



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 1980

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## GOVT PAY SCALES RESTRUCTURED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED PROPOSALS FOR A RESTRUCTURING OF THE UPPER ENDS OF THE MASTER AND DISCIPLINED SERVICES (OFFICER) PAY SCALES, AND THE DIRECTORATE PAY SCALE.

ANNOUNCING THE DETAILS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE MOVE WAS NECESSARY TO CORRECT AN EROSION OVER THE YEARS IN PAY DIFFERENTIALS BETWEEN SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS AND THE STAFF THEY SUPERVISED.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO APPROVED PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE PAY STRUCTURE OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION.

THE CHANGES, EXCEPT FOR THOSE TO THE DIRECTORATE PAY SCALE, WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

TO AVOID MOVING TOO CLOSE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE DIRECTORATE SCALE, THE STANDING COMMISSION RECOMMENDED IN OCTOBER 1979 AN INTERIM INCREASE OF ONLY 3.7 PER CENT FOR THE TOP OF THE MASTER PAY SCALE.

AT THE SAME TIME, IT STATED THAT IT WISHED TO TAKE A FURTHER LOOK AT THE UPPER END OF THE SCALE WHEN THE REVISED DIRECTORATE PAY LEVELS WERE KNOWN.

IT HAS SINCE FOUND THAT THE EXISTING LEVELS OF PAY FOR SENIOR PROFESSIONALS AND RELATED GRADES ARE INADEQUATE, AND THAT THIS HAS RESULTED IN THE LOSS OF EXPERIENCED CIVIL SERVANTS AND HAS PLACED A STRAIN ON MANAGEMENT IN ITS EFFORTS TO PROVIDE AN EFFICIENT PUBLIC SERVICE.

THE STANDING COMMISSION HAS CONCLUDED THAT IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE FROM BEING SERIOUSLY WEAKENED, ACTION IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT LEVELS OF RESPONSIBILITY ARE ADEQUATELY REFLECTED IN PAY.

THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR THE COMPRESSION OF PAY DIFFERENTIALS IS THAT ALL ADJUSTMENTS TO PAY SCALES SINCE 1971 HAVE BEEN WITHIN THE EXISTING FRAMEWORK OF THE 48-POINT MASTER PAY SCALE, WITH LOWER RANKS RECEIVING LARGER INCREASES IN PERCENTAGE TERMS THAN HIGHER RANKS.

TO CORRECT THIS SITUATION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED THE STANDING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION TO EXTEND THE TOP OF THE MASTER PAY SCALE BY THREE POINTS AND TO ADJUST EXISTING RANK SCALES ON POINT 42 AND UPWARDS.

AN OFFICER MOVING UP THE SCALE WILL IN FUTURE BE ABLE TO ATTAIN A MAXIMUM SALARY OF \$13 000 AT THE NEW CEILING OF POINT 51, COMPARED WITH \$11 200 ON THE OLD POINT 48. BUT NO SERVING OFFICER WILL MOVE TO THE NEW MAXIMUM POINT OF 51 IMMEDIATELY.

THE REVISIONS WILL ALSO APPLY TO EQUIVALENT POINTS ON THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES (OFFICER) PAY SCALE.

/DURING THE .....

DURING THE COURSE OF ITS REVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL GRADES IN THE CIVIL SERVICE IN 1979, THE STANDING COMMISSION WAS ALSO REQUESTED TO CONSIDER THE PAY STRUCTURE OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION.

STAFF OF THE ICAC ARE CURRENTLY PAID FROM THE MASTER PAY SCALE, AND THE STANDING COMMISSION HAS CONCLUDED THAT THIS PRACTICE SHOULD CONTINUE.

HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE INTRODUCTION OF A DISCIPLINED SERVICES PAY SCALE LAST YEAR, ADJUSTMENTS WILL BE MADE TO THE PAY SCALES OF ICAC DEPARTMENTAL GRADES IN ORDER TO RESTORE THEIR PREVIOUS BROAD RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PAY OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE.

THE SENIOR RANKS OF THE ICAC WILL ALSO BE AFFECTED BY THE EXTENSION OF THE MASTER PAY SCALE.

THE NEW MASTER, DISCIPLINED SERVICES (OFFICER) AND ICAC PAY SCALES WILL BE EFFECTIVE FROM OCTOBER 1, 1979, THE DATE ON WHICH OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE STANDING COMMISSION'S FIRST REPORT ON CIVIL SERVICE PAY WERE IMPLEMENTED.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO ACCEPTED RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DIRECTORATE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR A RESTRUCTURING OF THE DIRECTORATE PAY SCALE.

THIS IS THE FIRST OVERALL REVIEW OF THE DIRECTORATE PAY SCALE SINCE 1977.

IN ARRIVING AT ITS PROPOSED REVISIONS, THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DIRECTORATE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE LEVELS OF DIRECTORATE SALARIES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE NEED FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN OFFICERS OF HIGH CALIBRE AND THE SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN RESPONSIBILITY OF MOST DIRECTORATE POSTS.

THE OPPORTUNITY HAS ALSO BEEN TAKEN TO RESTRUCTURE THE DIRECTORATE PAY SCALE TO PROVIDE EIGHT POINTS INSTEAD OF TWELVE, THUS FACILITATING THE INTERCHANGE OF SENIOR STAFF BETWEEN DIFFERENT CAREER STREAMS.

THE SALARIES ON THE NEW SCALE RANGE FROM \$14 500 TO \$33 000, COMPARED WITH THE EXISTING RANGE OF \$11 810 TO \$26 190. THE ADJUSTMENTS WILL APPLY EQUALLY TO SALARIES ON THE DIRECTORATE JUDICIAL/LEGAL GROUP PAY SCALE, WHICH IS ALREADY COMPOSED OF EIGHT POINTS.

THE STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT THESE REVISIONS BE IMPLEMENTED ON JANUARY 1, 1980.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 1980

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COMMISSION OF INQUIRY APPOINTED  
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MR JUSTICE T.L. YANG HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS COMMISSIONER TO INQUIRE INTO CERTAIN MATTERS CONNECTED WITH THE LATE INSPECTOR JOHN MACLENNAN.

THE APPOINTMENT WAS MADE YESTERDAY UNDER SECTION 2 OF THE COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ORDINANCE. THE COMMISSION WILL BEGIN ITS WORK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE NECESSARY ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMISSION ARE:

+HAVING REGARD TO:

CONTINUING ALLEGATIONS AS TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DEATH OF INSPECTOR MACLENNAN, AND THE ENQUIRIES PRECEDING IT,

AND TO THE FACT THAT INVESTIGATIONS BY THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE OFFICE INTO SOME OF THE ALLEGATIONS HAVE JUST BEEN COMPLETED,

AND TO THE CONFUSION IN THE PUBLIC MIND CREATED BY THESE ALLEGATIONS, WHICH MAKES IT DESIRABLE TO ADOPT NEW MEASURES TO ESTABLISH THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE INSPECTOR'S DEATH AND RELATED ISSUES, BOTH IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND SO THAT INNOCENT PARTIES MAY BE CLEARED AS WELL AS ANY BLAME APPORTIONED.

TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY INTO:-

- A) WHETHER, IN THE LIGHT OF ALL THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE AND ANY ADDITIONAL ENQUIRIES YOU MAKE, THERE ARE GOOD GROUNDS FOR BELIEVING THE DEATH OF INSPECTOR MACLENNAN WAS OTHER THAN SUICIDE, AND WHAT CONCLUSIONS YOU DRAW=
- B) WHAT OFFICIAL INVESTIGATIONS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEATH OF INSPECTOR MACLENNAN WERE CONDUCTED, WHETHER THERE WERE ANY SHORTCOMINGS IN THEM, AND IF SO WHAT CONCLUSIONS YOU DRAW AS TO THE REASON FOR THESE SHORTCOMINGS=
- C) WHETHER THE CHARGES WHICH WERE ABOUT TO BE PREFERRED AGAINST HIM ON THE DAY OF HIS DEATH WERE PROPERLY BROUGHT, AND WHETHER ON EVIDENCE PROPERLY OBTAINED=
- D) WHAT INVESTIGATIONS OR ENQUIRIES (OTHER THAN THOSE RESULTING IN THE CHARGES AT (C) ) WERE CONDUCTED REGARDING INSPECTOR MACLENNAN, WHETHER THEY WERE CONDUCTED WITH PROPRIETY, AND WHAT BEARING, IF ANY, THEY HAD ON INSPECTOR MACLENNAN'S DEATH=
- E) WHETHER THE INVESTIGATIONS AND ENQUIRIES UNDER (B), (C) AND (D) WERE PROPERLY MOTIVATED=

AND TO FURNISH A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR.+

/ANNOUNCING THE .....

ANNOUNCING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE COMMISSION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JOHN GRIFFITHS, POINTED OUT THAT DESPITE WHAT HAD BEEN CONSTANTLY SUGGESTED RECENTLY IN THE PRESS AND ELSEWHERE, HE, AS ATTORNEY GENERAL, HAD NO POWER TO ORDER ANY INQUIRY.

THAT POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY RESIDES, AND RESIDES ALONE, IN THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL UNDER THE COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ORDINANCE, HE SAID.

MR GRIFFITHS RECALLED THAT ON MAY 23 THIS YEAR, HE ANNOUNCED THAT BECAUSE THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS LAID DOWN IN THE CORONERS ORDINANCE, WHICH PERMIT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO ORDER THE RE-OPENING OF AN INQUEST, HAD NOT IN HIS OPINION BEEN FULFILLED, THERE WERE NO LEGAL GROUNDS PERMITTING ITS RE-OPENING, AND ACCORDINGLY HE HAD NO POWER TO DO SO.

+INDEED, AS IT SEEMS TO ME, I COULD NOT IN GOOD CONSCIENCE HAVE ACTED OTHERWISE THAN I DID.

+THAT DECISION WAS MINE AND MINE ALONE AS ATTORNEY GENERAL,+ HE SAID.

MR GRIFFITHS POINTED OUT THAT BEFORE HE ANNOUNCED HIS DECISION NOT TO RE-OPEN THE INQUEST, HE HAD ALREADY REFERRED FOR INVESTIGATION BY THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE OFFICE CERTAIN ALLEGATIONS MADE AGAINST SOME INDIVIDUAL POLICE OFFICERS. THE INVESTIGATIONS HAD JUST BEEN COMPLETED.

IN HIS PERSONAL OPINION, IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN PROPER TO HOLD ANY OTHER INQUIRY UNTIL CAPO HAD COMPLETED ITS INVESTIGATIONS INTO ALLEGATIONS WHICH, IF SUBSTANTIATED, MAY HAVE LED TO CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS, HE SAID.

SECTION 7 OF THE COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ORDINANCE PROVIDES THAT +EVIDENCE GIVEN BY ANY PERSON BEFORE THE COMMISSION SHALL NOT BE ADMISSIBLE AGAINST HIM IN ANY CIVIL OR CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.+

IT FOLLOWS THAT, UNLIKE A CAPO INVESTIGATION, NOT ALL THE EVIDENCE UNCOVERED BY A COMMISSION MIGHT HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE FOR USE IN ANY PROSECUTION WERE SUCH TO TURN OUT TO BE AN APPROPRIATE COURSE OF ACTION.

A COMMISSION WOULD BE HAMPERED IN THE SORT OF INVESTIGATION THAT CAPO WAS SPECIFICALLY SET UP -- OR BROUGHT INTO BEING -- TO DO, HE SAID.

+HAVING REGARD TO THE ABOVE MATTERS AND TO THE CONTINUING ALLEGATIONS AS TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DEATH OF INSPECTOR MACLENNAN, THE APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY IS NOW THEREFORE CONSIDERED BOTH POSSIBLE AND DESIRABLE,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATION BY CAPO TOGETHER WITH ALL STATEMENTS TAKEN OR MADE AVAILABLE TO IT IN THE COURSE OF THAT INVESTIGATION WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY, +AS WILL ALL OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS, INCLUDING STATEMENTS AND INVESTIGATIONS MADE FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE ENQUIRY INTO THE LATE INSPECTOR MACLENNAN'S DEATH AND THE INQUEST INTO IT.+

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+THE COMMISSION IS OF COURSE EMPOWERED TO MAKE SUCH OTHER INVESTIGATIONS AS IT FEELS TO BE NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE,+ HE ADDED.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ORDINANCE WILL GOVERN THE CONDUCT OF THE INQUIRY. THESE INCLUDE PROVISIONS DEALING WITH THE RIGHT TO LEGAL REPRESENTATION, THE HOLDING OF THE INQUIRY OR PARTS OF IT IN CAMERA, AND THE PUBLICATION OR DISCLOSURE OF PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE COMMISSION.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL NOTED THAT THE COMMISSION'S TERMS OF REFERENCE DO NOT INCLUDE ANY STUDY OF WHETHER OR NOT ANY CHANGE IN THE LAWS GOVERNING HOMOSEXUAL OFFENCES IN HONG KONG SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT BE MADE.

+THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION, TO WHOM THIS MATTER HAS BEEN REFERRED, COMMENCED ITS DELIBERATIONS ON THIS MATTER AT ITS LAST MEETING, AND WILL CONTINUE ITS STUDY OF THE SUBJECT,+ HE SAID.

