



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MORE THOUGHT GIVEN TO REPRESENTATION IN COUNCILS
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CONSIDERATION WAS ALREADY BEING GIVEN TO FORMULATING PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE STATUS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS DURING THE COMING YEARS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

+MEMBERS MAY BE ASSURED THAT THE AIM OF THESE PROPOSALS WILL BE TO ESTABLISH ARRANGEMENTS WHICH ARE PROGRESSIVE, PROPERLY TIMED AND TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF HONG KONG,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

HE WAS NOT YET ABLE TO ELABORATE ON WHAT PROPOSALS THE GOVERNMENT HAD IN MIND FOR THE TWO MAIN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS, SIR PHILIP SAID, BUT HE COULD ASSURE MEMBERS THAT, BEFORE THEY WERE PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC CONSIDERATION AND COMMENT, A STATEMENT WOULD BE MADE IN THE COUNCIL.

+AND THERE WILL BE, OF COURSE, AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PROPOSALS TO BE SUBSEQUENTLY DEBATED,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI FOR AN ELABORATION OF GOVERNMENT'S PLANS +TO DEVELOP ON INCREASINGLY REPRESENTATIVE LINES DURING THE YEARS IMMEDIATELY AHEAD+.

SIR PHILIP SAID DR HO MUST HAVE HAD IN MIND WHAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, SAID IN HIS STATEMENT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE CHAMBER ON FRIDAY, APRIL 20.

HE QUOTED SIR GEOFFREY AS SAYING: +DURING THE YEARS IMMEDIATELY AHEAD, THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG WILL BE DEVELOPED ON INCREASINGLY REPRESENTATIVE LINES.+

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, IN RESPONDING TO A SUBSEQUENT QUESTION, HAD ALSO SAID THAT STEPS HAD RECENTLY BEEN TAKEN IN THAT DIRECTION, THAT FURTHER PROGRESS WAS CLEARLY IN MIND AND THAT SUCH PROGRESS MIGHT TAKE DIFFERENT FORMS, SIR PHILIP SAID.

SIR PHILIP EXPLAINED THAT THE STEPS THAT HAD RECENTLY BEEN TAKEN HAD BEEN OUTLINED IN A STATEMENT HE MADE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 15, WHEN HE DESCRIBED CERTAIN PROPOSALS FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF +OUR SYSTEM OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION+.

+THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OF THESE PROPOSALS WERE THAT THE REPRESENTATIVE STATUS OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS WOULD BE STRENGTHENED IN MARCH 1985 BY INCREASING THE NUMBER AND HENCE THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF ELECTED MEMBERS; AND THAT ANOTHER REGIONAL-LEVEL COUNCIL, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE ELECTED AS WELL AS APPOINTED MEMBERS, SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN 1986 TO COVER THOSE AREAS NOT UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN EXTENSIVE PUBLIC DISCUSSION AND COMMENT ON THE PROPOSALS. ALL VIEWS EXPRESSED HAD BEEN CAREFULLY RECORDED AND STUDIED AND SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE PUT TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR ADVICE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

+THEREAFTER, I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO MAKE A FURTHER, DEFINITIVE, STATEMENT TO THIS COUNCIL ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTUAL INTENTIONS FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF OUR SYSTEM OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AT DISTRICT AND 'REGIONAL' LEVEL,+ SIR PHILIP SAID.

AS A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION, DR HO ASKED:

+SIR, WITH REGARD TO THE PROPOSALS ABOUT THE REPRESENTATIVE STATUS OF OUR TWO MAIN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS, MAY I KNOW WHEN THESE PROPOSED PLANS WILL BE MADE KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC, AND HOW THE GOVERNMENT WILL EDUCATE AND PREPARE THE PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN AN INCREASINGLY REPRESENTATIVE TYPE OF GOVERNMENT?+

REPLYING, SIR PHILIP SAID:

+WELL SIR, TAKING THE FIRST PART OF DR HO'S QUESTION, I CANNOT GIVE A COMMITMENT ON TIMING AT THIS STAGE, BUT I EXPECT WE SHALL BE READY TO MAKE THE STATEMENT I ENVISAGE DURING THE SUMMER.

+AS REGARDS THE SECOND PART OF HIS QUESTION, I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THOSE ELIGIBLE TO REGISTER AS VOTERS DURING THE NEXT REGISTRATION SEASON IN AUGUST-SEPTEMBER WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER.+

MR STEPHEN CHEONG THEN ASKED:

+SIR, WE MUST BE GRATEFUL FOR THE CHIEF SECRETARY'S ASSURANCE THAT THE AIM OF THESE PROPOSALS WITH REGARD TO THE TWO MAIN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS WILL BE TO ESTABLISH ARRANGEMENTS WHICH ARE PROGRESSIVE, PROPERLY TIMED AND TAKE ACCOUNT OF PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF HONG KONG.

+MAY WE BE FURTHER ASSURED THAT THE AIM OF THESE PROPOSALS WILL NOT NECESSARILY LOSE SIGHT OF THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG?+

THE CHIEF SECRETARY REPLIED:

+YES, SIR.+

MRS RITA FAN THEN ASKED:

+MAY I ASK THE CHIEF SECRETARY, WILL THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT BE CONSULTED ON THESE PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE LONG-RANGING EFFECT ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG?+

SIR PHILIP:

+SIR, I AM SURE THAT HON MEMBERS ARE WELL AWARE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, ACTING UNDER THE CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.+

NEW PUBLIC AFFAIRS CURRICULUM BEING CONSIDERED
* * *

A NEW SUBJECT, KNOWN AS +GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS+, MIGHT REPLACE THE EXISTING SUBJECT OF ECONOMIC AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN VIEW OF THE RECENT DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMICS AS A SEPARATE SUBJECT IN THE SENIOR SECONDARY CURRICULUM, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, THE HON COLVYN HAYE SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR HAYE SAID THAT THE NEW SUBJECT WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND THE HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY.

PROPOSALS FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF +GPA+ SYLLABUSES AT BOTH HIGHER AND ADVANCED LEVELS WERE ALSO BEING CONSIDERED BY THE EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY, HE ADDED.

MR HAYE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS RITA FAN ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAD ANY PROGRAMME TO PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN POLITICAL AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE GOING THROUGH THE EDUCATION SYSTEM.

+MY DEPARTMENT RECOGNISES THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING PUPILS' UNDERSTANDING OF THE SOCIETY IN WHICH THEY LIVE AND OF FOSTERING A CAPACITY FOR MAKING INFORMED JUDGEMENTS ON ISSUES OF CONTEMPORARY INTEREST AND IMPORTANCE.

+THIS ACCORDS WITH THAT ASPECT OF ESTABLISHED EDUCATIONAL POLICY WHICH SEEKS TO ENABLE SCHOOLS TO REALISE THEIR PRIME FUNCTIONS,+ MR HAYE SAID.

