



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 1976

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EXTRA PAID HOLIDAYS FOR WORKERS

THE HON. NEIL HENDERSON, ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT THE TIME WAS NOW RIPE FOR THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PAID STATUTORY HOLIDAYS FROM SIX TO TEN.

IN MOVING THE SECOND-READING OF THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, MR. HENDERSON SAID IT WAS PART OF THE CONTINUOUS PROCESS OF REVIEWING, REVISING AND IMPROVING THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE. HE SAID THAT AT THE OPENING OF THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE COUNCIL IT WAS DISCLOSED THAT THE PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STATUTORY HOLIDAYS WOULD BE STUDIED FURTHER IN THE LIGHT OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION PREVAILING.

AS THE SITUATION HAD MARKEDLY IMPROVED SINCE THEN, HE FELT THAT THE EXTRA HOLIDAYS SHOULD BECOME EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 1, 1977.

THE FOUR NEW HOLIDAYS PROPOSED ARE: THE THIRD DAY OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR= THE FIRST WEEK DAY IN JULY OR ALTERNATIVELY THE FIRST MONDAY IN AUGUST= THE CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL AND THE CHINESE WINTER SOLSTICE FESTIVAL OR ALTERNATIVELY CHRISTMAS DAY. THEY AFFECT ALL MANUAL WORKERS AND ALL THOSE NON-MANUAL WORKERS EARNING LESS THAN \$2,000 A MONTH, WHO ARE COVERED BY THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

MR. HENDERSON SAID THAT THE PROPOSALS, WHICH AIMED TO BRING HONG KONG MORE IN LINE WITH ITS NEIGHBOURS IN EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA, HAS HAD THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD AND GENERAL SUPPORT FROM THE EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

MR. HENDERSON POINTED OUT THAT IN SUGGESTING THESE PARTICULAR HOLIDAYS HE HAD BEEN GUIDED BY THREE CONSIDERATIONS:-

- * THAT NEW HOLIDAYS SHOULD CO-INCIDE WITH GENERAL HOLIDAYS WHERE POSSIBLE=
- * THAT GENERALLY SPEAKING EITHER THE HOLIDAY OR ITS ALTERNATIVE SHOULD BE ONE THAT HAS A TRADITIONAL MEANING FOR THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION= AND
- * THAT THERE WAS SOME ADVANTAGE FOR WORKERS IN TRYING TO SPACE OUT THE STATUTORY PAID HOLIDAYS FAIRLY EVENLY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

MR. HENDERSON SAID CONSULTATIONS WERE HELD WITH THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND STAFF OF THE DIRECTORATE OF HOME AFFAIRS.

/THE HOLIDAYS

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THE HOLIDAYS AND ALTERNATIVES SPECIFIED IN THE BILL, HE SAID, GAVE CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY IN THE APPROACH TO DESIGNATING HOLIDAYS, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE ALTERNATIVES ACTUALLY LISTED, BUT ALSO BECAUSE THE EXISTING LEGISLATION ENABLED A SUBSTITUTE HOLIDAY TO BE GIVEN WITH DUE NOTICE EITHER SIXTY DAYS BEFORE OF AFTER THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

MR. HENDERSON SAID THAT THERE WAS A SUGGESTION THAT THE FOURTH DAY OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAY SHOULD REPLACE THE PROPOSED HOLIDAY IN JULY OR AUGUST BECAUSE THESE TWO MONTHS WERE CONSIDERED TO BE A BUSY PERIOD FOR INDUSTRY PREPARING FOR THE CHRISTMAS TRADE.

HOWEVER HE THOUGHT IT WAS DESIRABLE THAT THERE SHOULD BE A STATUTORY PAID HOLIDAY DURING THE HOT SUMMER MONTHS, WHICH WERE RATHER BARREN OF TRADITIONAL HOLIDAYS.

BOTH THE JULY AND AUGUST HOLIDAYS WERE GENERAL HOLIDAYS WHILE THE FOURTH DAY OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR WAS NOT, HE ADDED.

THE CHINESE WINTER SOLSTICE FESTIVAL HAD A VERY STRONG TRADITIONAL APPEAL. THOUGH IT IS NOT A GENERAL HOLIDAY, IT WAS ALLOWED FOR UNDER THE OLD INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT (HOLIDAYS WITH PAY AND SICKNESS ALLOWANCE) ORDINANCE AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO CHRISTMAS DAY AND ITS LOSS UNDER THE PRESENT EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE WAS ON THE WHOLE STRONGLY RESENTED BY WORKERS, SAID MR. HENDERSON.