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#### IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM FOR ALL TEXTILES

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FROM AUGUST 1 THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT WILL OPERATE A TEXTILE IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, MR PETER TSAO, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ALL IMPORTS OF TEXTILES MUST BE COVERED BY LICENCES ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

TRANSPORTATION, SHIPPING AND AIRLINE COMPANIES MUST NOT RELEASE ANY TEXTILE GOODS IMPORTED INTO HONG KONG WITHOUT THE PRODUCTION OF A VALID IMPORT LICENCE.

+I WOULD STRESS THAT LICENCES WILL BE ISSUED AUTOMATICALLY AND FREE OF CHARGE. THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THE SYSTEM BEING USED TO RESTRICT IMPORTS,+ MR TSAO SAID.

+THE SYSTEM IS ONE OF THE MEASURES INTRODUCED TO HELP THE DEPARTMENT IN ITS EFFORTS AGAINST MALPRACTICES UNDER THE EXISTING TEXTILES EXPORT QUOTA SYSTEM.

+IT WILL ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT TO MONITOR THE FLOW OF TEXTILE IMPORTS SO THAT ANY UNUSUAL TRADE PATTERNS CAN BE IDENTIFIED, AND CHECKS CAN BE CARRIED OUT ON SUSPECTED CASES,+ HE SAID.

TO CATER FOR TEXTILE CONSIGNMENTS ARRIVING ON AUGUST 1, THE DEPARTMENT WILL START RECEIVING APPLICATIONS FOR LICENCES FROM 8.45 AM ON JULY 23. THE LICENCE WILL BE VALID FOR 28 DAYS.

OTHER DETAILS OF THE LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE ARE SET OUT IN A CIRCULAR LETTER ISSUED TODAY TO MAJOR TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS- TEXTILE MANUFACTURERS- AND TRANSPORTATION, SHIPPING AND AIRLINE COMPANIES.

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COMMITTEE FORMED TO CO-ORDINATE PRE-SCHOOL SERVICES  
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A STANDING COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO CO-ORDINATE THE SERVICES OFFERED TO PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN, THE SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, THE HON E.P. HO, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE GREEN PAPER ON PRIMARY EDUCATION AND PRE-PRIMARY SERVICES, MR HO SAID THE COMMITTEE, AS PROPOSED IN THE GREEN PAPER, HAD BEEN CONVENED AND +I AM SURE THIS WILL GO SOME WAY TO MEETING THE NEED FOR PROPER CO-ORDINATION IN THIS AREA.+

MR HO SAID HE SHARED THE VIEWS OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS THAT THE NEEDS OF THE PRE-SCHOOL CHILD SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN AN OVERALL CONTEXT. BUT, HE ADDED, THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS NOT CONVINCED OF THE NEED FOR A SINGLE DEPARTMENT TO OVERSEE SERVICES FOR THE PRE-SCHOOL CHILD.

+THIS APPROACH IS ALSO CONSISTENT WITH THE VIEW THAT GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION SHOULD BE ON THE BASIS OF FUNCTIONAL SERVICES, AND NOT ON THE AGE GROUP OR CLASS OF PERSON SERVED,+ HE ADDED.

THE COMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED TO CO-ORDINATE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IN THIS FIELD.

MR HO SAID COMMENTS RECEIVED SO FAR ON THE GREEN PAPER GENERALLY SUPPORTED THE VIEW THAT SOMETHING MUST BE DONE TO DO AWAY WITH THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS OF ENTRY INTO PRIMARY SCHOOL.

+IF WE ACCEPT THIS AS A MAJOR FAULT WITH THE PRESENT SYSTEM THEN AN ALTERNATIVE MUST BE FOUND WHICH REMEDIES THE SITUATION,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED HE WAS ALSO AWARE OF THE VIEWS OF A LARGE SECTOR OF THE COMMUNITY WHICH FELT THAT THE PRESENT SYSTEM DID NOT GIVE THEIR CHILDREN A REASONABLE CHANCE OF PARTICIPATING IN THE BEST SORT OF EDUCATION THAT HONG KONG COULD OFFER.

+WE SHALL CERTAINLY HAVE TO THINK VERY CAREFULLY ABOUT THIS VITAL AREA BEFORE FINALISING OUR PROPOSALS FOR INCLUSION IN THE WHITE PAPER,+ HE SAID.

FIVE SPEAKERS IN THE DEBATE WERE UNANIMOUS IN PROPOSING A CENTRALISED INSTITUTE FOR PRE-SCHOOL TRAINING TO COVER THE TRAINING OF WORKERS IN ALL PRE-SCHOOL INSTITUTIONS.

MR HO DESCRIBED THIS AS A +SENSIBLE IDEA+ WHICH WOULD BE +SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED, BUT AS A LONG-TERM PROJECT.+

+FOR THE TIME BEING, IN ORDER TO GET THINGS MOVING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE WE MUST, AS THE GREEN PAPER PROPOSES, TRY TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF EXISTING RESOURCES,+ HE SAID.

ON THE SUGGESTION THAT SOME FREE CHILD CARE CENTRES AND KINDERGARTENS BE SET UP, MR HO SAID DIRECT SUBSIDY IN AN AREA OF EDUCATION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR WAS A COURSE OF ACTION WHICH NEEDED VERY CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND SHOULD NOT BE EMBARKED UPON LIGHTLY.

+THE SYSTEM HAS NOT, AS THE GREEN PAPER POINTS OUT, WORKED TOO WELL WITH CHILD CARE CENTRES SO FAR, AND THIS IS WHY THE NEW SYSTEM HAS BEEN DEvised. I THINK IT WOULD BE MORE REALISTIC TO CARRY OUT THE SCHEME OF ASSISTANCE AS PROPOSED IN THE GREEN PAPER AND REVIEW THE RATES OF ASSISTANCE TO PARENTS IF THEY PROVE INADEQUATE,+ SAID MR HO.

COMMENTING ON SUGGESTIONS TO URGE THE GOVERNMENT TO PERSUADE THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TO BRING THE LETTING POLICY FOR CHILD CARE CENTRES AND KINDERGARTENS INTO LINE, MR HO SAID THERE APPEARED TO BE NO REASON WHY A WORKABLE SOLUTION WOULD NOT EMERGE.

ON OTHER MATTERS RAISED IN THE DEBATE, MR HO SAID THE SUBJECT OF THE ROLE OF ENGLISH WAS BEING CONSIDERED SEPARATELY AND WAS NOT THEREFORE STUDIED IN DETAIL IN THE GREEN PAPER—MORAL EDUCATION WAS MENTIONED, BUT APPEARED TO BE A MATTER PRIMARILY FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, AND THE MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOLS WAS INTENTIONALLY EXCLUDED FROM THE GREEN PAPER AS THE PROBLEMS WERE NOT CONFINED TO ANY PARTICULAR SECTION OF EDUCATION.

+IN LOOKING AT THE GREEN PAPER, ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO KINDERGARTENS, I THINK WE MUST APPRECIATE ITS AIMS. THE SITUATION IS CURRENTLY NOT SATISFACTORY AND FOR VARIOUS REASONS, LARGELY A QUESTION OF PRIORITIES, THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY PLAYED AN ACTIVE PART IN THIS SECTOR.

+THE GREEN PAPER PROPOSES THE FIRST STEPS CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO GIVE A FIRM BASIS FOR IMPROVEMENT.

+THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CONSIDER THAT THE TIME IS RIPE, NOR THE BASE SUFFICIENTLY FIRM FOR A MAJOR RE-ORGANISATION OF THE WHOLE OF THIS SECTOR OF EDUCATION AT PRESENT.

+ESSENTIALLY THE PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER REPRESENT A BEGINNING RATHER THAN A FINAL DESIGN,+ SAID MR HO.

THE REV THE HON JOYCE BENNETT, IN A SPEECH DELIVERED ON HER BEHALF BY THE HON ALLEN LEE, SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT TO REALISE THAT UNTIL THERE WAS A MORE VIGOROUS ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE URBAN AREAS, AND THAT +THERE IS GOING TO BE DISSATISFACTION WITH THE PROPOSALS IN THE GREEN PAPER.+

+WE HAVE GOT TO DO FAR MORE TO ENSURE THAT ALL SCHOOLS RECEIVING GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY MAINTAIN THE STANDARDS DEMANDED BY THE PARENTS,+ SHE SAID.

ON THE ALLOCATION SYSTEM BY WHICH PARENTS HAVE TO CHOOSE ALL THE SCHOOLS IN THEIR AREA, MISS BENNETT SAID THAT DESPITE THE TECHNIQUE OF OPTIMISATION, IT WOULD ENABLE PROPORTIONATELY VERY FEW PARENTS TO OBTAIN THEIR FIRST CHOICE OF SCHOOL FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

SHE ASKED WHETHER ANY STUDY WOULD BE MADE OF THE SCHOOLS WHICH WERE CONSISTENTLY AT THE BOTTOM OF PARENTS' LISTS AND WHETHER ANY SPECIAL ASSISTANCE WOULD BE GIVEN TO THEM TO IMPROVE THEIR PERFORMANCE.

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FEBRUARY 1980 DATE FOR BILL TO STOP TAX AVOIDANCE

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THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL, INTENDED TO STOP TAX AVOIDANCE THROUGH CONTRIVED BUSINESS CESSATIONS, WILL NOW ONLY APPLY TO THOSE ASSESSMENTS FOR 1979-80 RAISED AFTER FEBRUARY 27 THIS YEAR, THE DATE THE INTENTION TO AMEND THE LEGISLATION WAS ANNOUNCED.

THE AMENDED BILL WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THE CHANGE WAS RECOMMENDED BY AN AD HOC GROUP OF UNOFFICIAL COUNCILLORS AND TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF A NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND PROFESSIONAL BODIES.

SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS DURING THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL, THE HON DAVID NEWBIGGING SAID THEY WOULD ACCEPT THIS AMENDMENT TO THE BILL ALBEIT WITH SOME RELUCTANCE.

MR NEWBIGGING GIVING REASONS FOR THEIR OBJECTION SAID:  
+BASICALLY WE DO NOT AGREE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF RETROACTIVE LEGISLATION IN INLAND REVENUE MATTERS EXCEPT UNDER EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

+IN THE PRESENT CASE THE SO-CALLED LOOPHOLE HAS EXISTED FOR SOME TIME AND GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN AWARE OF IT, SO WE DO NOT FEEL THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE EXCEPTIONAL.

+WE BELIEVE THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF RETROACTIVE INLAND REVENUE LEGISLATION WOULD CAUSE UNNECESSARY UNCERTAINTY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF BUSINESSES GENERALLY AND UNDERMINE GOVERNMENT'S OWN CREDIBILITY, AND THAT THESE CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD OUTWEIGH THE COMPARATIVELY SMALL AMOUNT OF REVENUE LOST TO GOVERNMENT. +

MR NEWBIGGING NOTED THAT THE AMENDMENT GOES SOME WAY TOWARDS MEETING THE OBJECTION.

+HOWEVER, + HE POINTED OUT, +THERE MAY BE SOME WHO HAD FILED RETURNS BUT HAD NOT BEEN ASSESSED BEFORE FEBRUARY 27, 1980 WHO WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE ORDINANCE AND, FOR THEM, THE BILL WILL HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVELY RETROACTIVE. +

/IN REPLY .....

IN REPLY TO MR NEWBIGGING, THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH RETROSPECTIVITY IN FISCAL LEGISLATION WAS UNUSUAL, IT WAS BY NO MEANS UNIQUE.

HE QUOTED EXAMPLES IN AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND SOUTH AFRICA AND POINTED OUT THAT IN HONG KONG MANY TAX CONCESSIONS INTRODUCED FROM TIME TO TIME, INCLUDING THE RECENT INCREASES TO PERSONAL ALLOWANCES BACKDATED TO APRIL 1, 1979, APPLIED TO THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S TAX LIABILITY.

FURTHERMORE, IN THE CASE OF THIS BILL, HE THOUGHT RETROSPECTIVITY WAS BOTH PROPER AND CORRECT, +AS WE ARE DEALING WITH AN AVOIDANCE DEVICE, WHICH, INCIDENTALLY, HAS ARISEN NOT THROUGH AN OVERSIGHT, BUT THROUGH A GENUINE DESIRE ON THE PART OF A BENEVOLENT TAX ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE TERMINAL RELIEF TO BONA FIDE CESSATIONS FOLLOWING THE CHANGE IN THE BASIS OF ASSESSMENT FOR PROFITS TAX IN 1975-76,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

HE SAID HE WAS UNABLE TO AGREE TO A FURTHER ADJUSTMENT TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE BILL AS SUBSTANTIAL SUMS OF REVENUE WERE AT STAKE FROM COMPANIES WHICH HAD CEASED BUSINESS IN 1979-80.

ON ANOTHER POINT RAISED BY MR NEWBIGGING, SIR PHILIP SAID HE COULD NOT AGREE THAT THE RETROSPECTIVITY PROPOSAL WOULD UNDERMINE THE GOVERNMENT'S CREDIBILITY.

+THIS GOVERNMENT HAS A RECORD OF CONSISTENCY AND STABILITY IN ITS FISCAL POLICIES. AND, IN ANNUAL BUDGET SPEECHES, I HAVE BEEN AT PAINS TO SKETCH OUR POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO REVENUE LEGISLATION OVER THE FOLLOWING YEAR OR TWO.

+THESE AMENDMENTS HAVE BEEN THOSE I HAVE CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO MEET OUR FISCAL NEEDS, AS WELL AS THOSE STEMMING FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE,+ HE SAID.