THESE FUNCTIONS, MR HAYE CONTINUED, INCLUDED HELPING CHILDREN TO ACQUIRE A LIVELY INTEREST IN THE WORLD AROUND THEM AND AN ABILITY TO THINK FOR THEMSELVES AND MAKE DECISIONS, A SENSE OF MORAL AND SOCIAL VALUES, AN APPRECIATION OF THE WORLD'S CULTURAL HERITAGE, AND A REALISATION OF HONG KONG'S PLACE IN THE WORLD AND ITS INTER-DEPENDENCE ON OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

+CURRENT SYLLABUSES FOR FORMS I - III WHICH TOUCH ON THESE ASPECTS EXAMINE THE SALIENT FEATURES OF OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM AND STRUCTURE AND DEVELOP AN AWARENESS OF THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH ARE IMPLICIT IN GOOD CITIZENSHIP.

+IN FORMS IV AND V, THE SCOPE OF THE EXISTING EPA SYLLABUS IS BROADER, COVERING THE BASIC CONCEPTS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE WORKINGS OF OTHER POLITICAL SYSTEMS, AND THE APPLICATION OF THESE CONCEPTS TO THE STUDY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES IN HONG KONG,+ HE SAID.

MR HAYE SAID THAT APART FROM FORMAL CURRICULUM THERE WERE INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO SHARPEN THEIR POLITICAL AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE THROUGH EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS DEBATES, AND COMMUNITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB SCHEME.

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INCREASED SEVERANCE PAY BILL APPROVED
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SETTING UP A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND IS THE BEST WAY TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY PROTECTION TO THE WORKING CLASS, DR THE HON HARRY FANG SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IT IS ALSO A BETTER SOLUTION THAN TRYING TO FIND A COMPROMISE BETWEEN EMPLOYERS' AND EMPLOYEES' WISHES EACH AND EVERY TIME, DR FANG SAID.

THIS VIEW WAS SHARED BY ANOTHER UNOFFICIAL MEMBER, DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI.

THEY WERE SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 WHICH PROVIDES FOR INCREASED SEVERANCE PAY.

DR FANG IS THE CONVENER OF THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP ON THE BILL WHICH COMPRISES DR THE HON FRANCIS TIEN, REV THE HON PATRICK MCGOVERN, DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI, THE HON ANDREW SO, THE HON F.K. HU, THE HON K.C. CHAN, THE HON MARIA TAM, THE HON CHAN YING-LUN, THE HON RITA FAN AND THE HON PAULINE NG.

DR FANG TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT IN THEIR REPRESENTATIONS TO UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, EMPLOYERS HAD EXPRESSED WORRY THAT THE INCREASED SEVERANCE PAY BENEFITS PROPOSED WOULD MEAN ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL LIABILITY FOR THEM AND THAT SUCCESSIVE DOSES OF LABOUR LEGISLATION MIGHT RESULT IN A FINANCIAL BURDEN TOO GREAT FOR MANY EMPLOYERS TO SHOULDER.

+THE ADMINISTRATION WAS ABLE TO ASSURE US, HOWEVER, THAT THE INCREASE IN COST TO BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE BILL WOULD ONLY BE 0.0077 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL OPERATING COST OF AN EMPLOYER,+ DR FANG SAID.

THE UNOFFICIALS WERE ALSO INFORMED THAT THE MAIN EMPHASIS OF CURRENT LABOUR LEGISLATION WOULD BE ON PREVENTION OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT, HE ADDED.

AS FOR THE EMPLOYERS' SUGGESTION THAT THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION IN THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD NEEDED IMPROVEMENT, DR FANG SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD ASSURED THE UNOFFICIALS THAT GREAT EFFORTS HAD BEEN PUT INTO THAT ASPECT AND THAT MORE WOULD BE DONE.

+THE ABOVE ANSWERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO EASE THE WORRIES OF EMPLOYERS,+ HE SAID.

DR HO SAID WHILE HE HAD NO SQUABBLE WITH THE OBJECT OF THE BILL, HE BELIEVED THAT A CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED PROVIDENT FUND SCHEME TO BE FINANCED BY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM BOTH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES MIGHT BE A MORE SATISFACTORY LONG-TERM METHOD IN ASSURING GREATER SECURITY TO WORKERS WHO ENCOUNTERED A LOSS OF EARNINGS.

/+WHILE AGREEING

+WHILE AGREEING WITH THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE WHEN HE SPOKE ON THE APPROPRIATION BILL ON APRIL 25 THAT THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME IS A CENTRAL PILLAR OF OUR SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, I MUST POINT OUT THAT WORKERS ARE STILL LEFT UNPROTECTED FOR MANY CONTINGENCIES,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT AS THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEME WAS MEAN-TESTED, THE MAJORITY OF WORKERS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO BENEFIT FROM IT UNLESS THEY WERE DESTITUTE.

POINTING OUT THAT BOTH WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SETTING UP A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND, DR HO ADDED, +THE GOVERNMENT IS IN A GOOD POSITION TO CONFIRM THE NEED IF IT GOES OUT AND ASK.+

EARLIER DR HO QUERIED WHETHER IT WAS THE MOST ECONOMICAL AND REALISTIC APPROACH FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE RECOURSE TO LABOUR LEGISLATION WHENEVER PROVISION OF SECURITY WAS NECESSARY FOR WORKERS WHO WERE EXPOSED TO SUCH CONTINGENCIES AS CHILD BIRTH, SICKNESS, INJURY AND DISMISSAL.

+MANUFACTURING AND EXPORT ARE THE LIFEBLOOD OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY. THE COLLECTIVE AND CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF VARIOUS STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS MIGHT BRING FINANCIAL BURDEN TO EMPLOYERS AND INFLATE COST OF PRODUCTION.

+PRESSURE FROM THE EMPLOYEES' ORGANISATIONS TO FURTHER IMPROVE LABOUR WELFARE AND THE INCREASING TENDENCY TO RESORT TO LEGAL PROCEEDINGS TO SETTLE LABOUR DISPUTE WILL BRING RESISTENCE FROM EMPLOYERS AND HAMPER LABOUR RELATION,+ DR HO SAID.

HE WARNED THAT BOTH SITUATION WOULD DO HONG KONG'S ECONOMY MORE HARM THAN GOOD.

THE HON ANDREW SO ALSO EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT UNRESTRAINED WELFARE FOR THE WORK FORCE WOULD IMPEDE THE INITIATIVE OF SOCIETY.

+IT IS OUR AIM TO GO STEP BY STEP WITHIN OUR CAPABILITY AND TRY OUR BEST TO IMPROVE THE WELFARE OF THE WORKERS ON THE BASIS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, FOR HONG KONG WILL NOT BENEFIT FROM ANY DRASTIC REFORM,+ MR SO SAID.

+WHILE WE SYMPATHISE WITH THE REDUNDANT WORKERS FOR THEIR BITTER HARDSHIP, LET US NOT FORGET THE DIFFICULTIES FACING THE EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE TO MAKE THEIR WORKERS REDUNDANT.

+SINCERE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES IS AN ESSENTIAL FACTOR IN BRINGING PROSPERITY AND PROGRESS TO OUR SOCIETY,+ HE SAID.