COMMENTING ON A SUGGESTION FROM ONE OF THE EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS THAT THE INCREASE BE CARRIED OUT IN TWO STAGES - TWO ADDITIONAL PAID HOLIDAYS IN 1977 AND TWO IN 1978 - MR. HENDERSON SAID HE SAW LITTLE TO BE GAINED BY THIS PROPOSAL AND A GREAT DEAL OF LABOUR GOOD-WILL COULD BE LOST.

MR. HENDERSON SAID THAT HE DID NOT THINK THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE NEW STATUTORY PAID HOLIDAYS WOULD BE VERY MARKED.

+EVEN SPEAKING THEORETICALLY THE EFFECT ON WAGE BILLS FOR THOSE WHO ARE DAILY-RATED OR PIECE-RATED WOULD INCREASE AT THE MOST BY ABOUT 1.3 PER CENT.

+FURTHERMORE THERE ARE PROBABLY HIDDEN BENEFITS IN BETTER PRODUCTIVITY AND HIGHER STAFF MORALE,+ HE ADDED.

THE DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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ADVANCE COMPENSATION PAYMENT SCHEME FOR BUSINESSES
AFFECTED BY CONSTRUCTION OF MTR

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE TO INSTITUTE A SCHEME TO PAY ADVANCES TO RELIEVE HARDSHIP IN SMALL BUSINESSES SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY CONSTRUCTION OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY.

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. A.T. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT, SAID THIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. LI FOOK-WO ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WILL INTRODUCE SUCH A SCHEME.

+THESE ADVANCES WILL BE DEDUCTIBLE FROM FINAL CLAIMS AWARDED UNDER THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE,+ MR. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT SAID.

+DETAILS OF THE SCHEME WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS THEY HAVE BEEN FINALISED, AND PROVIDED THAT FUNDS FOR ADVANCES AND ADMINISTRATION COSTS ARE APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THIS COUNCIL,+ HE ADDED.

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MEDICINES FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT EASILY OBTAINABLE

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ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS ARE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO DELAY IN OBTAINING DRUGS OR MEDICINES FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AT ANY TIME, THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. THE HON. GERALD CHOA ASSURED THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR. THE HON. HARRY FANG, HE SAID THAT A STOCK OF STANDARD DRUGS AND MEDICINES USUALLY REQUIRED FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT WAS KEPT IN THE WARDS AND CASUALTY DEPARTMENTS OF GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS, WHILE OTHERS WERE OBTAINABLE FROM THE PHARMACY DEPARTMENTS.

+THESE PHARMACY DEPARTMENTS ARE OPEN ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS TO REPLENISH THE SUPPLY OF DRUGS AND MEDICINES TO THE WARDS AND CASUALTY DEPARTMENT,+ DR. CHOA SAID.

IN THE MAJOR HOSPITALS, HE ADDED, FURTHER SUPPLIES COULD BE OBTAINED AFTER OFFICE HOURS FROM A CENTRALISED EMERGENCY MEDICINE CUPBOARD WHICH IS CONVENIENTLY SITUATED.

+IN ADDITION, THERE ARE PHARMACISTS AND SENIOR DISPENSERS ON CALL DUTIES AND THEY ARE AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY FOR ANY MATTER CONCERNING THE SUPPLY OF DRUGS AND MEDICINES FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT,+ DR. CHOA SAID.

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MORE STAFF FOR COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION

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FUNDS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE 1976/77 ESTIMATES TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED COUNTRY PARKS, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. A.T. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. JOHN BREMRIDGE, HE SAID THAT STAFF FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT WOULD BE INCREASED FROM ABOUT 600 TO 722 TO COVER THE EXISTING AREAS MANAGED AND TO MAN TWO ADDITIONAL MANAGEMENT CENTRES AT SAI KUNG.

+ALSO CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE CREATION OF FOUR ADDITIONAL POSTS OF SENIOR AND PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS TO HELP OVERSEE COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT.+

IN ADDITION, MR. ARMSTRONG-WRIGHT SAID, PROPOSALS FOR EXTENDING COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT SERVICES TO COVER THE REMAINING AREAS OF SCENIC COUNTRYSIDE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WERE BEING FORMULATED.

+IF APPROVED AND SUBJECT TO FUNDS BEING MADE AVAILABLE THE IMPLEMENTATION WILL BE PHASED OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS AND ADDITIONAL STAFF WILL BE PROVIDED AS EACH PHASE IS DEVELOPED,+ HE SAID.