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#### PARA-MEDICAL BILL PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS

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THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS BILL AIMING AT ESTABLISHING A SYSTEM OF CONTROL AND REGULATION OVER PROFESSIONS SUPPLEMENTARY TO MEDICINE TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WITH A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS.

THE CHANGES WERE RECOMMENDED BY AN AD HOC GROUP OF UNOFFICIALS CONVENED BY DR THE HON HARRY FANG AFTER IT HAD MET FIVE TIMES, THREE OF WHICH WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, SINCE MAY THIS YEAR.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE, DR FANG POINTED OUT THAT BILL HAD ENCOUNTERED CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTIES IN THE DRAFTING STAGE AND HAD TAKEN THE GOVERNMENT SIX TO EIGHT YEARS TO HAVE IT INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

+THE SETTING OF TRAINING STANDARDS, QUALIFICATIONS AND THE PROVISION OF REGISTRATION PROCEDURES FOR PERSONS WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH THE CARE OF PATIENTS IN THE OPERATION OF HEALTH SERVICES WILL BE WIDELY WELCOMED BY THE PROFESSIONS CONCERNED AS WELL AS THE PUBLIC,+ HE SAID.

+PROPER CONTROL IS CRUCIAL IN IMPROVING AND EXPANDING HONG KONG'S MEDICAL SERVICES. I HOPE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT TAKE LONG IN PRODUCING THE REGULATIONS FOR THE RESPECTIVE PROFESSIONS IN ORDER THAT THE AIMS OF THE BILL CAN BE IMPLEMENTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.+

DR FANG NOTED THAT THE BILL ONLY INCLUDED FOUR PARAMEDICAL PROFESSIONS, NAMELY MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS, RADIOGRAPHERS, PHYSIOTHERAPISTS AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS.

HE SAID THERE WERE OTHER PARAMEDICAL PROFESSIONS WHOSE CONTROL WAS EQUALLY NECESSARY FOR PUBLIC PROTECTION AND URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THIS OMNIBUS BILL TO BRING THEM UNDER COVER.

ONE AMENDMENT CONCERNS SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSIONS WHO ARE EXPERIENCED BUT, BECAUSE OF THEIR AGE AND EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND, UNQUALIFIED ACADEMICALLY TO MEET THE NEW PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS.

ALTHOUGH PROVISIONS HAD BEEN MADE TO SOME EXTENT IN THE ORIGINAL DRAFT BILL TO ACCOMMODATE THEM, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS' SUGGESTION TO GO ONE STEP FURTHER TO PROVIDE FOR SPECIFIC REGISTRATION OF THESE PEOPLE WHOM DR FANG DESCRIBES AS THE +GRANDFATHERS+ OF THE PROFESSIONS.

IN RESPECT OF THE REGULATIONS TO BE MADE FOR EACH OF THE PARAMEDICAL PROFESSIONS, HE SAID THE UNOFFICIALS HAVE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAVING AMPLE TIME TO STUDY THE REGULATIONS BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL.

THE PRESENT PROVISION OF TWO WEEKS, I.E. ONE SITTING OF THE COUNCIL, ALLOWED FOR THE SCRUTINY OF REGULATIONS TABLED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS CONSIDERED INADEQUATE.

+PUBLIC CONSULTATION, PARTICULARLY WITH THE NUMEROUS PROFESSIONAL BODIES CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN THESE PROFESSIONS IS ESSENTIAL.

+GOVERNMENT SHOULD THEREFORE ENSURE THAT THE VIEWS OF INTERESTED AND CONCERNED PARTIES ARE SOUGHT BEFORE THE RESPECTIVE REGULATIONS ARE ENACTED,+ DR FANG ADDED.

THE HON PETER C. WONG AND DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI ALSO SPOKE ON THE BILL.

DR HO CALLED FOR A CHANGE IN PROCEDURE RELATING TO THE PASSAGE OF REGULATIONS.

THE EXISTING LAW, HE SAID, PROVIDES THAT ALL RULES, REGULATIONS AND BY-LAWS, AFTER HAVING BEEN LAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WILL BE PASSED AT THE SUBSEQUENT SITTING OF THE COUNCIL.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID IT WAS FELT THE PROCESS BY WHICH REGULATIONS WERE MADE AS STIPULATED IN SECTION 34 OF THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE DID NOT GIVE THE COUNCIL SUFFICIENT TIME TO CONSIDER THE ISSUE AT STAKE.

+1 THEREFORE PROPOSE THAT THIS PRACTICE BE REVIEWED AND THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING THE ONE SITTING REQUIREMENT FOR PASSAGE OF REGULATIONS TO TWO SITTINGS SO THAT REGULATIONS SUCH AS THOSE TO BE MADE UNDER THE PRESENT BILL COULD BE STUDIED THOROUGHLY AND ALLOW FOR A LONGER PERIOD OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION,+ DR HO SAID.

MR WONG SAID THAT FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECRETARY FOR THE SOCIAL SERVICES, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES AND THE LAW DRAFTSMAN, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED TO MAKE 10 AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL.

SOME OF THE MORE IMPORTANT AMENDMENTS ARE:

- \* TO ENABLE PERSONS, REFERRED TO BY DR FANG AS THE 'GRANDFATHERS' OF THE PARA-MEDICAL PROFESSIONS, TO APPLY FOR A CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION RATHER THAN A PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE-
- \* TO REQUIRE THAT AUTHORISATIONS TO ENTER AND INSPECT PREMISES USED FOR THE PRACTICE OF A PROFESSION MUST BE SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD-
- \* TO CLARIFY THAT WHERE A COMPANY CARRIES ON THE BUSINESS OF PRACTISING A PROFESSION, ONLY THE PERSONS PRACTISING THE PROFESSION WHO ARE EMPLOYED BY THE COMPANY NEED TO HOLD A CERTIFICATE. IN OTHER WORDS, THEIR ASSISTANTS NEED NOT BE REGISTERED UNDER THE ORDINANCE SO LONG AS THEY WORK UNDER THEM-
- \* TO STIPULATE THAT A BOARD MAY PREPARE CODES OF PRACTICE COVERING A WIDER GROUND, IN PARTICULAR, THE ACTIVITIES OF REGISTERED PERSONS IN THE SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF UNQUALIFIED PERSONS ASSISTING THEM-
- \* TO ENABLE THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL TO MAKE REGULATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE LICENSING OF PREMISES AND THE SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF TRAINEES, AND
- \* TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE BILL SHOULD BE IN ADDITION TO, AND NOT IN DEROGATION FROM, ANY OTHER ORDINANCE THAT REGULATES THE MANNER IN WHICH A PERSON MAY PRACTISE A PROFESSION.

MR WONG BELIEVED THAT, ON THE WHOLE, THE BILL WAS WELL-CONCEIVED.

HOWEVER, HE REMINDED THE GOVERNMENT THAT ONLY ONE SET OF REGULATIONS IN RESPECT OF MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTIFIC OFFICERS, TECHNOLOGISTS AND TECHNICIANS HAVE SO FAR BEEN DRAFTED.

+WE AWAIT EAGERLY THE PUBLICATION OF REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE OTHER THREE PARA-MEDICAL PROFESSIONS ALREADY BROUGHT WITHIN THE AMBIT OF THE BILL.

+IT IS FAIR TO ASSUME THAT THIS EAGERNESS IS SHARED BY PERSONS PRACTISING THESE PROFESSIONS, WHO MUST BE ANXIOUS TO KNOW THE MANNER IN WHICH THEIR RESPECTIVE PROFESSIONS WILL BE REGULATED,+ MR WONG ADDED.

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LEGISLATION ON BUILDING TRANSMISSION LINES APPROVED

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LEGISLATION TO ENABLE THE POWER COMPANIES TO CONSTRUCT TRANSMISSION LINES IN OR OVER PRIVATE LAND WAS OBJECTED TO BY THE HON CHARLES YEUNG WHEN IT WAS PASSED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING DURING THE SECOND READING OF THE ELECTRICITY NETWORKS (STATUTORY EASEMENTS) BILL, MR YEUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO MAINTAIN A SENSIBLE BALANCE BETWEEN PUBLIC INTEREST AND MINORITY RIGHTS ACCORDING TO THE TIME-HONOURED PRINCIPLE OF A GOOD GOVERNMENT AND WITHIN THE SPIRIT OF THE BRITISH INDIVIDUAL CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.

THEREFORE, HE SAID, IT WAS MOST SURPRISING TO NOTE WHAT THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT HAD SAID IN HIS SPEECH THAT THE ROUTE OF THE TRANSMISSION LINES OF THE TWO NEW POWER STATIONS UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THEIR IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE COST WERE +MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS TO THE POWER COMPANIES.+

+CERTAINLY THE CONCERNS OF THE INDIGENOUS VILLAGERS, THE GENERAL INHABITANTS AND THE PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ARE NO LESS THAN THOSE OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE POWER COMPANIES,+ MR YEUNG MAINTAINED, +AS THESE PEOPLE WHO WILL BEAR THE BRUNT OF THE BLOW OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESPOLIATION AND ECONOMIC DEPRECIATION WHEN THEY FIND HUGE PYLONS OF 150 FEET HIGH WITH A BASE OF A FEW THOUSAND SQUARE FEET RISING IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT OF THEIR VILLAGES AND HOUSES, STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR LAND AND A CLUSTER OF ROPE-LIKE WIRES CHARGED WITH 400KV ELECTRICITY SLUNG OVER THEIR HEADS.+

HE SAID THAT HE SUPPORTED THE INTENTION OF THE BILL INsofar AS IT WOULD ENABLE THE POWER COMPANIES, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC, TO ACQUIRE STATUTORY EASEMENTS AND RIGHT OF ACCESS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE HIGH VOLTAGE NETWORKS WHICH ONCE CONSTRUCTED ARE VERY INFLEXIBLE FOR LOCAL MINOR RE-ADJUSTMENTS.

BUT HE REFUTED THE PROPOSAL THAT PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE NETWORKS SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS AND OBJECTIONS TO THE ROUTING AND THE MANNER OF RUNNING THE LINES.

HE CONSIDERED THE REASONS GIVEN BY THE SECRETARY +ARE UNTENABLE AND DO NOT JUSTIFY THE DEPARTURE FROM THE BASIC LEGAL PRINCIPLE OF NATURAL JUSTICE AND THE DEPRIVATION OF A CITIZEN'S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT.+

/+AS IT .....

+AS IT IS A MATTER OF FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE AND AS IT MAY CREATE DANGEROUS PRECEDENT, I REGRET THAT I CANNOT SUPPORT THE BILL AS IT STANDS,+ MR YEUNG STRESSED.

ON THE ASSURANCE BY THE SECRETARY THAT DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS AND RURAL COMMITTEES WOULD BE CONSULTED BEFORE A PROPOSED SCHEME IS APPROVED, HE FAILED TO SEE WHY STATUTORY PROVISION TO HEAR THE VIEWS AND OBJECTIONS OF THE AFFECTED PEOPLE COULD NOT BE MADE AS IN THE CASE OF THE TOWN PLANNING AND OTHER ORDINANCES WHERE PRIVATE RIGHTS ARE AFFECTED.

MR YEUNG ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE FORMULA FOR COMPENSATION PROVIDED IN THE BILL WAS NOT FAIR AND REASONABLE AS FAR AS THE LAND AND PROPERTY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ARE CONCERNED.

+HOW CAN THE COMPENSATION BE CONSIDERED FAIR AND REASONABLE WHEN THE RATE AND AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION PAYABLE BY THE POWER COMPANIES UNDER THE BILL IS A FEW TIMES LESS THAN WHAT IS REQUIRED TO BE PAID BY THE GOVERNMENT IN SUCH CASES,+ HE ASKED.

ANOTHER PECULIAR FEATURE INTRODUCED IN THE BILL, HE NOTED, IS THE IMPOSITION OF A HEAVY CRIMINAL PENALTY AGAINST A PERSON OBSTRUCTING OR INTERFERING WITH THE RIGHTS OF THE POWER COMPANIES.

HE CALLED FOR A STATEMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO EXPLAIN WHY IT WAS NECESSARY TO INTRODUCE A FINE AND IMPRISONMENT AS A PENALTY FOR OBSTRUCTION WHEN NO SUCH PROVISION EXISTS IN OTHER SIMILAR ORDINANCES.

ANOTHER TWO UNOFFICIAL COUNCILLORS, THE HON ALLEN LEE AND THE HON F.K. HU, SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL.

MR LEE SAID THE MAJORITY OF UNOFFICIAL COUNCILLORS SUPPORTED THE BILL AND ITS AMENDMENTS ALTHOUGH UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE REACHED AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS BY AN AD HOC GROUP OF UNOFFICIALS.

WHILE RECOGNISING THAT THE PROVISION OF ELECTRICITY IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, THEY HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER TWO ASPECTS OF THE BILL.

FIRST, THEY CONSIDERED IT ESSENTIAL THAT, DURING THE PLANNING STAGE OF A NETWORK'S ALIGNMENT, ALL PARTIES CONCERNED SHOULD BE CONSULTED.

+WE ARE THEREFORE SEEKING AN ASSURANCE FROM THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT THAT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS AND RURAL COMMITTEES WILL BE CARRIED OUT AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY.

+IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS ASSURANCE BE GIVEN IN ORDER TO MINIMISE POSSIBLE DISPUTES AND ENSURE THAT THE ROUTE CHOSEN IS THE OPTIMUM ONE,+ MR LEE SAID.