+THE HISTORY OF THIS BILL SERVES AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO MAKE PROGRESS IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE HAVE-NOTS OF HONG KONG WHERE REAL WAGES HAVE REMAINED STAGNANT IN MANUFACTORY INDUSTRY FOR THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS, AND THAT FOR THE SECOND TIME IN A DECADE,+ REV THE HON PATRICK MCGOVERN SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT TWO ORIGINAL PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY THE ADMINISTRATION, NAMELY TO REDUCE THE LENGTH OF QUALIFYING SERVICE FROM 24 MONTHS TO 12 MONTHS AND TO ADD A REQUIREMENT FOR EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE WORK FOR 40 WORKING DAYS IN 10 CONSECUTIVE WEEKS, HAD BEEN DEFERRED WITH THE RESULT THAT HALF A BILL WAS LEFT.

+I SUPPORT THE HALF BILL AS BEING BETTER THAN NO BILL. BUT I DO STRONGLY EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THE DEFERMENT WILL NOT BE ANOTHER THREE YEARS OR SEVEN YEARS BEFORE THE NEXT SMALL STEP FORWARD IS PROPOSED.

+AND DURING THE PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT STEP I HOPE THE ADMINISTRATION WILL RECONSIDER NOT ONLY THE TWO SECTIONS REMOVED FROM THIS BILL BUT ALSO THE VARIOUS OTHER PROPOSALS WHICH WERE PUT FORWARD OVER THE YEARS BY WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES,+ HE SAID.

HE CITED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS EXAMPLES:

- * RAISING THE AMOUNT OF SEVERANCE PAY TO ONE FULL MONTH;
- * REMOVING THE LIMIT OF BACK-DATING TO 1966 WHICH IS NOW MEANINGLESS BECAUSE 1966 IS NOW 18 YEARS AGO AND THE MAXIMUM SEVERANCE PAY WHICH CAN BE EARNED UNDER THIS PRESENT BILL IS FOR 18 YEARS' SERVICE; AND
- * REPLACING THE LIMIT OF A MAXIMUM OF ONE YEAR'S WAGES WITH THE AMOUNT FOR ACTUAL YEARS OF SERVICE.

HE NOTED THAT THESE LIMITATIONS WERE INITIALLY INTRODUCED IN 1974 SO THAT SMALL COMPANIES COULD HAVE TIME TO GET USED TO THE THEN NEW IDEA OF SEVERANCE PAY AND TO PREPARE THE NECESSARY FUNDING FOR PAYING A MORE REALISTIC RATE IN THE FUTURE.

+IT IS NOW THE FUTURE, AND TEN YEARS SHOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH TIME FOR SUCH PSYCHOLOGICAL AND FINANCIAL PREPARATION.

+IF IT HAS NOT BEEN ENOUGH, THEN PERHAPS IT IS TIME TO CONSIDER IMPOSING THE MUCH MORE EXPENSIVE GUARANTEE OF COMPULSORY INSURANCE,+ HE SAID.

WITH THESE VARIOUS REMARKS, THE UNOFFICIALS SUPPORTED THE BILL.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON RON BRIDGE, IN HIS REPLY TO POINTS RAISED BY UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS, SAID THE BILL, WHICH WAS PASSED INTO LAW TODAY, WOULD MAKE A WORTHWHILE IMPROVEMENT TO THE ALREADY SUBSTANTIAL BODY OF LABOUR LEGISLATION IN HONG KONG.

MR BRIDGE THANKED THE MEMBERS FOR THEIR CAREFUL STUDY OF THE BILL AND THEIR UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR THE MEASURES PROPOSED TO IMPROVE PROVISIONS FOR SEVERANCE PAY.

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HE SHARED FATHER MCGOVERN'S DESIRE TO SEE FURTHER IMPROVEMENT TO THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

WHILE HOPING TO PUT FORWARD, PROPOSALS ON THE GENERAL LINES SUGGESTED BY FATHER MCGOVERN, MR BRIDGE SAID HE COULD NOT YET MAKE ANY FIRM COMMITMENT ON THE TIMING.

+AS MR ANDREW SO SAYS, IMPROVEMENT TO WORKERS' WELFARE MUST BE INTRODUCED STEP BY STEP.

+IN TIMING THEIR INTRODUCTION WE MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE STATE OF OUR ECONOMY SO AS NOT TO LAY TOO GREAT A BURDEN ON THE MANUFACTURERS ON WHOM OUR PROSPERITY, AND OUR CAPACITY TO INTRODUCE FURTHER WELFARE MEASURES, SO MUCH DEPENDS,+ MR BRIDGE SAID.

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BILL TO STRENGTHEN SUPERVISION OF BUSES
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A BILL WHOSE MAIN OBJECTIVE IS TO STRENGTHEN THE EXISTING PROVISIONS FOR SUPERVISING THE OPERATION OF PUBLIC OMNIBUSES, PARTICULARLY THE FORWARD PLANNING OF THE FRANCHISED BUSES, WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE PUBLIC OMNIBUS SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON JUSTIN YUE, SAID THAT THE BILL MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THE FRANCHISES ARE SUBJECT TO THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE AS IT MAY BE AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME.

IT SEEKS TO EXEMPT THREE TYPES OF BUS SERVICES FROM THE REQUIREMENTS IN THE ORDINANCE OTHERWISE APPLICABLE TO FRANCHISED SERVICES.

THESE ARE:

- * A +RESIDENTS' SERVICE+ WHICH IS NORMALLY A ROUTE TO SERVE A PARTICULAR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT,
- * AN +INTERNATIONAL PASSENGER SERVICE+ COVERING AIRPORT AND HOTEL SERVICES, CROSS-HARBOUR SERVICES AND SERVICES TO MAJOR RAILWAY STATIONS AND FERRY TERMINALS, AND
- * A +MULTIPLE TRANSPORT SERVICE+ WHERE A SINGLE FARE WOULD BE PAYABLE FOR A JOURNEY ON MORE THAN ONE MODE OF TRANSPORT.

THESE SERVICES, MR YUE EXPLAINED, WERE INTENDED TO COMPLEMENT RATHER THAN TO COMPETE WITH THOSE PROVIDED BY THE FRANCHISED BUSES.

/HE ADDED

HE ADDED THAT EXEMPTION WOULD ONLY BE GRANTED SUBJECT TO SPECIFIC CONDITIONS BEING MET, SUCH AS THE TYPE OF PASSENGERS TO BE CARRIED, THE LOCATIONS TO BE SERVED OR THE SYSTEM OF CHARGING TO BE ADOPTED.

IT WOULD ALSO HAVE REGARD TO THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF A GRANTEE OVER ANY PART OF THE PROPOSED SERVICE.

THE ORDINANCE IN ITS PRESENT FORM LIMITS THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL TO EXTEND A FRANCHISE WHERE THE GRANTEE HAS MAINTAINED A PROPER AND EFFICIENT SERVICE SINCE DAY ONE OF THE FRANCHISE.

+IT IS CONSIDERED MORE APPROPRIATE THAT AN EXTENSION OF A FRANCHISE SHOULD BE ASSESSED ON THE GRANTEE'S CURRENT PERFORMANCE AND FUTURE CAPABILITY,+ MR YUE SAID.

THE BILL THUS PROPOSES TO PROVIDE THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL WITH AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE EXTENSION OF A FRANCHISE WHERE THE GRANTEE IS CONSIDERED TO BE CAPABLE OF MAINTAINING A PROPER AND EFFICIENT SERVICE.

