CHUN-YUEN, THE CHAIRMAN OF TAI PO RURAL COMMITTEE, MR CHEUNG WAI-LAM, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF SAI KUNG NORTH RURAL COMMITTEE, MR LAM PAK-PING.

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#### DB MEETINGS ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

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THE RESITING OF ABOUT 400 JADE HAWKERS ALONG CANTON ROAD TO NEARBY OFF-STREET SITES WILL BE DISCUSSED AT TOMORROW'S (THURSDAY) YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARD MEETING.

THREE OFF-STREET SITES, BOUNDED BY CANTON ROAD, KANSU STREET AND BATTERY STREET AND WITH A TOTAL AREA ADEQUATE TO ACCOMMODATE THE HAWKERS IN STANDARD 0.9 BY 1.2 METRES FIXED PITCHES, ARE BEING CONSIDERED.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE CONSULTED ON EXTENDING THE OPERATION OF 582 PARKING METERS IN THE TSIM SHA TSUI SHOPPING AREA TO COVER SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS TO HELP REGULATE THE HEAVY DEMAND FOR PARKING SPACES ON SUCH DAYS.

INFORMATION PAPERS ON THE STAGE IV CONSTRUCTION WORK OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR, THE FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME BY THE LAW SOCIETY, A COURTESY CAMPAIGN AND THE DISTRICT STRATEGY FOR 1983-86 WILL BE TABLED AT THE MEETING.

ON FRIDAY (JUNE 10), THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL MEET TO DISCUSS MEASURES TO DETER OBSTRUCTION CAUSED BY ILLEGAL HAWKERS AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES AT THE HORSE-SHOE ROAD ADJOINING THE UN CHAU STREET ESTATE.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO COMMENT ON THE STUDY ROOM FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT AND THE REHOUSING POLICY OF SINGLE PERSONS AND TWO-MEMBER FAMILIES IN TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE ANTI-SMOKING CAMPAIGN, THE HAWKER BAZAAR ON THE NAM CHEONG STREET NULLAH DECKING AND THE PHASE II ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE IN NAM CHEONG WEST AREA.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND (A) THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICE AT 490-492 NATHAN ROAD, AND (B) THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 2 PM ON FRIDAY (JUNE 10) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE AT 39 TONKIN STREET.

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SUMMER SQUASH COURSES FOR STUDENTS

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BEGINNERS' SQUASH COURSES WILL BE HELD DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS FOR STUDENTS BETWEEN 10 AND 13 YEARS OF AGE.

THE COURSES ARE JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT, THE HONG KONG SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION AND THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE.

THERE WILL BE SIX COURSES OFFERED, EACH COMPRISING FIVE TWO-HOUR SESSIONS.

ONLY 12 LEARNERS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR EACH COURSE, AND PUPILS WERE URGED TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS IMMEDIATELY.

COURSES FOR RESIDENTS OF SHA TIN, TAI PO, KOWLOON CITY AND SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE HELD AT THE JUBILEE SPORTS CENTRE BETWEEN JULY 4 AND AUGUST 26.

ONE COURSE WILL BE HELD AT THE ISLAND SQUASH RACKETS CLUB FOR CENTRAL AND WESTERN RESIDENTS BETWEEN AUGUST 15 AND 19.

THE FEE IS \$20 PER PARTICIPANT.

FURTHER DETAILS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM RSS DISTRICT OFFICES AT 0-620170 (SHA TIN), 0-6577111-140 (TAI PO), 3-7128500 (KOWLOON CITY), 3-860945 (SHAM SHUI PO), AND 5-438559 (CENTRAL AND WESTERN).

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1983

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF AIRPORT TUNNEL

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THE AIRPORT TUNNEL WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 11 PM TOMORROW (JUNE 9) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR WORK ON THE COMPUTER SYSTEM.

DURING THE CLOSURE, TRAFFIC FROM THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL AND HUNG HOM HEADING TOWARDS NGAU TAU KOK AND KWUN TONG WILL HAVE TO USE CHATHAM ROAD NORTH, MA TAU WAI ROAD, PRINCE EDWARD ROAD EAST AND KWUN TONG ROAD.

VEHICLES FROM WAI YIP STREET HEADING FOR HUNG HOM WILL BE DIVERTED VIA KWUN TONG ROAD AND PRINCE EDWARD ROAD EAST.

HOWEVER, VEHICLES FROM KWUN TONG REQUIRING ACCESS TO KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION AREA WILL NOT BE AFFECTED.

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TAI YIP STREET TO BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED

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TAI YIP STREET BETWEEN HONG TAK ROAD AND SIU YIP STREET IN KWUN TONG WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 11.30 PM TOMORROW (JUNE 9) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ELEVATED ROAD.

THE MEASURE WILL BE REPEATED ON FRIDAY NIGHT (JUNE 10).

DURING THE CLOSURE, TRAFFIC FROM TELFORD GARDENS HEADING FOR KWUN TONG ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA SIU YIP STREET, WAI YIP STREET AND LAI YIP STREET, AND WESTBOUND TRAFFIC ON TAI YIP STREET WILL HAVE TO PROCEED VIA HONG TAK ROAD AND KWUN TONG ROAD.

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