SECONDLY, WITH REGARD TO THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO LANDOWNERS BY THE POWER COMPANIES, THE UNOFFICIALS THOUGHT THAT THE ENVIRONMENT BRANCH SHOULD CONSULT THE POWER COMPANIES WITH A VIEW TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN PROVIDING A FAIR DEAL FOR PRIVATE LANDOWNERS AFFECTED BY THE NETWORK AND SAFEGUARDING THE INTERESTS OF CONSUMERS.

MR HU, WHO SHARED THE VIEWS OF MR LEE, SAID THAT LOCAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS AND RURAL COMMITTEES SHOULD BE CONSULTED IN THE PLANNING STAGE ON ANY ELECTRICITY NETWORKS AND THAT EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO MINIMISE THE EFFECT ON PRIVATE PROPERTY.

WHENEVER POSSIBLE, HE SAID, ADJUSTMENTS IN THE ROUTE SHOULD BE MADE IN ORDER TO CAUSE MINIMUM INTERFERENCE TO THE PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE ROUTE.

+THE RIGHT OF PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED.+

IN REPLY, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES SAID HE WAS HAPPY TO NOTE THAT THERE WAS COMPLETE AGREEMENT ON THE NEED TO LEGISLATE FOR STATUTORY EASEMENTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRICITY NETWORKS IN THE OVERALL PUBLIC INTEREST.

HE SAID HE WAS VERY READY TO GIVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE RELEVANT DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARDS AND RURAL COMMITTEES WOULD BE CONSULTED AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY IN THE PLANNING OF ANY FUTURE NETWORKS AND THAT THEIR VIEWS WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE ROUTES WERE FINALISED.

+MR CHARLES YEUNG HAS ALSO QUESTIONED THE FAIRNESS AND REASONABLENESS OF THE FORMULA FOR COMPENSATION PROVIDED UNDER THE BILL SINCE IT WOULD PROVIDE FOR MUCH LESS COMPENSATION THAN THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PAY.

+THIS, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO MAKE THE COMPARISON WITH GOVERNMENT RESUMPTION OF LAND WHICH IS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT MATTER TO THE CREATION OF STATUTORY EASEMENTS WHICH DO NOT EXTINGUISH TITLE TO LAND,+ HE SAID.

MR JONES SAID THAT IN DISCUSSING WITH UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS CONSIDERING THE BILL IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT SOME FORM OF NON-STATUTORY, EX-GRATIA, PAYMENT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN ORDER TO GIVE PRIMA FACIE RECOGNITION TO THE DISTURBANCE AND POSSIBLE INCONVENIENCE THAT MAY BE SUFFERED BY AFFECTED LANDOWNERS.

HE SAID THIS HAS NOW BEEN LOOKED AT BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE POWER COMPANY CONCERNED AND THAT A SCHEME, WHICH WILL ENABLE EVERY LANDOWNER AFFECTED BY THE OVERSAILING OF TRANSMISSION LINES TO RECEIVE A SUM OF EX-GRATIA PAYMENT, HAS BEEN AGREED IN PRINCIPLE.

+THE DETAILS ARE STILL BEING WORKED OUT BUT, IN THE CASE OF THE 400 KV TRANSMISSION LINE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF EX-GRATIA PAYMENT COULD COME TO SOMEWHERE BETWEEN \$20 MILLION AND \$25 MILLION,+ MR JONES SAID.

HE SAID THAT THERE WERE A FEW POINTS OF DETAIL ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE BILL FOR WHICH AMENDMENTS HAVE BEEN AGREED AS A RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

AS A RESULT, THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS WERE MADE AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE:

- \* IN RESPECT OF THE DEFINITION OF +ELECTRICITY NETWORK+ IN CLAUSE 2, TO MAKE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THE BILL DOES NOT COVER EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINES. THIS IS TO AVOID ANY POSSIBILITY OF A POWER COMPANY SEEKING THE CREATION OF A STATUTORY EASEMENT TO OVERRIDE AGREEMENTS WHICH IT MIGHT HAVE REACHED WITH INDIVIDUAL LANDOWNERS REGARDING THE CONDITIONS FOR THE USE OF LAND FOR SUPPORTING STRUCTURES AND/OR THE OVERSAILING OF LAND=
- \* IN RESPECT OF CLAUSE 4(1), TO PUT IT BEYOND DOUBT THAT THE POWER COMPANIES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO USE THE PROCEDURES FOR STATUTORY EASEMENT INSTEAD OF RESUMPTION AS A MEANS OF ACQUIRING LAND FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTION OF PYLONS, AND
- \* IN RESPECT OF CLAUSE 11, TO ENLARGE THE SCOPE OF CLAIM TO INCLUDE ANY LOSSES ARISING FROM THE PREVENTION OF USE OF LAND FOR PROFITABLE GAINS AS A RESULT OF THE STERILISATION OF ANY LAND DURING THE PERIOD WHEN TEMPORARY WORKS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT BY A POWER COMPANY.

HE SAID, MR YEUNG HAS ALSO RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE PENALTY PROVIDED IN THE BILL.

+THIS IS INTENDED TO DEAL WITH A SITUATION WHERE A LANDOWNER DECIDES TO OBSTRUCT A POWER COMPANY CARRYING OUT WORKS BY CREATING SOME OBSTRUCTION ON HIS OWN LAND.

+IF SUCH A SITUATION EVER DID ARISE, THERE COULD CONCEIVABLY BE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE CONTINUED MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY. IT IS THEREFORE CONSIDERED THAT PROVISION MUST BE MADE FOR THIS EVENTUALITY, GIVEN THAT THE OBSTRUCTION IN QUESTION WOULD BE ON THE LANDOWNER'S OWN LAND,+ HE SAID.

THE PROVISION WAS NECESSARY AS IT REFLECTED THE +PUBLIC+ NATURE OF THE EASEMENTS IN QUESTION AND WOULD BE A PROTECTION OF THE WIDER PUBLIC INTEREST.

+HOPEFULLY THERE WILL BE NO OCCASION TO USE THIS PROVISION BUT WITHOUT IT THE PUBLIC INTEREST COULD NOT BE FULLY ASSURED,+ HE ADDED.

COMPENSATION FOR INJURIES OR DEATH TO INCREASE  
\* \* \* \* \*

PROPOSED INCREASES IN COMPENSATION FOR THOSE INJURED AT WORK AND PAYMENTS TO THE DEPENDANTS OF THOSE KILLED WILL GO EVEN HIGHER UNDER AMENDMENTS TO THE RECENTLY TABLED WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON J. N. HENDERSON, SAID HE PROPOSED TO RAISE THE CEILINGS FOR DEATH AND PERMANENT TOTAL INCAPACITY TO \$168 000 AND \$192 000 RESPECTIVELY. PREVIOUS PROPOSED MAXIMUM WERE \$147 000 AND \$168 000.

ADDITIONALLY BURIAL EXPENSES WOULD BE RAISED FROM \$2 000 TO \$3 000 AND THE CONSTANT ALLOWANCE FROM \$67 000 TO \$77 000, HE SAID.

THE COMMISSIONER RECALLED THAT WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL LAST MONTH, HE INDICATED HE WAS PREPARED TO ADJUST THE PROPOSED NEW COMPENSATION LEVELS IF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL CONSIDERED THE LEVELS STILL ON THE LOW SIDE AND WISHED TO RAISE THEM.

FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL UNOFFICIALS' AD HOC GROUP, MR HENDERSON SAID HE FELT THERE WAS A STRONG CASE FOR SUCH ADJUSTMENTS.

THANKING DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI FOR SUGGESTING THAT +THE LIABILITY OF SUB-CONTRACTORS BE GIVEN MORE LEGISLATIVE ATTENTION,+ MR HENDERSON POINTED OUT THAT EXPERIENCE SHOWED THAT INJURED EMPLOYEES WORKING FOR SUB-CONTRACTORS HAD NOT ENCOUNTERED PARTICULAR DIFFICULTY IN CLAIMING COMPENSATION.

THERE COULD BE CASES, HOWEVER, WHERE AN INJURED EMPLOYEE WAS NOT AWARE OF WHICH CONTRACTOR WAS ACTUALLY EMPLOYING HIM. IN SUCH A SITUATION, HE COULD ALWAYS CLAIM AGAINST THE PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR.

HOWEVER, HE WOULD EXAMINE THIS PROBLEM AND WOULD TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION IF NECESSARY, HE ADDED.

THREE UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS SPOKE ON THE BILL.

THE CONVENOR OF AN AD HOC GROUP OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, THE REV THE HON PATRICK MCGOVERN SAID THE GROUP HAD EXAMINED THE WORKING PARTY'S REPORT, THE BILL AND A LIST OF CAREFULLY WORKED OUT SUGGESTIONS PUT FORWARD BY SEVERAL WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS.

+WE WERE HAPPY TO FIND THAT THIS BILL, AND THE PROPOSED FUTURE BILL, LARGELY REFLECTED THE SUGGESTIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY REPORT AND AT THE SAME TIME MET MOST OF THE MAIN CRITICISMS AND SUGGESTED REMEDIES OF THE WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS, SUCH AS FOR EXAMPLE THE REMOVAL OF THE WAGE CEILING BY WHICH THE PROVISIONS OF THE BILL WILL BE EXTENDED TO ALL EMPLOYEES,+ FR MCGOVERN SAID.

THE GROUP HAD ALSO WORKED OUT A SET OF FIGURES TO PROPOSE AS AN INCREASE IN THE MAXIMUM AMOUNTS PAYABLE IN ORDER TO BRING THEM MORE IN LINE WITH THE INCREASE IN COSTS AND WAGES SINCE THE BILL WAS DRAFTED.

/HOWEVER .....

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT, THEIR FIGURES COINCIDED ALMOST TO THE DOLLAR WITH THOSE PREPARED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR FOR THE SAME PURPOSE.

AMENDMENTS TO INCREASE THE LEVELS OF COMPENSATION WERE ACCORDINGLY MADE AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE.

DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI WELCOMED EVERY IMPROVEMENT MADE TO THE LABOUR LEGISLATION WHICH HE SAID +WILL ASSIST US TO REPUDIATE THE CRITICISMS SO OFTEN LEVELLED AT US BY OUR OVERSEAS TRADING RIVALS OF UNFAIR COMPETITION BASED ON SWEATED LABOUR.+

HE NOTED THE BILL PROVIDES WIDER PROTECTION FOR INJURED WORKERS, INCLUDING ALL SALARIED EMPLOYEES IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR EARNINGS, AND RAISES THE MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM LEVELS OF COMPENSATION FOR DEATH AND PERMANENT DISABILITY.

IN ADDITION, EMPLOYERS WILL NOW BE LIABLE TO MEET THE INITIAL COST OF FITTING, REPAIR AND RENEWAL OF PROSTHESIS AND SURGICAL APPLIANCES FOR INJURED WORKERS FOR 10 YEARS.

AS EMPLOYERS HAVE TO SHOULDER ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL BURDEN AS A RESULT OF THE NEW PROVISIONS, HE HOPED THEY WOULD BE INDUCED TO BECOME MORE CONSCIOUS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY IN THEIR WORKPLACE.

DR HO ALSO SUGGESTED THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD GIVE MORE LEGISLATIVE ATTENTION TO THE LIABILITY OF SUB-CONTRACTORS AS WORKERS OFTEN EXPERIENCE GREAT DIFFICULTIES IN CLAIMING COMPENSATION FOR WORK INJURIES UNDER THE EXISTING SUB-CONTRACTING SYSTEM OF PRODUCTION.

THE HON ALLEN LEE WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION WOULD BE FURTHER ADJUSTED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE INCREASES IN WAGES AND COST OF LIVING WHICH OCCURRED DURING 1979-80.

HE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG COULD NOT HAVE ACHIEVED SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN EXPORTS SINCE 1974 WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF ITS INDUSTRIOUS WORKERS.

+EVEN THOUGH THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE RECOGNISED BY CONTINUOUS RISES IN THEIR EARNINGS, ONE AREA TO WHICH WE MUST PAY MORE ATTENTION IS THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION PAYABLE IN CASE OF ACCIDENTS.+

MR LEE ALSO SUPPORTED THE REMOVAL FROM THE BILL THE WAGE CEILING OF \$5 000 A MONTH FOR NON-MANUAL WORKERS TO COVER ALL EMPLOYEES IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR EARNINGS.

FURTHERMORE, HE FELT IT WAS SENSIBLE TO RETITLE THE +WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE+ TO +EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE+ AS SOME PEOPLE HAVE THOUGHT IN THE PAST THAT +WORKMEN+ MEANT ONLY MALE WORKERS.

## MEMBERS SUPPORT WATER POLLUTION CONTROL BILL

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LEGISLATION TO CURB THE POLLUTION OF STREAMS, NULLAHS AND TERRITORIAL WATERS HAVE THE BACKING OF THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

BUT THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT, INASMUCH AS THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL BILL IS A PIECE OF ENABLING LEGISLATION ONLY, IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS THE IMPLICATIONS, ESPECIALLY THE ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS, OF ITS PROVISIONS UNTIL THE REGULATIONS TO BE ENACTED UNDER THE BILL ARE AVAILABLE.

THE HON LYDIA DUNN, CONVENOR OF THE AD HOC GROUP OF UNOFFICIALS SET UP TO EXAMINE THE BILL, EXPLAINED THIS WAS WHY INDUSTRY HAD ONLY BEEN CONSULTED IN VERY GENERAL TERMS.