THE BILL ALSO SEEKS TO STRENGTHEN THE DEFINITION OF +PROPER AND EFFICIENT SERVICE+ BY REQUIRING A GRANTEE TO MAINTAIN ITS SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ANY FORWARD PLANNING PROGRAMME AGREED BETWEEN HIM AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT.

ONE CLAUSE OF THE BILL ENABLES A GRANTEE TO APPLY TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO OPERATE A TEMPORARY NEW ROUTE OR TO INTRODUCE TEMPORARY CHANGES TO AN EXISTING ONE.

AMONG OTHER CLAUSES IS ONE REQUIRING A GRANTEE TO MAINTAIN A PROPER RECORD OF BUS ORDERS AND THE EXPECTED DATES WHEN THE BUSES WILL BE AVAILABLE.

MR YUE EXPLAINED THAT THIS CLAUSE IS TO ENABLE THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO ASSESS THE GRANTEE'S ON-GOING ABILITY TO MEET ALL HIS COMMITMENTS.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TO MAY 16.

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BLASTING SITES SUBJECT TO STRICT CONDITIONS

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ALL BLASTING SITES ARE SUBJECT TO STRICT CONDITIONS TO PROTECT NEIGHBOURING PEOPLE AND PROPERTY, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR AND COMMISSIONER FOR MINES, THE HON RON BRIDGE SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE CONDITIONS COVER SUCH POINTS AS THE TYPE, AMOUNT AND TIMING OF EXPLOSIVES, THE POSITION AND ANGLE OF BLASTING HOLES AND THE TYPE AND AMOUNT OF SCREENING REQUIRED.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON S.L. CHEN ON THE STEPS BEING TAKEN TO PREVENT SIMILAR ACCIDENTS IN FUTURE, IN VIEW OF THE CONSIDERABLE DISTURBANCE AND PROPERTY DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE RECENT BLASTING OPERATIONS AT THE MTR CONSTRUCTION SITE AT QUARRY BAY.

MR BRIDGE SAID ALL SHOTFIRERS HAVE TO BE EXAMINED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF MINES AND TO SATISFY HIM THAT THEY ARE COMPETENT. THEY ARE RE-EXAMINED EVERY THREE YEARS OR MORE FREQUENTLY IF NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THEIR SKILLS ARE UP-TO-DATE.

+ALL SITES, PARTICULARLY THOSE NEAR BUILT-UP AREAS, ARE INSPECTED REGULARLY AND FREQUENTLY BY EXPLOSIVES OFFICERS AND ANY IRREGULARITIES LEAD TO IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF THE BLASTING PERMIT UNTIL THINGS HAVE BEEN PUT RIGHT,+ HE SAID.

+IF APPROPRIATE, THE SHOTFIRER'S CERTIFICATE IS SUSPENDED AND THOSE RESPONSIBLE ARE PROSECUTED.+

MR BRIDGE SAID THE LEGAL PENALTIES FOR INFRINGING BLASTING SITE CONDITIONS WERE BEING REVIEWED AND, SUBJECT TO THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, PROPOSALS FOR INCREASED PENALTIES WOULD BE PUT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IN THE CASE OF THE KORNHILL ACCIDENT, MR BRIDGE SAID THE BLASTING PERMIT FOR THAT PART OF THE SITE WHERE THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED HAD BEEN SUSPENDED AND THE RELEVANT SHOTFIRERS HAD HAD THEIR CERTIFICATES SUSPENDED.

+AN EXPLOSIVES OFFICER HAS REPORTED ON THE CAUSES OF THE ACCIDENT AND THE POLICE ARE CONSIDERING PROSECUTION,+ HE SAID.

+THE BLASTING PERMIT WILL NOT BE RE-INSTATED UNTIL THE SUPERINTENDENT OF MINES IS SATISFIED THAT NO SIMILAR ACCIDENT WILL RECUR. THE SHOTFIRERS WILL NOT HAVE THEIR CERTIFICATES REVALIDATED UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN RE-EXAMINED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF MINES AND SATISFIED HIM THAT THEY ARE COMPETENT,+ MR BRIDGE ADDED.

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AMENDMENTS MADE TO MAGISTRATES BILL
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THE HON PETER C WONG, AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, TODAY MOVED AN AMENDMENT TO THE MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984.

THE AMENDMENT WAS TO THE EFFECT THAT A STATEMENT OF THE DEFENDANT'S PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE NOTICE OF PROSECUTION.

THE BILL PROVIDED FOR THE INCLUSION OF SUCH A STATEMENT AND THE INTENTION WAS THAT IN IMPOSING A PENALTY, THE MAGISTRATE MIGHT WISH TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE DEFENDANT'S RECORD, HE OBSERVED.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE, HE SAID, +HOWEVER, IT IS FELT THAT IF THE DEFENDANT CHOOSES TO PLEAD NOT GUILTY AND REQUIRES A HEARING, THE INCLUSION OF HIS PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS IN THE NOTICE OF PROSECUTION MAY PREJUDICE HIS CASE,+ HE SAID.

+NORMALLY, THE COURT IS NOT INFORMED OF THE DEFENDANT'S RECORD UNTIL HE IS FOUND GUILTY. THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT THE COURT'S DECISION IS NOT INFLUENCED BY THE DEFENDANT'S PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS,+ HE ADDED.

MR WONG ALSO MOVED AN AMENDMENT TO GIVE THE DEFENDANT 35 DAYS, SEVEN MORE DAYS THAN THE 28 DAYS STATED IN THE BILL, TO FILE A WRITTEN NOTICE REQUIRING A HEARING.

+THIS WILL GIVE THE DEFENDANT AMPLE TIME TO CONSULT HIS LEGAL ADVISERS IF HE SO WISHES, AND TO MAKE UP HIS MIND WHETHER OR NOT TO REQUIRE A HEARING,+ HE EXPLAINED.

ON THE BILL AS A WHOLE, MR WONG SAID THAT THE PROPOSALS WERE MEASURES DESIGNED TO MINIMISE TIME AND EFFORT WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE RIGHTS OF THE DEFENDANT IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE RELATING TO MINOR OFFENCES IN THE MAGISTRATE'S COURTS.

+THE NEW MEASURES WILL BENEFIT OFFENDERS TO WHOM THE BILL APPLIES AS THE SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE WILL NOT REQUIRE APPEARANCE IN COURT.

+IN A BUSY CITY LIKE HONG KONG, WHERE TIME IS A SCARCE COMMODITY, ANY TIME-SAVING DEVICE MUST BE GENERALLY WELCOME,+ HE SAID.

+HOWEVER, THE RIGHT TO HAVE A COURT HEARING IS NOT TAKEN AWAY BY THE BILL. IF THE DEFENDANT SO CHOOSES, HE MAY APPLY FOR A HEARING,+ HE ADDED.

MR WONG SAID IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT THREE QUARTERS OF A MILLION CASES EACH YEAR WOULD NOT RESULT IN APPEARANCE IN COURT IF THE NEW MEASURES WERE ADOPTED.

THANKING THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS FOR THEIR WELCOME TO THE BILL, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS SAID, +IN ADDITION I WISH TO MOVE AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 8A SUBSECTION (5) OF THE MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE BY ADDING A NEW CLAUSE 2A TO THIS BILL,+ HE SAID.