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SUMMER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTHS

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OVER TWO MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE PART IN THIS YEAR'S SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMME, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. LI FOOK-KOW TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG, MR. LI SAID THAT THE PROGRAMME, CONSISTING OF 5,000 EVENTS, WOULD BE ORGANISED BY THREE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE ARMY, 32 VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND 620 SCHOOLS.

IT INCLUDED CAMPING, EXCURSIONS, SPORT COMPETITIONS, SWIMMING LESSONS AND A VARIETY OF ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS.

APART FROM INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE PLANNING AND ORGANISATION OF THESE EVENTS, MR. LI SAID, THERE WOULD ALSO BE ABOUT 200 TRAINING COURSES ON YOUTH LEADERSHIP, CANOEING, FIRST AID AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS.

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OBJECTS THROWN FROM HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS
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CITY DISTRICT OFFICERS WILL SEEK THE HELP OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES IN EDUCATING THEIR FELLOW RESIDENTS IN MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS NOT TO THROW OBJECTS OUT OF WINDOWS, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. LI FOOK-KOW, SAID TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTIONS BY THE HON. MISS KO SIU-WAH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE STEPS TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM INJURY CAUSED BY OBJECTS THROWN OUT OF HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS.

MR. LI SAID ACTION HAD ALSO BEEN TAKEN BY POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICERS IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS TO URGE PEOPLE LIVING IN HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS NOT TO THROW OBJECTS OUT OF WINDOWS.

THESE INCLUDED DISCUSSIONS WITH KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS, PUBLICITY IN THE PRESS AND ON TELEVISION THROUGH THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL PROGRAMME.

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SHA TSUI DETENTION CENTRE
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OF THE TOTAL OF 1,965 PERSONS DISCHARGED FROM THE SHA TSUI CENTRE AND TONG FUK CENTRE, 107 (OR 5.45 PER CENT) HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF CRIMES OF VIOLENCE SUBSEQUENT TO THEIR DISCHARGE, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. PETER WILLIAMS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THAT SINCE THE SHA TSUI CENTRE WAS OPENED IN JUNE 1972, 1,371 PERSONS HAD BEEN DISCHARGED FROM IT AND A FURTHER 594 PERSONS FROM THE TONG FUK CENTRE.

HOWEVER, MR. DAVIES SAID HE DID NOT KNOW HOW MANY OF THOSE DISCHARGED FROM SHA TSUI CENTRE HAD SUBSEQUENTLY ACTUALLY COMMITTED CRIMES OF VIOLENCE.

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POSSIBLE RÔLE OF MACS
IN PREVENTING INDECENT ASSAULT CASES IN HOUSING ESTATES

THE GOVERNMENT WILL FIND OUT WHAT MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES CAN DO TO HELP PREVENT CASES OF INDECENT ASSAULT IN PUBLIC BATHROOMS IN THE OLDER PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON. IAN LIGHTBODY SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IT WILL ALSO FIND OUT WHETHER THE PROBLEM IS REGARDED BY THE TENANTS THEMSELVES AS SERIOUS ENOUGH TO WARRANT FORMING SUCH COMMITTEES WHERE NONE EXIST NOW.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. MRS. JOYCE SYMONS ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE STEPS, PERHAPS WITH THE HELP OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, TO PREVENT CASES OF INDECENT ASSAULT.

MR. LIGHTBODY SAID IT WAS TRUE THE COMMUNAL TOILETS AND BATHROOMS IN THE 250 OLD MARK I AND II ESTATE BLOCKS PRESENTED PROBLEM OF THIS SORT AND IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, THREE RAPES AND 14 INDECENT ASSAULTS WERE REPORTED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAD SEVERAL YEARS AGO PUT IN HAND A MAJOR PROGRAMME FOR IMPROVING DOORS AND SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN THESE COMMUNAL AREAS AT A COST OF \$3-1/2 MILLION.

+THIS WORK WAS COMPLETED IN 1974 IN 10 OF THE 12 ESTATES INVOLVED- SHEK KIP MEI AND TAI HANG TUNG ESTATES WERE LEFT UNTOUCHED ONLY BECAUSE THEIR REDEVELOPMENT WAS EITHER PROCEEDING OR WAS IMMINENT,+ HE SAID. +I UNDERSTAND THAT THESE EXTRA SAFEGUARDS HAVE IMPROVED THE SITUATION TO SOME EXTENT.+

HE ADDED THAT THESE IMPROVEMENTS WOULD GIVE BETTER PROTECTION IF THE ESTATES HAD THE CARETAKER SERVICE PROVIDED IN OTHER ESTATES OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

+UNFORTUNATELY, THE NEED FOR ECONOMICS DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS HAS DELAYED THE INTRODUCTION OF THIS SERVICE INTO THESE OLD ESTATES,+ MR. LIGHTBODY SAID.