+UNTIL INDUSTRY KNOWS PRECISELY HOW THE LAW IS TO BE APPLIED AND ENFORCED,+ SHE POINTED OUT, +IT IS QUITE IMPOSSIBLE TO IDENTIFY THE EXTENT TO WHICH PARTICULAR TRADES WILL BE AFFECTED.

+THE FINAL VIEW TAKEN BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, THEREFORE, WILL DEPEND UPON THE CONTENT OF THE REGULATIONS TO BE MADE AT A LATER STAGE, THE EXTENT OF CONSULTATIONS WITH INDUSTRY IN DRAWING UP THESE REGULATIONS AND THE NOTICE PERIOD BEFORE THE REGULATIONS BECOME EFFECTIVE.+

DESPITE THE UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING THE PRACTICAL EFFECTS OF THE BILL, MISS DUNN HAD ASKED THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT TO ASSURE THAT:

- \* IN DRAWING UP THE REGULATIONS, CONSULTATIONS WOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EPCOM) AND THAT MAJOR INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS WOULD ALSO BE CONSULTED-
- \* THERE SHOULD BE A PERIOD OF THREE TO SIX MONTHS AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE REGULATIONS BEFORE THEY BECOME EFFECTIVE, AND
- \* THE PERIOD OF TWO WEEKS ALLOWED FOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS TO CONSIDER RULES, REGULATIONS AND BY-LAWS SHOULD BE EXTENDED IN THIS CASE TO GIVE MEMBERS SUFFICIENT TIME TO STUDY WHAT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE A HIGHLY TECHNICAL SUBJECT.

ON THE DRAFTING OF REGULATIONS, MISS DUNN STRESSED THAT THE VIEWS OF MAJOR INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS AS SUCH ON THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF MEASURES DEEMED TO BE APPROPRIATE TO COMBAT POLLUTION ARE ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO STRIKE A SENSIBLE BALANCE BETWEEN CONSERVATION AND THE ECONOMY.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT HAS UNDERTAKEN TO CONSULT THESE ASSOCIATIONS IN ADDITION TO EPCOM AND HAS INFORMED THE UNOFFICIALS THAT THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH WILL ASSESS THE ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF THE REGULATIONS.

ON THE SECOND POINT, THE SECRETARY HAS ALSO AGREED NOT TO BRING THE REGULATIONS INTO EFFECT FOR AT LEAST THREE MONTHS AFTER THEIR PUBLICATION.

IN THIS REGARD MISS DUNN URGED THAT AMPLE PUBLICITY MUST BE GIVEN BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND APPOINTED DAYS TO PREVENT ANY FACTORY, ESPECIALLY SMALL FACTORIES, FROM BEING PENALISED BY DEFAULT.

ON THE PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE TWO-WEEK PERIOD ALLOWED FOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS TO CONSIDER THE REGULATIONS, THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT FEEL ABLE TO DO SO.

ALTHOUGH SHE UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WOULD INVOLVE AN AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS TO EXTEND THE PERIOD, MISS DUNN FELT THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE PREPARED TO MOVE THEIR SUSPENSION IN THIS INSTANCE.

+IT IS DANGEROUS TO MAKE DECISIONS ON DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX ISSUES IN HASTE= AND, IN THIS CASE, UNNECESSARY TOO FOR POLLUTION OF OUR RIVERS AND STREAMS AND OF THE WATERS IN OUR HARBOURS IS A PROBLEM OF LONG STANDING,+ SHE SAID.

+TO LIMIT THE TIME AVAILABLE FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE REGULATIONS TO TWO WEEKS, RATHER THAN ALLOW, SAY, FOUR TO SIX WEEKS WILL NOT HAVE ANY PRACTICAL EFFECT EVEN IN RESPECT OF THE SHORT TERM OBJECT OF CONTAINING POLLUTION.

+YET IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF HASTE, WE RUN THE DANGER OF MAKING MISTAKES WHICH COULD DAMAGE THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS IN THE MEDIUM AND LONGER TERM= AND THE VIABILITY OF SOME INDUSTRIES COULD BE PREJUDICED, SUCH AS THE DYEING AND FINISHING INDUSTRY.+

MISS DUNN ADDED THAT HER PLEA FOR LESS HASTE AND MORE CARE WAS MADE +IN THE INTERESTS OF BETTER, SOUNDER GOVERNMENT AND AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE NUMBER OF BILLS WHICH COME BEFORE THIS COUNCIL THESE DAYS.+

WHILE ACCEPTING THAT INCREASING CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT, MISS DUNN STRESSED THAT THE ECONOMY MUST ALWAYS COME FIRST.

+FURTHERMORE, WE MUST AVOID DRIFTING INTO A SITUATION WHEREBY NEW COMMITMENTS STRAIN OUR RESOURCES AT THE EXPENSE OF EXISTING COMMITMENTS= AND INTO A SITUATION IN WHICH THE ENACTMENT OF ONE PIECE OF LEGISLATION AFTER ANOTHER - EACH PERHAPS JUSTIFIED IN ITS OWN RIGHT - LEADS TO AN EVER LARGER AND MORE COSTLY BUREAUCRACY WHOSE EXISTENCE DEPENDS ON MORE AND MORE RESTRICTIVE CONTROLS BEING IMPOSED,+ SHE ADDED.

MISS DUNN ALSO URGED THE ENVIRONMENT BRANCH TO LIAISE CLOSELY WITH THE ICAC IN DRAWING UP IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES SINCE +THE SORT OF CONTROL MEASURES ENVISAGED IN THIS BILL ARE BOUND TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORRUPTION.+

THE HON WONG PO-YAN WELCOMED THE BILL BUT URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO +EXERCISE THE POWERS WITH CARE AND FLEXIBILITY, ADOPT A REALISTIC APPROACH AND TAKE CARE OF THE NEEDS OF PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES.+

WHILE AGREEING THAT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IS A PERFECTLY LAUDABLE OBJECTIVE, HE WARNED ONE SHOULD BE MINDFUL OF ANY ADVERSE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCE THE LEGISLATION MAY BRING ABOUT.

HE FELT THAT HONG KONG SHOULD TAKE A WELL-BALANCED ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE BILL - TO ASCERTAIN ITS WATERS ARE PREVENTED FROM FURTHER CONTAMINATION ON THE ONE HAND AND TO MAKE SURE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE ANY UNNECESSARY ADVERSE IMPACT ON ITS ECONOMY ON THE OTHER.

HOWEVER, HE NOTICED THE BILL CONTAINS SOME VERY STRINGENT PROVISIONS GOVERNING INDUSTRIAL DEPOSITS AND DISCHARGES.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, AN EXEMPTION OR LICENCE WILL CEASE TO BE OPERATIVE IF THERE IS A CHANGE IN THE PLACE, PERIOD OR COMPOSITION OF A CERTAIN DEPOSIT OR DISCHARGE, OR IF 30 PER CENT OF ITS QUANTITY AND TEMPERATURE IS DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IS ORIGINALLY PERMITTED.

+IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES,+ MR WONG NOTED, +APPROVAL FOR CHANGES WILL BE REQUIRED. BUT A DECISION ON AN APPLICATION WILL NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL AT LEAST 30 DAYS AFTER THE DAY OF PUBLIC NOTICE OF SUCH APPLICATION.+

THIS COULD EASILY CAUSE DELAYS AND UPSET THE PRODUCTION SCHEDULED OF INDUSTRIES WHICH DISCHARGE CONSIDERABLE QUANTITIES OF EFFLUENTS, HE NOTED.

+I WISH TO POINT OUT THAT IF THE LAW IS NOT SENSIBLY ENFORCED, INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION WOULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND OUR MANUFACTURERS' OVERSEAS IMAGE WOULD BE SEVERELY DAMAGED, NOT TO MENTION THE TREMENDOUS MATERIAL LOSSES,+ HE SAID.

MR WONG CITED TWO IMPORTANT INDUSTRIES WHICH ARE MOST LIABLE TO BE AFFECTED BY THE NEW LEGISLATION - THE TEXTILE DYEING, PRINTING AND FINISHING INDUSTRY AND THE ELECTRO-PLATING INDUSTRY.

ON THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY, HE REMARKED THAT AS DIVERSIFICATION WITHIN THE INDUSTRY PROCEEDS BY MOVING UP MARKETS, NEW TECHNOLOGIES WILL BE INTRODUCED AND NEW PRODUCTS WILL BE MADE WHICH WILL ASSIST POSITIVELY IN THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S GARMENT INDUSTRY.

IN THIS RESPECT, STRINGENT WATER POLLUTION CONTROL MEASURES MIGHT IMPEDE THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

AS FOR THE ELECTRO-PLATING INDUSTRY, MR WONG SAID IT RENDERS AN INDISPENSABLE SUPPORTING SERVICE TO THE METAL INDUSTRY.

OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, OUTPUT IN FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS EXPERIENCED ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWTH RATES AMONG HONG KONG'S NUMEROUS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, ONLY RANKING AFTER THE ELECTRONICS AND PLASTICS INDUSTRIES.

ANY STRINGENT REGULATIONS IN THIS REGARD WOULD BE IN A DANGER OF +KILLING THE BUD BEFORE IT FLOWERS,+ HE ADDED.

HE REFERRED TO THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT'S SPEECH DURING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BILL IN WHICH HE STATED +THE IMPOSITION OF BLANKET CONTROLS WHICH COULD SERIOUSLY INCONVENIENCE EXISTING INDUSTRIES WILL BE AVOIDED.+

THE SECRETARY HAD ALSO SAID THAT IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRM INTENTION TO IMPLEMENT THE BILL IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO MINIMISE INCONVENIENCE AND COST TO INDUSTRY AND THE ECONOMY GENERALLY.

MR WONG HOPED THE GOVERNMENT WOULD, WHEN DRAWING UP REGULATIONS, ADHERE TO THIS POLICY GUIDANCE.

IN REPLY THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES, AGAIN EMPHASISED THERE WOULD BE CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES IN THE COURSE OF PREPARING THE DRAFT REGULATIONS AND THAT ANY POINTS THEY MADE WHICH WERE UNRESOLVED WOULD BE DRAWN TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL.

+I HAVE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE LIKELY ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF ALL DRAFT REGULATIONS WILL BE ASSESSED BY THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH,+ HE SAID.

MR JONES SAID HE HAS GIVEN AN ASSURANCE THAT REGULATIONS WOULD NOT BE BROUGHT INTO EFFECT UNTIL AT LEAST THREE MONTHS AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE SO AS TO ALLOW MORE TIME FOR THOSE CONCERNED TO ASSESS THEIR EFFECTS.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE PROVISIONS FOR A VERY EXTENSIVE APPEALS PROCEDURE.

+WITH ALL THESE PROVISIONS FOR CONSULTATIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND APPEALS I CAN HARDLY SEE HOW I MERIT MISS DUNN'S ACCUSATION OF WANTING TO RUSH THINGS. BUT SHE DOES MAKE THE POINT THAT, AND I QUOTE HER, +THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT DID NOT FEEL ABLE TO EXTEND THE TWO-WEEK PERIOD ALLOWED FOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS TO CONSIDER THE REGULATIONS.+

HE SAID THE REASON WHY HE DID NOT FEEL ABLE TO MEET MISS DUNN ON THIS PARTICULAR POINT WAS THAT HE DID NOT HAVE THE POWER TO DO SO.

SHOULD, HOWEVER, UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS GENERALLY FELT THAT THIS PROVISION SHOULD BE RE-EXAMINED, HE SAID THAT NO DOUBT IT WOULD BE LOOKED AT.

+BUT IT WOULD INVOLVE BROADER ISSUES THAN THIS PARTICULAR BILL,+ HE ADDED.

FINALLY, HE SAID HE WAS ALREADY IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ICAC ON PROCEDURES THAT MIGHT BE INTRODUCED TO MINIMISE CORRUPTION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MEASURES PROVIDED FOR IN THE BILL AND IN OTHER ITEMS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LEGISLATION.

## EXTRA STAFF NEEDED TO DEAL WITH ILLEGAL BUILDING WORKS

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REQUIRES ADDITIONAL STAFF TO HELP TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL BUILDING WORKS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON JACK STEAN, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHARLES YEUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR STEAN SAID: +WHEN THEY ARE AVAILABLE, SOME IMPROVEMENT IN THE PRESENT LEVEL OF ACTION WILL RESULT.

+THE BUILDING SURVEYORS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR TAKING ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL WORKS HAVE, AS THEIR PRIMARY TASK, THE DUTY OF PROCESSING APPLICATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH NEW BUILDINGS, INCLUDING THE APPROVAL OF PLANS, THE ISSUE OF CONSENTS TO COMMENCE WORK AND THE ISSUE OF OCCUPATION PERMITS, ALL OF WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO STATUTORY TIME LIMITS.

+IN ADDITION, THEY ARE REQUIRED TO INSPECT NEW BUILDINGS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.+

ALL OF THESE TASKS, MR STEAN ADDED, MUST TAKE PRECEDENCE AND THEREFORE THE LACK OF SUFFICIENT RESOURCES MOST SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTS THE AREA OF ILLEGAL WORKS.

MR STEAN RECALLED THAT THE COUNCIL HAD BEEN ADVISED PREVIOUSLY THAT THE PACE OF DEVELOPMENT HAD OUT-STRIPPED THE ABILITY OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS.

+THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS ALSO, ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, BEEN ADVISED THAT THE POLICY IS TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST ALL WORKS WHICH CONTRAVENE THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE IN BUILDINGS COMPLETED AFTER JULY 1975 AND TO LIMIT ACTION AGAINST BUILDINGS COMPLETED BEFORE THAT DATE TO THOSE WORKS WHICH ARE A RISK TO LIFE AND LIMB, BECAUSE OF THE VERY LARGE NUMBER OF BUILDINGS INVOLVED,+ HE ADDED.

+THIS POLICY AND THE ACTION TAKEN TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY APPLIES TO THE NEW TOWNS IN THE SAME WAY AS IT APPLIES TO THE REST OF THE TERRITORY.

+WITH THE CONTINUED PACE OF DEVELOPMENT THE SITUATION AS REGARDS THE CONTROL OF ILLEGAL WORKS IS DETERIORATING IN ALL AREAS.+

MR STEAN SAID THE CAMPAIGN OF ISSUING POSTERS ILLUSTRATING THE MOST COMMON TYPES OF ILLEGAL WORK CONTINUED AND WAS THOUGHT TO HAVE MET WITH SOME SUCCESS.

IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE, HE SAID, TO MEASURE THE DETERRANT EFFECT OF THESE POSTERS AND OF THE LIMITED ENFORCEMENT WORK BEING CARRIED OUT, BUT CLEARLY BOTH IN THE NEW TOWNS AND ELSEWHERE THE CONTROL OF ILLEGAL WORKS AND ALTERATIONS WAS OF LIMITED EFFECTIVENESS.

/MR STEAN .....

MR STEAN POINTED OUT THAT THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WAS INTRACTABLE PROBLEM OF MASSIVE PROPORTIONS AND WAS ONE WHICH HE DID NOT BELIEVE COULD EVER BE SOLVED WITH THE PRESENT APPROACH TO IT.

RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD THEREFORE BE SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WHICH WOULD ON THE ONE HAND LIMIT THE TYPES OF ILLEGAL WORKS AGAINST WHICH ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN AND ON THE OTHER HAND, IN CERTAIN AREAS, ENABLE AN INDIVIDUAL OWNER WHO WISHED TO CARRY OUT ALTERATIONS TO OBTAIN APPROVAL QUICKLY FROM THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE, WITHOUT EMPLOYING PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS, HE ADDED.

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INQUEST INTO ALL WHO DIE IN CUSTODY  
\* \* \* \*

CORONERS WILL INQUIRE INTO ALL DEATHS OF PEOPLE IN OFFICIAL CUSTODY -- INCLUDING THOSE HELD BY THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JOHN GRIFFITHS SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE CORONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, MR GRIFFITHS SAID THE DEFINITION OF +OFFICIAL CUSTODY+ WAS AMENDED TO INCLUDE PERSONS IN CUSTODY BY ICAC OFFICERS OR ANY OTHER OFFICER WITH POWERS OF ARREST.

AMENDMENTS IN THE BILL ALSO INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO ATTEND A JURY SUMMONS (FOR CORONERS COURT) FROM \$500 TO \$3 000. HOWEVER, THERE IS PROVISION OF A SPECIFIC DEFENCE OF REASONABLE EXCUSE TO A JUROR WHO FAILS TO ATTEND IN ANSWER TO A SUMMONS.

MR GRIFFITHS SAID THAT UNDER THE PRESENT LAW, PAPERS FROM EVERY INQUIRY BY A CORONER WERE FORWARDED TO HIM WHICH CREATED +DOUBLE HANDLING.+

+CORONERS PAPERS WILL, UNDER THE AMENDMENTS, ONLY BE FORWARDED UPON REQUEST FOR HIM TO CONSIDER WHETHER HE SHOULD EXERCISE HIS STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES OF ORDERING THE INQUEST TO BE RE-OPENED.+

OTHER AMENDMENTS ALLOW FOR A CORONER NOT REQUIRED TO BE A MAGISTRATE, BUT A PERSON WITH LEGAL QUALIFICATIONS, AND PROVIDES THAT CORONERS MAY ACCEPT MAJORITY VERDICTS OF JURORS, AND THAT JURORS MAY BE DISCHARGED IN THE INTERESTS OF JUSTICE AND THEMSELVES WITHOUT DISRUPTING AN INQUEST.

MR GRIFFITHS SAID THERE WAS ALSO AN AMENDMENT OF THE JUDICIAL SERVICES ORDINANCE WHICH WAS CONSEQUENTIAL UPON THE POST OF CORONER BEING INDEPENDENT OF THE MAGISTRACY.

HE SAID THAT A NUMBER OF THE AMENDMENTS STEMMED FROM A REPORT EARLIER THIS YEAR FROM A WORKING PARTY ESTABLISHED TO REVIEW THE LAW AND PRACTICE OF THE CORONERS COURT.

ONE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE GROUP THAT RELATED TO THE APPEARANCE OF CROWN COUNCIL TO ASSIST THE CORONERS OFFICE REQUIRED AN AMENDMENT TO THE CORONERS RULES.

ANOTHER RECOMMENDATION WHICH DID NOT REQUIRE LEGISLATIVE ACTION WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE CORONERS STAFF WITHIN THE JUDICIARY.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILL TO TIGHTEN CONTROL OVER  
IMPORT-EXPORT OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS  
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THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR THE HON K.L. THONG, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) MOVED VARIOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE AIMED AT TIGHTENING CONTROL OVER THE EXPORT AND IMPORT OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.

ONE AMENDMENT HE PROPOSED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING THIS AFTERNOON SEEKS TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS OF ALL PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.

HE EXPLAINED THAT AT PRESENT ONLY THOSE PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS CONTAINING POISONS WERE REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED.

THERE ARE A LARGE NUMBER OF WIDELY USED PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS WHICH DO NOT CONTAIN POISONS AND THEREFORE NOT REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED WITH THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD UNDER THE EXISTING LEGISLATION.

+THIS IS UNSATISFACTORY AS MANY OF THE PRODUCTS ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO DETERIORATION DUE TO POOR STORAGE CONDITION AND THE PREMISES IN WHICH THEY ARE HELD ARE NOT SUBJECT TO INSPECTION,+ SAID DR THONG.

IN ORDER THAT MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL BE EXERCISED FOR THESE PRODUCTS, HE SAID, ALL IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, WHETHER THEY CONTAIN POISONS OR NOT, SHOULD BE REGISTERED.

DR THONG SAID THERE WAS ALSO NOTHING IN THE EXISTING ORDINANCE WHICH APPLIED TO EXPORT OF POISONS OUTSIDE HONG KONG NOR DID THE LAW SPELL OUT CLEARLY THAT AN EXPORTER MUST BE AUTHORISED TO ENGAGE IN THE BUSINESS OF EXPORTING POISONS.

IT IS THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT SECTION 32(B) OF THE ORDINANCE BE AMENDED TO CLARIFY THAT POISONS MAY BE EXPORTED ONLY BY REGISTERED EXPORTERS OR LICENSED WHOLESALE DEALERS IN POISONS, HE SAID.

ANOTHER AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY DR THONG SEEKS TO ENABLE THE BOARD TO ESTABLISH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES TO DEAL WITH LICENSING AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

/HE EXPLAINED .....

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE INCREASING SCOPE AND COMPLEXITY OF THE WORK OF THE BOARD HAS NOW MADE IT NECESSARY FOR SOME OF THE FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES, SUCH AS REGISTRATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS, BE DELEGATED TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES.

DR THONG ALSO PROPOSED THE SETTING UP OF A PHARMACY AND POISONS APPEALS TRIBUNAL WITH JURISDICTION TO HEAR AND DETERMINE APPEALS AGAINST A DECISION OF THE BOARD OR ITS COMMITTEES ON MATTERS CONCERNING LICENSING, REGISTRATION AND THE ISSUE OF CERTIFICATES.

THE TRIBUNAL WILL COMPRISE OF PERSONS TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, TO BE CHAIRED BY A LEGALLY QUALIFIED PERSON. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE TRIBUNAL SHOULD COME FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDICAL AND PHARMACOLOGICAL PROFESSIONS, THE PHARMACIST ASSOCIATION, THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY AND THE RETAIL PHARMACEUTICAL TRADE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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EXCHANGE FUND BORROWING LIMIT RAISED  
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A MOTION TO INCREASE THE BORROWING LIMIT OF THE EXCHANGE FUND BY 50 PER CENT TO \$15 000 MILLION WAS APPROVED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN SUPPORTING THE PROPOSAL, THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, EXPLAINED THAT THE BULK OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ACCUMULATED FISCAL RESERVES, THE GENERAL REVENUE BALANCE, WERE INVESTED BY THE TREASURY WITH THE EXCHANGE FUND, AGAINST THE ISSUE BY THE FUND OF INTEREST-BEARING DEBT CERTIFICATES.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S FISCAL RESERVES WERE HELD WITH THE EXCHANGE FUND TO AVOID THE NECESSITY OF THESE RESERVES HAVING TO BEAR EXCHANGE RISKS.

+FURTHERMORE, TO THE EXTENT THAT THESE RESERVES REPRESENT PART OF THE EXCHANGE FUND'S HOLDINGS OF HONG KONG DOLLARS, THEY PLAY A PART IN THE EXERCISE OF LEVERAGE ON THE LIQUIDITY RATIOS OF THE BANKING SYSTEM,+ HE SAID.

SIR PHILIP SAID EXCHANGE FUND DEBT CERIFICATES ISSUED TO THE TREASURY HAVE CONTINUED TO RISE THROUGHOUT THIS YEAR.

ON DECEMBER 31, 1979 THEY AMOUNTED TO \$5 520 MILLION- ON MARCH 31, 1980, THEY AMOUNTED TO \$8 517 MILLION- AND ON JUNE 30, 1980, THEY AMOUNTED TO \$8 830 MILLION.

+ALTHOUGH WE FACE EXCEPTIONALLY HEAVY EXPENDITURE COMMITMENTS OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, I ANTICIPATE THAT THE PRESENT BORROWING LIMIT ON THE EXCHANGE FUND OF \$10 000 MILLION MAY BE REACHED BEFORE THE END OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR,+ HE ADDED.

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\$743 MILLION SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION APPROVED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPROVED SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS OF \$743 MILLION FOR THE THIRD QUARTER TO DECEMBER 31, 1979.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON D.G. JEAFFRESON, SAID THAT OF THIS SUM \$564 MILLION WERE PUBLIC WORKS NON-RECURRENT ITEMS AS A RESULT OF RAPID PROGRESS ON A NUMBER OF APPROVED PROJECTS AND THE UPGRADING OF 17 PROJECTS.

OFFSETTING SAVINGS OF \$652 MILLION WERE FOUND UNDER VARIOUS SUBHEADS OF EXPENDITURE OR BY FREEZING FUNDS.

OF THE REMAINING \$91 MILLION, NOT OFFSET BY SAVINGS, THE MAIN ITEMS INCLUDED \$67 MILLION FOR REINFORCEMENT OF THE GARRISON- \$10 MILLION FOR INSTALMENT PAYMENT OF NINE MARINE POLICE LAUNCHES- \$5 MILLION FOR PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS FOR THREE DEPARTMENTS TO MEET PAY INCREASES, AND \$5 MILLION FOR VARIOUS EXPENSES RELATING TO THE MAINTENANCE OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

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INDUSTRIALISTS URGED TO STEP UP TRAINING EFFORTS

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THE NUMBER OF APPRENTICES UNDER TRAINING STILL FALLS SHORT OF THE REQUIREMENT REVEALED BY THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL MANPOWER REPORTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE NON-DESIGNATED SECTIONS, THE HON FRANCIS TIEN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE URGED LOCAL INDUSTRIALISTS TO STEP UP THEIR TRAINING EFFORTS AND EXPAND THEIR APPRENTICESHIP SCHEMES BY OFFERING MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO APPRENTICES WHO WISH TO MAKE THEIR CAREER IN INDUSTRY.

HE ALSO CALLED ON THEM TO REGISTER THEIR APPRENTICESHIP CONTRACTS UNDER THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE.

MR TIEN, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL, WAS SPEAKING AT THE SECOND READING OF THE APPRENTICESHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL WHICH CONTAINED VARIOUS AMENDMENTS DESIGNED TO TIDY UP, REMOVE MINOR ANOMALIES, RECTIFY OMISSIONS AND REFLECT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER LEGISLATIONS GOVERNING THE EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

HE NOTED THAT THE PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING THE BILL AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE TWO PROVISIONS RELATING TO TECHNICAL EDUCATION WERE EXTENSIVELY DISCUSSED BY THE COUNCIL AND ITS COMMITTEE ON APPRENTICESHIP.

+THE TRAINING COUNCIL IS IN FULL SUPPORT OF GIVING PREFERENCE TO REGISTERED APPRENTICES OVER OTHER APPLICANTS WHEN ALLOCATING PART-TIME DAY-RELEASE PLACES.

+THIS IS IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEED FOR A PROPERLY TRAINED TECHNICAL PERSON TO BE CONVERSANT WITH BOTH THE THEORY AND THE PRACTICE OF HIS TRADE.+

THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE TECHNICAL EDUCATION, HE SAID, WAS THE PRIVILEGE OF A REGISTERED APPRENTICE, BUT HE ALSO HAS OBLIGATIONS TO DISCHARGE.

+THE TRAINING COUNCIL THEREFORE SUPPORTS THE SECOND PROVISION ON EDUCATION AND FEELS THAT SHOULD SUCH AN APPRENTICE MISBEHAVE OR REPUDIATE HIS CONTRACT, HE SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY SUSPENDED FROM A TECHNICAL COURSE WHETHER OR NOT HE IS IN A DESIGNATED TRADE.