THE OBJECT OF THIS WAS TO INCREASE THE COSTS WHICH MAGISTRATES MIGHT ORDER FROM A RANGE OF \$20 - \$400 TO A RANGE OF \$80 - \$1 500.

THIS APPLIES TO SITUATIONS WHERE DEPARTMENTAL SUMMONSES RELATING TO A NUMBER OF OFFENCES, SUCH AS THOSE AGAINST PART III OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE, HAVE BEEN SERVED BUT THE DEFENDANT HAS FAILED TO APPEAR AND HAS HAD TO BE ARRESTED.

+IF SO HE NOW FACES THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING ORDERED TO PAY HIGHER COSTS IN KEEPING WITH INFLATION. THIS BRINGS THE MAGISTRATES' POWERS INTO LINE WITH THOSE APPLICABLE TO OTHER KINDS OF STATUTORY OFFENCES,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

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OPERATION OF PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE AGED EXPLAINED

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PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE AGED PROVIDING A SIGNIFICANT LEVEL OF NURSING CARE ARE REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED UNDER THE HOSPITAL, NURSING HOMES AND MATERNITY HOMES REGISTRATION ORDINANCE, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON HENRY CHING, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN ORDER TO BE REGISTERED, AND TO REMAIN ON THE REGISTER, CERTAIN STANDARDS MUST BE MAINTAINED TO ENSURE THAT THE RESIDENTS OF SUCH HOMES RECEIVE ADEQUATE NURSING CARE, MR CHING ADDED.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM DR THE HON HENRIETTA IP ON THE SUBJECT.

+PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE AGED PROVIDING A MORE BASIC LEVEL OF CARE, WHICH MIGHT MORE APPROPRIATELY BE DESCRIBED AS PERSONAL CARE, ARE NOT SUBJECT TO LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS.

+THE GOVERNMENT IS, HOWEVER, FULLY CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE CARE PROVIDED IN THESE HOMES IS ADEQUATE, AND THAT STAFFING AND OTHER FACILITIES ARE PROVIDED AT A REASONABLE LEVEL,+ MR CHING SAID.

THERE IS A TOTAL OF 23 SUCH HOMES KNOWN TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THEY ARE REGULARLY VISITED AND CLOSELY WATCHED.

+THE OVERALL CONDITIONS IN THESE HOMES DO NOT GIVE CAUSE FOR IMMEDIATE CONCERN, AND IT IS NOT CONSIDERED NECESSARY AT THIS TIME TO INTRODUCE CONTROLS OR TO SPECIFY MINIMUM STAFFING AND OPERATING STANDARDS,+ HE SAID.

BUT THE SITUATION WOULD CONTINUE TO BE CAREFULLY MONITORED, AND NECESSARY, PROPOSALS FOR THE CONTROL OF THESE HOMES WOULD BE MADE, MR CHING ADDED.

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MORE CONTROL SOUGHT ON CIGARETTE ADS

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A LOCAL NEWSPAPER WITH 20 PER CENT OR LESS OF ITS TOTAL CIRCULATION IN HONG KONG WILL BE EXEMPTED FROM CARRYING A HEALTH WARNING FOR ITS CIGARETTE ADVERTISING ONLY IF THE LOCAL CIRCULATION DOES NOT EXCEED A CERTAIN LIMIT.

THIS IS ONE OF THE AMENDMENTS CONTAINED IN THE SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON HENRY CHING.

MR CHING TOLD THE COUNCIL IT WAS INTENDED THAT THE LIMIT WOULD BE SET INITIALLY AT 10 000 COPIES, EFFECTIVE THREE MONTHS AFTER THE ENACTMENT OF THE BILL.

CIGARETTE ADVERTISEMENTS IN A LOCALLY PRINTED NEWSPAPER ARE AT PRESENT EXEMPTED FROM CARRYING A HEALTH WARNING IF 80 PER CENT OR MORE OF ITS CIRCULATION IS OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

+THIS EXEMPTION COULD UNFAIRLY FAVOUR PUBLICATIONS WITH A LARGE CIRCULATION. THE 20 PER CENT, OR LESS, OF THE TOTAL CIRCULATION WHICH REMAINS IN HONG KONG MAY WELL EXCEED THE TOTAL NUMBER OF COPIES OF A LOCAL PUBLICATION WHOSE CIRCULATION IS ENTIRELY IN HONG KONG AND WHOSE CIGARETTE ADVERTISEMENTS DO NOT THEREFORE QUALIFY FOR THE EXEMPTION, + MR CHING SAID IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL.

TO REMOVE THIS ANOMALY THE BILL PROVIDES FOR AN ABSOLUTE NUMERICAL LIMIT TO BE SET BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL.

CIGARETTE ADVERTISEMENTS ON THE COMMERCIAL VEHICLES OF A MANUFACTURER, DISTRIBUTOR OR WHOLESALE DEALER IN CIGARETTES OR CIGARETTE TOBACCO ARE CURRENTLY ENTIRELY EXEMPTED FROM CARRYING A HEALTH WARNING.

+THIS IS NOW THOUGHT TO BE UNJUSTIFIED, ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT ANY CIGARETTE ADVERTISEMENT DISPLAYED TO THE PUBLIC SHOULD CARRY A HEALTH WARNING, + HE SAID.

THE BILL THUS SEEKS TO ABOLISH THIS EXEMPTION, EFFECTIVE SIX MONTHS AFTER THE ENACTMENT OF THE BILL TO GIVE TIME FOR VEHICLES TO BE REPAINTED.

THE BILL ALSO SEEKS TO REMOVE FROM THE ORDINANCE THE EXEMPTIONS WHICH AT PRESENT PERMIT ADVERTISEMENTS ON SMALL PORTABLE OBJECTS, CLOTHING AND UMBRELLAS, AND ON PREMISES OF A MANUFACTURER OR DEALER IN TOBACCO PRODUCTS.

MR CHING EXPLAINED THAT THESE EXEMPTIONS WOULD BE RE-INTRODUCED AS REGULATIONS TO FACILITATE FUTURE AMENDMENTS WHERE NECESSARY.

+BUT WHILE THE EXEMPTION IN RESPECT OF ADVERTISEMENTS ON SMALL PORTABLE OBJECTS, CLOTHING AND UMBRELLAS WILL BE RE-ENACTED IN REGULATIONS WITHOUT CHANGE, THE EXEMPTION IN RESPECT OF ADVERTISEMENTS ON THE PREMISES OF MANUFACTURERS OR DEALERS WILL BE RE-ENACTED WITH MODIFICATIONS, + HE SAID.

/HE ADDED

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HE ADDED THAT THE EXEMPTION IN FUTURE WOULD NOT APPLY TO RETAILERS' PREMISES, AND IT WOULD NOT APPLY TO MANUFACTURERS' OR WHOLESALE DEALERS' PREMISES IF THE ADVERTISEMENTS ARE VISIBLE FROM OUTSIDE THOSE PREMISES.

MR CHING SAID THAT THESE MODIFICATIONS WOULD TAKE EFFECT 12 MONTHS AFTER THE ENACTMENT OF THE BILL AS SIGNS MIGHT HAVE TO BE CHANGED WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN USE FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TO MAY 16.