HOWEVER, IT IS HOPED TO HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF CARETAKERS IN POST BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

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BILLS PASSED

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SEVEN BILLS PASSED THROUGH THEIR COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THREE OF THEM — THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976 AND THE POLICE FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976 — WERE PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS.

THE OTHERS WERE THE ESTATE DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE STAMP (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) 1976, THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976. THE PURPOSE OF THE FIRST THREE BILLS WAS TO IMPLEMENT SOME OF THE 1976 BUDGET PROPOSALS WHILE THE OTHER SET OUT TO RESTORE METHY ALCOHOL AS A DUTIABLE COMMODITY.

TEN BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READING. THEY WERE THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION (INCREASE) BILL 1976, THE CREDIT UNIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE TELEPHONE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE HOUSING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE HONG KONG AIRPORT (REGULATIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE WILD ANIMALS PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976, THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976 AND THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976.

DEBATE ON THEM WAS ADJOURNED.

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REQUIEM MASS FOR M.D.A. CLINTON

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A REQUIEM MASS FOR THE LATE MR. M.D.A. CLINTON, WILL BE HELD AT ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, GARDEN ROAD, AT 5.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY (JUNE 15).

MR. CLINTON, WHO RETIRED AS DEPUTY COLONIAL SECRETARY LAST NOVEMBER, DIED IN DORSET, ENGLAND ON MAY 31, 1976 AT THE AGE OF 58.

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PAY INCREASES FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TODAY APPROVED SALARY INCREASES FOR CIVIL SERVANTS. FOR THOSE ON THE MASTER PAY SCALE, IN THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES AND MINOR STAFF, THE INCREASE WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 13 PER CENT. FOLLOWING A RECOMMENDATION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DIRECTORATE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS ON THE DIRECTORATE SCALE WILL RECEIVE INCREASES RANGING FROM APPROXIMATELY 12-1/2 PER CENT TO 10 PER CENT.

THE INCREASES TAKE EFFECT FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR AND WILL BE PAID THIS MONTH. THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST OF THE INCREASES IS \$353 MILLION WHICH INCLUDES \$101 MILLION FOR STAFF IN SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS.

COMMENTING ON THE EFFECT OF THIS INCREASED COST OF THE CIVIL SERVICE ON THE BUDGET FOR 1976-77, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAD TAKEN THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INCREASE IN SALARIES INTO ACCOUNT WHEN PREPARING HIS BUDGET STATEMENT LAST FEBRUARY. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT A FINAL VIEW ON WHAT COULD BE AFFORDED WOULD DEPEND TO SOME EXTENT, ON THE TIMING OF THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY. ALL THE INDICATIONS NOW ARE, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED, THAT THE RECOVERY IS WELL UNDER WAY AND THAT THE BUDGET FORECASTS OF THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PUBLIC REVENUE WILL BE REALISED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THESE INCREASES WERE THE FIRST SINCE APRIL 1974 AND FOLLOWED LONG DISCUSSIONS WITH THE THREE MAIN STAFF ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTED IN THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL. THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE SAID THAT GOVERNMENT GREATLY APPRECIATED THE RESTRAINT AND RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE OF THE STAFF ASSOCIATIONS AND CIVIL SERVANTS DURING THESE DISCUSSIONS.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY THAT CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES SHOULD FOLLOW THOSE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE INCREASES ARE BASED ON EVIDENCE OF PAY MOVEMENTS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THE MAIN EVIDENCE OF PRIVATE SECTOR PAY MOVEMENTS WAS PROVIDED BY PAY INVESTIGATION UNIT PAY TREND SURVEYS COVERING 68 COMPANIES. THE FIRST SHOWED THAT BETWEEN APRIL 1974 AND APRIL 1975 THERE WAS AN AVERAGE INCREASE IN PAY IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR OF APPROXIMATELY 9 PER CENT- AND A SECOND SURVEY INDICATED THAT BETWEEN APRIL 1975 AND APRIL 1976 THERE WAS AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF APPROXIMATELY 4 PER CENT.

THESE INCREASES MEAN THAT THE SALARY OF A CLERICAL ASSISTANT GOES UP FROM THE PRESENT \$645 A MONTH TO \$730 AT THE MINIMUM, AND FROM \$1,340 A MONTH TO \$1,515 A MONTH AT THE MAXIMUM. THE SALARY OF A SENIOR ENGINEER ON THE MAXIMUM OF THE SCALE WILL INCREASE FROM \$7,810 A MONTH TO \$8,800 A MONTH.