+THIS IS NECESSARY AND, I UNDERSTAND, HAS BEEN FOUND USEFUL IN DEALING WITH DELINQUENT APPRENTICES IN DESIGNATED TRADES,+ HE NOTED.

MR TIEN ALSO NOTED THAT THE APPRENTICESHIP ORDINANCE HAD BEEN EFFECTIVE IN PROMOTING PROPER APPRENTICE TRAINING NOT ONLY IN DESIGNATED TRADES BUT ALSO IN OTHER TRADES.

+THE LATTER SIGNIFICANTLY POINTS TO THE FACT THAT EMPLOYERS ARE BEGINNING TO FIND THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK BROUGHT ABOUT BY THIS LEGISLATION USEFUL AND ACCEPTABLE IN THE TRAINING OF THEIR TECHNICIANS AND OTHER SKILLED WORKERS,+ HE ADDED.

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#### TAXI REGISTRATION TIME EXTENDED

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THE TIME LIMIT FOR REGISTERING UP TO 10 000 URBAN TAXIS HAS BEEN EXTENDED BY 12 MONTHS TO ALLOW FOR FURTHER TENDERING EXERCISES TO BE CONDUCTED IN SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER THIS YEAR.

IN MOVING THE MOTION TO EXTEND THE LIMIT FROM JANUARY 18, 1980 TO JANUARY 31, 1981, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE IN JANUARY THIS YEAR, ORDERED THAT THIS MAXIMUM NUMBER OF URBAN TAXIS TO BE REACHED BY ISSUING 300 TAXI LICENCES EVERY THREE MONTHS.

AT PRESENT THE NUMBER OF URBAN TAXIS, INCLUDING 300 IN A CURRENT TENDERING EXERCISE WAS 9 069.

MR JONES SAID A FULL REVIEW OF TAXI OPERATIONS WAS BEING CONDUCTED, AND EXPECTED THAT THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL WOULD BE CONSULTED BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR ON THE LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF LICENCES TO BE SET SUBSEQUENTLY, AS WELL AS ON OTHER MATTERS AFFECTING THE TAXI TRADE.

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1 143 CASES OF TENANTS NOT MAKING PROPER USE OF HD FLATS  
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DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS HOUSING DEPARTMENT STAFF DISCOVERED 1 143 CASES OF TENANTS NOT MAKING PROPER USE OF THEIR FLATS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON D.P.H. LIAO, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SINCE SUCH TENANTS CAN BE DEEMED NOT TO BE IN NEED OF PUBLIC HOUSING ALL WERE ASKED TO SURRENDER THEIR TENANCIES, WHICH 722 DID VOLUNTARILY, HE SAID IN REPLYING TO QUESTIONS FROM DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI.

THE REMAINING TENANTS WERE SERVED NOTICE TO QUIT.

IN CASES INVOLVING ABSENTEE TENANTS ALLOWING THEIR FLATS TO BE OCCUPIED ILLEGALLY, THE UNAUTHORISED OCCUPANTS WERE REQUIRED TO LEAVE ON DISCOVERY, SAID MR LIAO. THOSE GENUINELY HOMELESS WERE OFFERED TEMPORARY HOUSING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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+FAILURE TO DISCLOSE+ TRAFFIC BILL PASSED  
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THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980 WAS PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JOHN GRIFFITHS, SAID ONE AMENDMENT ENABLED THE COURTS TO DISQUALIFY PEOPLE WHO AVOID PROSECUTION FOR SERIOUS TRAFFIC OFFENCES BY REFUSING TO DISCLOSE WHO THE DRIVER WAS AT THE TIME THE OFFENCE WAS COMMITTED.

HE SAID THE PROBLEM WAS THAT THE PENALTY FOR FAILING TO DISCLOSE THE NAME OF A DRIVER INVOLVED IN SUCH AN OFFENCE WAS AT PRESENT LIKELY TO BE MUCH LOWER THAN THE PENALTY FOR THE OFFENCE ITSELF.

THE COURT, HE SAID, +HAS NO MEANS AT PRESENT OF JUDGING THE GRAVITY OF THE CONDUCT WHICH PROBABLY MOTIVATED THE DRIVER OR OWNER TO REFUSE TO GIVE HIS NAME.+

THE AMENDMENTS REMOVED FROM THE BILL PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD HAVE EMPOWERED THE COURTS THEMSELVES TO ORDER DISCLOSURE OF THE REQUIRED INFORMATION ON PAIN OF A CONTINUING FINE OR IMPRISONMENT.

+HAVING CONSIDERED ALL THE ARGUMENTS, I NOW FEEL, AND THE CHIEF JUSTICE HAS INDICATED THAT HE AGREES, THAT IT WOULD NOT BE DESIRABLE TO ALLOW A SORT OF CONFRONTATION TO OCCUR BETWEEN A MAGISTRATE WHO ORDERED DISCLOSURE AND A DEFENDANT WHO REFUSED TO GIVE IT.

+THE ORIGINAL PROPOSALS IN THE BILL MIGHT ON SOME OCCASIONS HAVE LED TO THIS,+ HE SAID.

BUT, MR GRIFFITHS ADDED, IF PEOPLE WERE TO BE DISCOURAGED FROM REFUSING TO GIVE THE NAME OF THE DRIVER WHEN THEY KNEW IT PERFECTLY WELL BECAUSE THEY CONSIDERED THE PENALTY FOR THE DRIVING OFFENCE WAS LIKELY TO BE MUCH HIGHER THAN FOR THE FAILURE TO DISCLOSE, THEN IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE BILL SHOULD RETAIN THE PROVISION REQUIRING THE COURTS TO HAVE REGARD TO THE FACTS OF THE UNDERLYING TRAFFIC OFFENCE WHEN ASSESSING SENTENCE FOR THE FAILURE TO DISCLOSE OFFENCE.+

AS AMENDED, HE SAID, THE BILL WILL MAKE A MORE MODEST CONTRIBUTION TO STRENGTHEN THE LAW THAN WAS ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED BUT THAT CONTRIBUTION WILL STILL, BE A USEFUL ONE.

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FAKE DRUGS BILL PASSED  
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THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL WHICH DEALS WITH OFFENCES CONNECTED WITH FAKE NARCOTICS HAVE THE SUPPORT OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, THE HON PETER C. WONG TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID THEY WERE SATISFIED THE BILL WAS BOTH NECESSARY AND DESIRABLE AND WOULD NOT HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON LEGITIMATE TRANSACTIONS OF OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS CONTROLLED UNDER THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE.

SPEAKING AT THE BILL'S SECOND READING, MR WONG SAID THE BILL BASICALLY INTRODUCED TWO AMENDMENTS IN WHICH:

- \* A PERSON WHO OFFERS TO TRAFFIC IN A SUBSTANCE WHICH HE BELIEVES TO BE A DANGEROUS DRUG, COMMITS AN OFFENCE EVEN THOUGH IT IS NOT IN FACT A DANGEROUS DRUG.
- \* A PERSON WHO TRAFFICS OR OFFERS TO TRAFFIC IN A SUBSTANCE REPRESENTED BY HIM TO BE A DANGEROUS DRUG WHICH IS IN FACT NOT A DANGEROUS DRUG ALSO COMMITS AN OFFENCE, BUT WITH LIGHTER PENALTIES SIMILAR TO THOSE PROVIDED FOR THE OFFENCE OF DECEPTION.

MR WONG SAID THE AD HOC GROUP OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WHO EXAMINED THE BILL HAD CONSIDERED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AMENDMENTS AND THE IMPLICATIONS THEY MIGHT HAVE ON LEGITIMATE TRANSACTIONS OF OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS CONTROLLED UNDER THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE.

FOLLOWING DISCUSSION WITH THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, HE SAID APPROPRIATE AMENDMENT WAS MADE TO THE BILL TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT A NEW SECTION WOULD DEAL SPECIFICALLY WITH FAKE DRUGS.

/MR WONG .....

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MR WONG POINTED OUT THAT THE UNOFFICIALS HAD ALSO CONSIDERED THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE ABUSE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, HAS NOW AGREED THAT, AS A SAFEGUARD, A NEW SUBSECTION WOULD BE ADDED TO THE EFFECT THAT NO PROSECUTION IN RESPECT OF FAKE DRUGS SHOULD BE INSTITUTED WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. THE BILL WAS PASSED AT ITS THIRD READING.

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#### PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION SCHEME

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DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION SCHEME WERE OUTLINED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON J.N. HENDERSON, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) WHEN HE MOVED THE SECOND READING OF THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) BILL 1980.

THE MAIN EFFECT OF THE BILL, MR HENDERSON EXPLAINED, WAS TO REPEAL THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) ORDINANCE 1978 AND TO INTRODUCE A COMPENSATION SCHEME OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE.

THE BILL, HE ADDED, ESTABLISHED A FUND FINANCED BY A LEVY ON THE CONSTRUCTION AND QUARRY INDUSTRIES WHICH TOGETHER ACCOUNTED FOR OVER 95 PER CENT OF PNEUMOCONIOSIS CASES.

THE TYPES OF BENEFIT AND THE LEVELS OF COMPENSATION PROVIDED IN THE BILL WOULD BE THE SAME AS THOSE UNDER THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE, WHICH WERE BEING REVISED BY THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980. THEY WOULD BE ADJUSTED TO EQUATE WITH ANY CHANGES THAT MIGHT OCCUR IN THE ORDINANCE IN FUTURE.

THE BILL PROVIDED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS MEDICAL BOARD AND PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION FUND BOARD TO COLLECT THE LEVY AND TO ADMINISTER THE FUND.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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## TRAFFIC LIGHT ARRANGEMENT PROVIDES ADEQUATE CONTROL

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THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON JACK STEAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT A SIGNAL CONTROLLED ROAD JUNCTION SHOULD PROVIDE ADEQUATE CONTROL OF TRAFFIC.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON WONG LAM, HE SAID, +NORMALLY THREE SETS OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS ARE PROVIDED, TWO SETS AT THE NEAR SIDE OF THE JUNCTION ON EACH SIDE OF THE ROAD AND ONE SET AT THE FAR SIDE, FOR EACH APPROACH TO THE JUNCTION.

+ALTHOUGH AN INDIVIDUAL SET MAY BE OBSTRUCTED BY A TALL VEHICLE, THIS ARRANGEMENT, BY PROVIDING ALTERNATIVES, SHOULD ENSURE THAT DRIVERS ARE ABLE TO OBSERVE AT LEAST ONE SET AND THUS PROVIDE ADEQUATE CONTROL OF TRAFFIC.+

MR STEAN SAID THAT THE SUGGESTION OF REPOSITIONING TRAFFIC LIGHTS TO OVERHEAD LOCATIONS HAD BEEN CONSIDERED BUT BEEN FOUND TO BE UNSUITABLE FOR HONG KONG.

+THE REASONS,+ HE STATED,+ARE THAT THE PROLIFERATION OF NEON SIGN ADVERTISEMENTS WOULD MAKE OVERHEAD TRAFFIC LIGHTS LESS EASILY DISTINGUISHABLE THAN ROADSIDE TRAFFIC LIGHTS AND BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF TYPHOON DAMAGE, OVERHEAD LIGHTS SHOULD BE MOUNTED ON RIGID GANTRIES AND THESE WOULD INVOLVE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES OF SITING THE SUPPORTS AND WOULD BE VERY EXPENSIVE TO CONSTRUCT.+

MR STEAN ADDED,+THERE IS NO EVIDENCE WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT THE PRESENT SYSTEM CAUSES ACCIDENTS BECAUSE OF OBSTRUCTION OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS BY TALL VEHICLES BUT IF, IN ANY PARTICULAR CASE IT IS THOUGHT THAT THEY ARE CAUSING DIFFICULTIES, THE TRAFFIC ENGINEERS IN PWD WOULD BE PLEASED TO INVESTIGATE THE MATTER AND SEE WHETHER ANY IMPROVEMENT CAN BE MADE.+

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## LEISURE FACILITIES FOR NT TOWNS IN THE FOREFRONT

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE HON DAVID AKERS-JONES SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE NEED FOR CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTING FACILITIES IN NEW TERRITORIES TOWNS WAS KEPT IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S MIND.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHARLES YEUNG, MR AKERS-JONES ADDED THAT EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO MAINTAIN THE CONCEPT OF BALANCED DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE LIMITS OF RESOURCES.

HE SAID A CONSIDERABLE RANGE OF PROJECTS INVOLVING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WAS BEING CONSTRUCTED EITHER WITH PUBLIC FUNDS OR WITH THE HELP OF A SUBVENTION FROM PUBLIC FUNDS TOWARDS PRIVATELY DONATED PROJECTS.

/+HOWEVER, .....

+HOWEVER, THE PLANNED PROVISION OF A NUMBER OF CAPITAL PROJECTS HAD TO BE DEFERRED FOR 12 MONTHS OR MORE LAST YEAR BECAUSE OF THE VERY NECESSARY CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED ON THE GROSS RATE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS ON PUBLIC WORKS IN SUPPORT OF THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE.

+PRIORITY IN OUR NEW TOWNS HAD TO BE GIVEN TO THE PRODUCTION OF PUBLIC HOUSING AND INDUSTRIAL LAND,+ HE SAID.