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ALL ARE IN SCHOOL
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THERE ARE 122 CHILDREN OF COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE IN THE NINE TRANSIT CENTRES IN HONG KONG AND THEY HAVE ALL FOUND SCHOOL PLACES. THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR COLVYN HAYE, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS WAS REVEALED FROM AN UP-TO-DATE SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, HE SAID.

MR HAYE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HO KAM-FAI AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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ELEVEN PER CENT PENSION INCREASE APPROVED
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED TWO MOTIONS TO INCREASE BY 11 PER CENT PENSIONS IN PAYMENT ON APRIL 1, THIS YEAR.

THE INCREASE IS ESTIMATED TO COST \$56.14 MILLION FOR A FULL YEAR.

MOVING THE MOTIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, THE HON MARTIN ROWLANDS, SAID IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S DECLARED POLICY TO MAINTAIN THE ORIGINAL PURCHASING POWER OF CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONS, INCLUDING PENSIONS PAYABLE UNDER THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION SCHEME AND UNDER THE WIDOWS' AND CHILDREN'S PENSIONS SCHEME.

HE SAID THIS WAS ACHIEVED BY PERIODIC ADJUSTMENTS TO REFLECT CHANGES IN THE COST OF LIVING.

DURING THE LATEST REVIEW PERIOD FROM APRIL 1, 1983 TO MARCH 31, 1984, HE SAID, THE MOVING ANNUAL AVERAGE OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) ROSE BY 14.0 POINTS OR 10.52 PER CENT.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 1984

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STEPS TAKEN AGAINST +LOAN SHARKS+

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A BILL EXTENDING THE TIME LIMIT FOR ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN CASES OF EXCESSIVE INTEREST CHARGED BY MONEY LENDERS, WAS READ A SECOND TIME IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE MONEY LENDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, SAID THAT IT IS AN OFFENCE UNDER SECTION 24 OF THE MONEY LENDERS ORDINANCE, FOR ANYONE TO LEND MONEY AT AN EFFECTIVE RATE OF INTEREST EXCEEDING 60 PER CENT A YEAR.

BECAUSE NO TIME LIMIT FOR PROSECUTION IS PRESCRIBED IN THE ORDINANCE, THE MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE APPLIES, AND THIS LIMITS PROSECUTION TO SIX MONTHS FROM THE TIME OF THE OFFENCE, HE SAID.

+UNFORTUNATELY, MANY OFFENCES UNDER SECTION 24 COME TO LIGHT AFTER THE TIME LIMIT OF SIX MONTHS HAS EXPIRED, AND THIS IS NOTWITHSTANDING THE VIGILANCE OF THOSE ENTRUSTED WITH ENFORCEMENT OF THE ORDINANCE,+ MR JACOBS SAID.

MORE THAN HALF OF THE OFFENDERS PROSECUTED WITHIN THE SIX-MONTH PERIOD WERE, HE SAID, DETECTED ONLY BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN CHARGED WITH OTHER OFFENCES, SUCH AS BLACKMAIL AND ASSAULT.

A TWO-YEAR LIMITATION PERIOD WAS CONSIDERED MORE APPROPRIATE IN VIEW OF THE NATURE OF THE OFFENCE AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH IT WAS OFTEN COMMITTED, HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TO MAY 16.

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BILL TO FACILITATE IMMIGRATION TRIBUNAL WORK

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THE OBJECT OF THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 WAS TO FACILITATE THE WORK OF THE IMMIGRATION TRIBUNAL BY PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY CHIEF ADJUDICATOR AND FOR THE PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES TO WITNESSES APPEARING BEFORE THE TRIBUNAL, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON DAVID JEAFFRESON SAID TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, HE SAID THAT THE IMMIGRATION TRIBUNAL WAS ESTABLISHED IN OCTOBER 1980 AT THE SAME TIME AS THE 'REACHED BASE' POLICY ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS CAME TO AN END.

THE FUNCTION OF THE TRIBUNAL, HE EXPLAINED, IS TO CONSIDER APPEALS FROM ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO HAVE CHALLENGED THE VALIDITY OF REMOVAL ORDERS SERVED UPON THEM ON THE GROUNDS THAT -

/(A) THEY HAVE

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- (A) THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO LAND IN HONG KONG (UNDER SECTION 8(1) OF THE ORDINANCE), OR
- (B) THAT THEY HAVE THE PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION TO REMAIN IN HONG KONG.

MR JEAFFRESON SAID THE TRIBUNAL COMPRISED A CHIEF ADJUDICATOR AND 37 ADJUDICATORS.

+THEY ARE DISTINGUISHED UNOFFICIALS WHO EXERCISE THEIR POWERS QUITE INDEPENDENTLY FROM THE EXECUTIVE ARM OF THE GOVERNMENT. IT IS A MEASURE OF THEIR PUBLIC SERVICE THAT TO DATE THEY HAVE DETERMINED SOME 2 500 APPEALS.

+THE APPOINTMENT OF ONE OF THEIR NUMBER AS DEPUTY CHIEF ADJUDICATOR WILL ASSIST THE CHIEF ADJUDICATOR GENERALLY AND WILL PROVIDE FOR A RELIEF IN HIS ABSENCE.

FROM TIME TO TIME THE TRIBUNAL HAD TO CALL WITNESSES BEFORE IT, BUT IT HAD NO POWER TO GRANT A WITNESS ALLOWANCE.

CLAUSE 4 OF THE BILL SEEKS TO REMEDY THIS LACK.

+IT PROVIDES FOR THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO MAKE REGULATIONS FOR THE PAYMENT OF AN ALLOWANCE TO WITNESSES BEFORE THE TRIBUNAL AT THE SAME RATES AS THOSE PAYABLE (UNDER RULES MADE UNDER SECTION 9B OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS ORDINANCE (CAP 221)) TO WITNESSES IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS BEFORE ANY COURT,+ HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TO MAY 16.

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HK SENDING 75 TO OLYMPICS * * *

ABOUT 75 ATHLETES WOULD BE SELECTED TO COMPETE IN NINE SPORTS IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES - ATHLETICS, RIFLE SHOOTING, FENCING, CYCLING, ARCHERY, CANOEING, SWIMMING, JUDO AND WINDSURFING, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON DENIS BRAY SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON W.C.L. BROWN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HE SAID THE HONG KONG TEAM WOULD BE SELECTED BY THE AMATEUR SPORTS FEDERATION AND OLYMPIC COMMITTEE FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY SELECTION BY THE PARTICIPATING SPORTS BODIES.

SELECTION WOULD BE COMPLETED BY MID-MAY.

+THE GOVERNMENT, ACTING ON THE ADVICE OF THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT, HAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE ASSOCIATIONS SOME \$500 000 FOR INTENSIVE TRAINING OF THE POTENTIAL COMPETITORS. \$900 000 HAS BEEN EARMARKED TO GO TOWARD THE COST OF SENDING THE TEAM TO LOS ANGELES. THE GRANT IS INTENDED TO COVER 90 PER CENT OF THE COST OF THE HONG KONG PRESENCE,+ HE SAID.