THE PAY OF AN UNSKILLED LABOURER ON THE BOTTOM OF THE SCALE WILL INCREASE FROM THE PRESENT \$745 A MONTH PLUS \$60 COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE TO \$840 A MONTH. THE COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE IS INCLUDED IN THE REVISED RATE FOR MINOR STAFF.

THE MINIMUM SALARY OF A POLICE CONSTABLE GOES UP FROM THE PRESENT \$1,090 A MONTH TO \$1,230 A MONTH. A STATION SERGEANT ON THE MAXIMUM GOES FROM \$2,365 A MONTH TO \$2,675 A MONTH.

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DANGEROUS BUILDINGS IN KOWLOON

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY DECLARED NO. 247 TEMPLE STREET TO BE IN A DANGEROUS CONDITION AND NO. 245 TEMPLE STREET LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS AND ORDERED THE DEMOLITION OF BOTH BUILDINGS.

THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THAT THESE THREE-STORY PRE-WAR BUILDINGS ARE CONSTRUCTED WITH REINFORCED CONCRETE FLOORS AND ROOFS SUPPORTED ON LOAD-BEARING WALLS.

NO. 249 TEMPLE STREET IS A VACANT SITE, AND THE EXPOSED PARTY WALL SHARED WITH NO. 247 HAS SETTLED AND MOVED SLIGHTLY OUTWARDS. THERE ARE SERIOUS FRACTURES IN THE PARTY WALL, AND ALSO FRACTURES IN SOME REINFORCED CONCRETE SLABS AND BEAMS. IT IS CONSIDERED THAT NO. 247 TEMPLE STREET IS NOW IN DANGER OF COLLAPSE.

NO. 245 TEMPLE STREET WOULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE COLLAPSE OR DEMOLITION OF NO. 247, WITH WHICH IT SHARES A COMMON STAIRCASE.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS IN KOWLOON DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 A.M. ON JULY 7, 1976 WERE POSTED TODAY.

ALSO DECLARED TO BE LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS BY THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY WERE STRUCTURES ON THE ROOF OF 20-24 LO TAK COURT, TSUEN ON BUILDING, TSUEN WAN.

THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THIS MORNING THAT THE UNAUTHORIZED STRUCTURES, WHICH HAVE BEEN ERECTED ON THE ROOF OF THIS BUILDING, NOT ONLY LACK EMERGENCY FIRE ESCAPES FOR THEMSELVES BUT ALSO OBSTRUCT THE MEANS OF ESCAPE TO THE ROOF OF THE MAIN BUILDING WITH THE RESULTANT DANGER THAT OCCUPANTS COULD BE TRAPPED IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE OCCURRING ON THE LOWER FLOORS.

THE PUBLIC IS ALREADY AWARE OF RECENT CASES OF FIRES IN BUILDINGS WHERE THE OCCUPANTS HAVE ESCAPED TO THE ROOF AND HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN RESCUED FROM THE ROOF BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT. THE NEED TO MAINTAIN THIS AVENUE OF ESCAPE IN BUILDINGS WITH ONLY ONE STAIRCASE IS CLEARLY OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS IN DISTRICT COURT AT 9.30 A.M. ON JULY 20, 1976 WERE POSTED TODAY.

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TALK ON FOOD HYGIENE FOR HOUSEWIVES

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ABOUT 60 HOUSEWIVES IN THE TAI HANG TUNG DISTRICT WILL ATTEND A TALK TOMORROW (THURSDAY) EVENING ON HOW TO PRESERVE FOOD AND DRINKS IN THE HOT SEASON.

THE TALK, SPONSORED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S TAI HANG TUNG COMMUNITY CENTRE, WILL BE HELD AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CENTRE AT 8 P.M.

MR. YIP CHUN-HEI, HEALTH INSPECTOR OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S HEALTH EDUCATION SECTION, WILL BE THE SPEAKER.

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WATER CUT

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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN SHAM SHUI PO WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR FIVE HOURS STARTING FROM 1 A.M. ON FRIDAY (JUNE 11) TO ENABLE THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT A LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY YU CHAU STREET, WING HONG STREET, KWONG SHING STREET, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, HING WAH STREET, FUK WING STREET, CHEONG WAH STREET, CHEUNG SHA WAN ROAD AND KWONG CHEONG STREET, INCLUDING UN CHAU STREET, FUK WAH STREET AND TSAP FAI STREET.

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