MR AKERS-JONES ADDED THAT CULTURAL, SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WERE BEING PROVIDED BROADLY IN PACE WITH DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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#### HUNTING RESTRICTION

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GAME HUNTING WAS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AND COMMONSENSE AND THE INTERESTS OF PUBLIC SAFETY INDICATED THAT HUNTING SHOULD BE BANNED ENTIRELY, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR THE HON C.T. WONG, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID HUNTING WAS AN ESTABLISHED SPORT IN HONG KONG, BUT WAS PRACTISED BY ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND THERE WERE VERY FEW PLACES WHERE HUNTING COULD TAKE PLACE LAWFULLY AND IN SAFETY.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE WILD ANIMALS PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, DR WONG SAID THERE WERE NOW SEVEN MILLION VISITORS RECORDED IN AREAS MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT, COMPARED WITH ONLY HALF A MILLION IN THE SAME AREAS IN 1970/71.

HOWEVER, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES WOULD STILL BE ABLE TO PERMIT HUNTING, BUT PERMISSION WOULD ONLY BE GIVEN IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN NECESSARY, FOR EXAMPLE, TO CONTROL THE POPULATION OF WILD PIGS OR OTHER SPECIES OF ANIMAL WHICH COULD BE CAUSING A SERIOUS NUISANCE.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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## REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS IN NT

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON DEREK JONES, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THERE WERE 33 NEW PURPOSE-BUILT OFF-STREET REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS IN THE NEW TOWNS AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT AREAS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, AND A FURTHER 46 WERE IN THE PUBLIC WORKS CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME.

MR JONES, REPLYING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON CHARLES YEUNG, SAID SELF-CONTAINED REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS WERE ALSO INCORPORATED INTO NEW MARKET PROJECTS AND INTO COOKED FOOD CENTRES WHERE THIS COULD BE DONE.

+IN ADDITION, THERE ARE OVER 300 MINOR REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS IN VARIOUS RURAL AREAS WHICH HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED WITH LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS AND CLEANSING FUNDS,+ MR JONES SAID.

+ALTHOUGH MANY OF THESE ARE RELATIVELY SIMPLE AND RUDIMENTARY, THERE ARE PLANS TO IMPROVE THEIR STANDARDS BY THE PROVISION, WHERE POSSIBLE, OF WATER SUPPLY FOR CLEANSING AFTER THE RUBBISH HAS BEEN REMOVED AND BY ROOFING OVER THE ORIGINAL STRUCTURES,+ HE ADDED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT WAS ALSO STRENGTHENING SUPERVISORY CONTROL OVER ITS CLEANSING STAFF TO MAINTAINING A HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICE- AND ADDITIONAL REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLES ARE BEING SOUGHT TO HELP MOVE REFUSE FROM THE COLLECTION POINTS MORE QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY.

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## ENQUIRY INTO RADIO-OPERATED TOYS

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THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY HAS STARTED AN ENQUIRY AS TO WHETHER THERE COULD BE A MODIFICATION OF THE PRESENT PROHIBITION AND LICENSING OF RADIO-OPERATED TOYS, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON D.G. JEAFFRESON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ANDREW SO, HE SAID THE PRESENT LICENSING SYSTEM HAD A CLEAR AND IMPORTANT OBJECT IN PROTECTING RADIO NETWORKS OPERATED BY ESSENTIAL SERVICES.

BUT, HE ADDED, IN RECENT YEARS THERE WERE AVAILABLE AN INCREASING NUMBER OF TOYS WHICH HAD A LOW RADIO TRANSMITTING POWER AND WERE UNLIKELY TO CAUSE SERIOUS INTERFERENCE.

MR JEAFFRESON SAID HE DID NOT EXPECT RESULTS OF THE ENQUIRY UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR.

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INTENSIVE CEMETERY CLEAN-UP AFTER FESTIVALS

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INTENSIVE CLEANING UP OPERATIONS AT NON-GOVERNMENT CEMETERIES WERE MOUNTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER CHING MING AND CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVALS, THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON JOHN WALDEN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

HE SAID IN THE OPERATIONS, IT WAS NORMAL PRACTICE TO ENGAGE SPECIAL TEAMS OF CASUAL LABOUR ON A DAILY BASIS.

MR WALDEN MADE THE COMMENTS IN REPLY TO THE HON LEUNG TAT-SHING WHO ASKED WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING NON-GOVERNMENT CEMETERIES CLEAN AND TIDY, IN PARTICULAR THE CHINESE PERMANENT CEMETERIES AT TSUEN WAN, ABERDEEN AND CHAI WAN.

HE SAID THE CEMETERIES WERE UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF A BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE CHINESE PERMANENT CEMETERIES, WHICH WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING THE CEMETERIES CLEAN.

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BILLS PASSED

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FIFTEEN BILLS RECEIVED THEIR FINAL READING AND WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY WERE THE ESTATE DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980= THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1980= THE MONETARY STATISTICS BILL 1980= THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980= THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980= THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY POLICE FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980= THE ELECTRICITY NETWORKS (STATUTORY EASEMENTS) BILL 1980= THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980= THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL BILL 1980= THE SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS BILL 1980= THE APPRENTICESHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980= THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980= THE THEFT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980= THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, AND THE EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980.

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## LONDON TO SEE HK IN MINIATURE

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A FULL MASTED TRADITIONAL CHINESE JUNK WILL SAIL UP THE ENGLISH CHANNEL AND AROUND THE KENTISH COAST TO THE THAMES ESTUARY AS PART OF THE HONG KONG FESTIVAL IN LONDON THIS SEPTEMBER.

+HOLIDAY-MAKERS AT VARIOUS SEASIDE RESORTS ON THE SOUTH COAST OF ENGLAND WILL PERHAPS PAUSE FROM BUILDING SANDCASTLES AND BUYING ICECREAM FOR THE KIDS IN ORDER TO STARE IN WONDER AT THE SIGHT OF IT TACKING ACROSS THEIR HORIZON,+ THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (PUBLICITY) OF THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR PETER MOSS SAID TODAY.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF THE PEAK, MR MOSS SAID WE WERE SENDING HONG KONG IN MINIATURE TO LONDON AT THIS FESTIVAL WITH DRAGON BOATS ON THE THAMES, LION DANCES, LANTERN PROCESSIONS AND AN OLD-FASHIONED CHINESE MARKET -- NOT A TRADE FAIR THIS TIME -- TO CORRECT SOME MISCONCEPTIONS.

IN SIMPLE TERMS, LONDON, AND INDEED BRITAIN AS A WHOLE, SEES HONG KONG AS A LABEL ON PRODUCTS THAT COMPETE WITH ITS OWN INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT.

+THERE ARE ALSO MANY IN BRITAIN WHO CHOOSE TO REPRESENT HONG KONG AS A PICTURE POSTCARD WHOSE PRETTY WATERFRONT SKYSCRAPERS CONCEAL FACTORIES THAT ARE LITTLE MORE THAN SWEAT SHOPS,+ HE SAID.

+SO INSTEAD OF CALCULATORS AND CAMERAS WE ARE SENDING REAL LIVE PEOPLE WHO STILL KNOW HOW TO MAKE GOOD, OLD-FASHIONED MOONCAKES AND NOODLES, WHO HAVE FAITHFULLY PRESERVED THEIR CULTURE AND TRADITIONS, WHO TAKE PRIDE JUST AS MUCH IN THEIR PLAY AS IN THEIR WORK.

+PEOPLE WHO, IN SPITE OF BEING REMARKABLY SUCCESSFUL IN BUSINESS, ARE NOT ROBOTS BUT HUMAN BEINGS WITH A GREAT LUST FOR LIFE AND A REMARKABLE CAPACITY FOR ENJOYING IT,+ HE SAID.

MR MOSS PAID TRIBUTE TO THE +UNIQUE COMMUNITY SPIRIT WHICH WORKS IN HONG KONG+ WHICH NOT ONLY MADE IT POSSIBLE TO DREAM UP WILD IDEAS SUCH AS THIS FESTIVAL BUT TO BRING THEM TO PRACTICAL REALITY.

+THE FACT IS THAT HERE IN HONG KONG, AS PERHAPS IN FEW OTHER PLACES IN THE WORLD, EXISTS THE KIND OF IMAGINATION, ENTERPRISE AND LARGENESS OF SPIRIT THAT ENABLES OUR SOCIETY TO SEIZE UPON THE STUFF THAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF AND MAKE THEM MATERIALISE IN CONCRETE FORM,+ HE SAID.

SOME 250 000 VISTORS ARE EXPECTED AT BATTERSEA PARK IN LONDON ON THE TWO DAYS OF THE FESTIVAL ON SEPTEMBER 20 AND 21.

ASIDE FROM THAT QUARTER OF A MILLION WHO MAY SEE THE FESTIVAL AT CLOSE RANGE THERE ARE LITERALLY MILLIONS OF OTHERS IN BRITAIN WHO WILL READ ABOUT IT, HEAR ABOUT IT AND CATCH GLIMPSES OF IT THROUGH THE PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION, MR MOSS ADDED.

NEW HK MAXICAB ROUTE  
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A NEW HONG KONG MAXICAB ROUTE, NO 24, OPERATING BETWEEN MOUNT BUTLER AND THE ADMIRALTY MTR STATION WILL BE INTRODUCED FROM SUNDAY (JULY 13).

THE ROUTE WILL BE VIA MOORSOM ROAD, PERKINS ROAD, TAI HANG ROAD, STUBBS ROAD, QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, TAI WONG STREET EAST, LUARD ROAD, LOCKHART ROAD, FENWICK STREET, GLOUCESTER ROAD, HARCOURT ROAD AND THE ADMIRALTY CENTRE ACCESS ROAD.

THE RETURN TRIP WILL BE ROUTED VIA THE ADMIRALTY CENTRE ACCESS ROAD, HARCOURT ROAD, COTTON TREE DRIVE SLIP ROAD, QUEENSWAY, ARSENAL STREET, LOCKHART ROAD, FENWICK STREET, JOHNSTON ROAD, LEE TUNG STREET, QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, STUBBS ROAD, TAI HANG ROAD, PERKINS ROAD, CREASY ROAD, COOPER ROAD, WILSON ROAD, PURVES ROAD, PERKINS ROAD AND MOORSOM ROAD.

THE SERVICE WILL OPERATE FROM 7 AM TO 7.45 PM AT 30-MINUTE BASIC FREQUENCY.

THE FARE WILL BE \$1.50 FOR A SINGLE JOURNEY. SECTIONAL FARES WILL BE FIXED AT \$1 FOR OUTWARD JOURNEYS BETWEEN BLUE POOL ROAD (UPPER JUNCTION) AND ADMIRALTY MTR STATION AND 50 CENTS BETWEEN WAN CHAI MARKET AND ADMIRALTY MTR STATION.

FOR INWARD JOURNEYS, THE FARES WILL BE \$1 BETWEEN WAN CHAI MARKET AND MOUNT BUTLER AND 50 CENTS BETWEEN BLUE POOL ROAD (UPPER JUNCTION) AND MOUNT BUTLER.

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SHORT-TERM TENANCY TENDERS  
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THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR A SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF A PIECE OF LAND IN ON TIN STREET, LAM TIN, KOWLOON.

THE AREA, MEASURING ABOUT 625 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR THE STORAGE OF GOODS AND VEHICLES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY SAID THE TENANCY WAS FOR TWO YEARS AND THEREAFTER, QUARTERLY.

CLOSING DATE FOR TENDERS WILL BE NOON ON JULY 25.

TENDERS FORMS AND PARTICULARS CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, MURRAY BUILDING, 19TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND ALSO AT THE KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD, 10TH FLOOR, KOWLOON.

THE TENDER PLAN MAY ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THESE OFFICES.

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FRIDAY MUSIC HOUR

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THE MUSIC OFFICE AND THE BRITISH COUNCIL ARE PRESENTING TWO CHAMBER CONCERTS ON FRIDAY (JULY 11) AND JULY 18 AT THE BRITISH COUNCIL.

THE CONCERTS ARE PART OF THE +FRIDAY MUSIC HOUR+ SERIES ORGANISED BY THE TWO ORGANISATIONS.

THE AIM IS TO PROVIDE MORE OPPORTUNITY FOR ASPIRING YOUNG LOCAL ARTISTS TO PERFORM AT CHAMBER CONCERTS.

ADMISSION IS FREE AND TICKETS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE MUSIC OFFICE (HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE, NINTH FLOOR) AND THE BRITISH COUNCIL LIBRARY.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CONCERT TO BE HELD ON JULY 11 (FRIDAY) AT 5.30 PM IN THE HALL OF THE BRITISH COUNCIL, 255 HENNESSY ROAD, FOURTH FLOOR, HONG KONG.

FLEMING ROAD AND COTTON TREE DRIVE  
TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS

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THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF FLEMING ROAD FLYOVER AND THE SLIP ROAD FROM THE QUEENSWAY WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY TO COTTON TREE DRIVE WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 1.30 AM AND 6 AM ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY (JULY 12 AND 13) FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS.

DURING THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE, VEHICLES FROM THE WAN CHAI RECLAMATION AREA WILL BE DIVERTED VIA HARBOUR ROAD, HUNG HING ROAD AND THE MARSH ROAD FLYOVER AND WESTBOUND VEHICLES FROM QUEENSWAY WILL BE DIVERTED VIA QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, PEDDER STREET, CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, HARCOURT ROAD TO GO TO COTTON TREE DRIVE.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.