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TUNNEL RADIO RECEPTION PLAN SHELVED

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IN THE LIGHT OF BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS, THE PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE FOR RADIO RECEPTION IN THE ABERDEEN, LION ROCK AND AIRPORT TUNNELS HAD BEEN SHELVED, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, THE HON PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR JACOBS WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON ANDREW SO, WHO REFERRED TO THE PROPOSAL MADE TO THE COUNCIL ON JUNE 30, 1982.

IT WAS PROPOSED AT THE TIME THAT DEVICES WOULD BE INSTALLED IN THE TUNNELS PROVIDED THE COST WAS REASONABLE AND THE NECESSARY FUNDS WERE MADE AVAILABLE.

A STUDY COMPLETED TOWARDS THE END OF 1982 ESTIMATED THE COST AT ABOUT \$4.5 MILLION, MR JACOBS SAID.

+IN THE LIGHT OF BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS, IT WAS DECIDED EARLY IN 1983 THAT THE PROPOSAL SHOULD BE SHELVED,+ HE SAID.

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MTR LOAN GUARANTEE APPROVED

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED A GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE TO COVER THE REPAYMENT OF A US\$10 MILLION LOAN TO THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION.

THE SUM BORROWED UNDER THIS GUARANTEE WILL BE USED TO FINANCE THE ISLAND LINE CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY OF ADDITIONAL ROLLING STOCK.

THIS BRINGS THE GOVERNMENT'S TOTAL GUARANTEE COMMITMENT IN RESPECT OF OUTSTANDING LOANS AVAILABLE TO THE MTR CORPORATION TO HK\$8 175 MILLION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE SAID.

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99 700 OBJECTIONS RECEIVED

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THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED ABOUT 99 700 PROPOSALS OBJECTING TO THE NEW RATEABLE VALUES, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE SAID TODAY.

+THIS REPRESENTS ABOUT 13.5 PER CENT OF THE TENEMENTS IN THE VALUATION LIST. THE MAIN GROUNDS FOR OBJECTION ARE, NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, THAT THE NEW RATEABLE VALUES ARE TOO HIGH,+ HE SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PAULINE NG.

HE ALSO SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL REVIEW THESE CASES AND NOTIFY THE RATEPAYERS OF THE RESULT OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 1984

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BILL'S PROPOSALS +ENTIRELY TECHNICAL+
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THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 SOUGHT TO SET RIGHT A SMALL NUMBER OF INACCURACIES DISCOVERED IN THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THESE INACCURACIES FOLLOWED FROM THE SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENTS MADE TO THE ORDINANCE AT THE END OF LAST YEAR, SIR JOHN SAID, MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL.

THE AMENDMENTS PROPOSED WERE ENTIRELY TECHNICAL AND DID NOT INVOLVE ANY SHIFT IN POLICY, HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED TO MAY 16.

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REFUSE COLLECTION
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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WAS GENERALLY CONCERNED WITH THE PROBLEM OF FLOATING REFUSE IN HONG KONG WATERS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON HENRY CHING SAID TODAY.

+BUT THE DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR COLLECTING FLOATING REFUSE WITHIN THE GAZETTED BOUNDARIES OF A PUBLIC PLEASURE GROUND WHICH IS A BEACH IS THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, + HE SAID, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON F.K. HU, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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SEVEN BILLS PASSED
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SEVEN BILLS - INCLUDING AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER'S BILL - WERE PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY ARE THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1984, THE EXCHANGE FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, THE ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, THE MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 AS WELL AS THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBER'S BILL, THE MATILDA AND WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984.

SIX BILLS WERE INTRODUCED AND READ A SECOND TIME, AND DEBATE ON THEM WAS ADJOURNED TO MAY 16.

THEY ARE THE DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, THE MONEY LENDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, THE SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984, THE APPRENTICESHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 AND THE PUBLIC OMNIBUS SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984.

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DB MEMBERS SHOWING GREATER INITIATIVE

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DISTRICT BOARDS ARE BEGINNING TO DEVELOP A WATCH DOG ROLE, MONITORING NOT ONLY PROGRESS ON PARTICULAR PROJECTS BUT ALSO THE PERFORMANCE OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

DESCRIBING THIS AS A NEW DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG, HE ADDED: +ALTHOUGH NOT ALL DEPARTMENTS HAVE YET ADJUSTED TO IT, IT IS A NATURAL AND HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT.+

+I AM SURE WE WILL SEE EVEN GREATER INTEREST IN THIS ROLE ON THE PART OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF DISTRICT BOARDS, PARTICULARLY NEXT YEAR WITH THE INCREASE IN ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, AND WHEN BOARDS CHOOSE THEIR OWN CHAIRMAN.

+THIS, AS I SEE IT, IS AN ESSENTIAL ASPECT OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, AND WILL ENSURE THAT A GOVERNMENT WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY PERHAPS OVER-CENTRALISED AND OVER BUREAUCRATIC, BECOMES MORE RESPONSIVE AND MORE FLEXIBLE.+

MR WIGGHAM WAS SPEAKING ON +THE EVOLVING ROLE OF DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS+ AT A LUNCHEON GATHERING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON WEST.

HE SAID THAT MOST IMPRESSIVE IN THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION WAS THE ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE BY DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH MEMBERS VIEWED THEIR ROLE AS AN ORGANISATION FOR REFLECTING PUBLIC OPINION AND ARTICULATING ADVICE AND CRITICISM.

+THEY NOW TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN SEEKING TO DISCUSS MAJOR POLICY ISSUES, RATHER THAN MERELY RESPONDING TO GOVERNMENT REQUESTS FOR VIEWS,+ HE SAID.

+AND THIS I WOULD REGARD AS A REFLECTION OF GROWING CONFIDENCE IN THEMSELVES.+

SUCH MAJOR POLICY ISSUES AS THE REVIEW OF PUBLIC HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICIES AND THE 1983 TAXI REVIEW WERE BEING PUT TO THE BOARDS FOR ADVICE AND COMMENT.

+NOR WILL IT HAVE ESCAPED YOUR ATTENTION THAT THE SUBJECT UPPERMOST IN THE MINDS OF MOST PEOPLE RECENTLY, THE FUTURE, IS BEING OPENLY DISCUSSED BY DISTRICT BOARDS, WITH THEIR VIEWS BEING PASSED ON IN FULL,+ MR WIGGHAM SAID.

+I AM SURE THEY WILL WANT TO SPEAK UP AGAIN WHEN MORE DETAIL OF AN AGREEMENT IS KNOWN.+

MR WIGGHAM NOTED THAT THE DISTRICT BOARDS HAD ALSO TAKEN A WIDER REACH INTO THE COMMUNITY BY ASSOCIATING THEMSELVES WITH ESTABLISHED LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, SUCH AS THE AREA COMMITTEES.

+ACCORDINGLY DISTRICT

+ACCORDINGLY DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS HAVE BECOME MEMBERS OR ADVISERS OF AREA COMMITTEES, AND WE SHALL BE STRENGTHENING AND FORMULATING THIS LINK EVEN FURTHER IN THE FUTURE, AND INCLUDING OUR GROWING NUMBER OF MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES ALSO,+ HE SAID.

MR WIGGHAM ADDED THAT THE DISTRICT BOARDS HAD PROVED THEIR VALUE MANY TIMES OVER IN TWO SHORT YEARS.

AND THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION WERE A RECOGNITION OF THIS, PARTICULARLY IN TWO ASPECTS.

FIRSTLY, HE SAID, THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MANAGEMENT ROLE FOR THE BOARDS WAS A RESPONSE TO THE INTEREST, DEDICATION AND EXPERTISE SHOWN BY THE BOARDS.

+IT WILL ENABLE DISTRICT BOARDS TO INFLUENCE, IF NOT DIRECT, THE ACTIVITIES OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO AN EVEN GREATER EXTENT THAN AT PRESENT.

+IT WILL PROVIDE A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO HAVE A SAY IN MAKING THE BEST USE OF LOCAL RESOURCES, AND DEVELOPING PROGRAMMES BEST SUITED TO DISTRICT NEEDS.+

SECONDLY, HE SAID, THE PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE RATIO OF ELECTED TO APPOINTED MEMBERS TO 2:1 WOULD FURTHER EMPHASISE THE REPRESENTATIVE NATURE OF THE BOARDS AND FIRMLY ESTABLISH THEM AS AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF OUR EVOLVING SYSTEM OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.

+DISTRICT BOARDS ARE NOW VERY MUCH AN ESTABLISHED PART OF OUR SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION,+ MR WIGGHAM SAID.

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TACKLING PROBLEMS FACED BY ELDERLY PEOPLE

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THE GENERATION GAP, FINANCE AND HOUSING PROBLEMS WHICH CONFRONT MANY ELDERLY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG ARE ISSUES WHICH THE GOVERNMENT AIMS TO TACKLE IN THE PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR JOHN CHAMBERS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT +A PARTY FOR A THOUSAND AGED+ ORGANISED BY THE SHUN TAK FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION AT THE CITY HALL THIS AFTERNOON, MR CHAMBERS SAID SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY IN THE 1980'S FOCUSED ON THREE MAIN AREAS - COMMUNITY CARE, RESIDENTIAL CARE AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES, HE SAID, WERE PROVIDED TO ENABLE THE ELDERLY TO REMAIN IN THE COMMUNITY FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. THESE INCLUDE HOME HELP, DAY CARE CENTRES, MULTI-SERVICE CENTRES, VISITS AND ESCORTS.

/RESIDENTIAL CARE

RESIDENTIAL CARE SERVICES INCLUDE COMPASSIONATE REHOUSING, THE GOVERNMENT'S HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY SCHEME, HOSTELS, OLD AGE HOMES, CARE AND ATTENTION HOMES AND TRANSIT ACCOMMODATION.

NEEDY AND ELIGIBLE OLD PEOPLE ARE OFFERED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND OLD AGE AND DISABILITY ALLOWANCES.

+MOST OF THESE SERVICES ARE LAUNCHED THROUGH THE JOINT EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND SUPPORTED BY PUBLIC-SPIRITED ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS,+ MR CHAMBERS SAID.

+AS SOCIETY DEVELOPS AND HEALTH SERVICES IMPROVE, PEOPLE ARE GENERALLY LEADING HEALTHIER AND LONGER LIVES,+ HE SAID.

ACCORDING TO THE 1981 CENSUS, THE NUMBER OF ELDERLY PEOPLE MAY INCREASE TO 680 000 BY 1987.

MR CHAMBERS PRAISED THE SHUN TAK FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION FOR ORGANISING THE PARTY AND FOR THE WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES IT OFFERED TO ELDERLY PEOPLE.

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FERRY TERMINAL AIR-CONDITIONING WORK STARTS * * * *

WORK HAS STARTED ON INSTALLING AIR-CONDITIONERS AT THE TEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL FERRY TERMINAL NOW BEING BUILT AT SHA TIN.

FIFTEEN SPLIT-TYPE ROOM AIR-CONDITIONERS AND NINE EXHAUST FANS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE SINGLE-STOREY TERMINAL BUILDING, BY LEUNG'S AIR-CONDITION ENGINEERING COMPANY, WHICH HAS BEEN AWARDED THE \$185 000 CONTRACT BY THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

THE WORK WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS MONTH.

THE \$4.2 MILLION TERMINAL IS DUE TO BE READY BY THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR.

FERRY SERVICES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE HOLIDAY RESORTS OF DAI MEI SHA AND XIAO MEI SHA, SHENZHEN, WILL BE OPERATED FROM THE TERMINAL.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR TIN HAU FESTIVAL
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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FROM 10 AM ON MAY 4 (FRIDAY) TO JUNE 2 (SATURDAY) TO FACILITATE THE THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES FOR TIN HAU FESTIVAL IN SAI KUNG TOWN.

- * YI CHUN STREET BETWEEN ITS TWO JUNCTIONS WITH MAN NIN STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC EXCEPT EMERGENCY VEHICLES AND VEHICLES OF THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.
- * MAN NIN STREET BETWEEN ITS TWO JUNCTIONS WITH YI CHUN STREET WILL BE ROUTED TWO-WAY.
- * THE CAR PARK ADJACENT TO THE BRANCH OFFICE OF SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE AT MAN NIN STREET WILL BE CONVERTED INTO A TERMINUS FOR NEW TERRITORIES MAXICAB ROUTES 2, 3 AND 4.
- * SOME OF THE PARKING SPACES AT THE CAR PARK ADJACENT TO THE ELECTRIC SUB-STATION ON MAN NIN STREET WILL BE CONVERTED INTO A TAXI STAND.
- * THE PARKING SPACES AT THE SECTION OF MAN NIN STREET BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH YI CHUN STREET AND THE POINT OPPOSITE THE BRANCH OFFICE OF SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE WILL BE SUSPENDED.
- * THE CAR PARK IN FRONT OF TIN HAU TEMPLE WILL BE SUSPENDED.
- * THE PLB AND TAXI STANDS ON YI CHUN STREET WILL BE SUSPENDED.

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YUEN LONG SITE TENANCY OFFERED
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TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCY OF A SITE AT TUNG TAU INDUSTRIAL AREA, YUEN LONG.

THE 440-SQUARE-METRE SITE IS FOR STORING AND REPAIRING GOODS.

IT CAN ALSO BE USED FOR THE REPAIR, MAINTENANCE AND PAINT SPRAYING OF CARS.

/THE INITIAL

THE INITIAL TENANCY IS FOR TWO YEARS, RENEWABLE AT QUARTERLY INTERVALS.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR TENDERS IS MAY 18.

TENDER FORMS, NOTICES AND CONDITIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, 5TH FLOOR, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG- DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON WEST, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE OF YUEN LONG.

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VARIETY SHOW FOR SOUTHERN DISTRICT RESIDENTS
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RESIDENTS IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT WILL BE TREATED TO A TWO-HOUR VARIETY SHOW BY STUDENTS OF 12 LOCAL SCHOOLS AND KINDERGARTENS ON SATURDAY (MAY 5).

THE SHOW, WHICH WILL START AT 3 PM IN THE SCHOOL HALL OF HOK SANG PRIMARY SCHOOL IN WAH FU ESTATE, WILL FEATURE ORCHESTRA AND WIND INSTRUMENT PERFORMANCES, FOLK DANCES, AND FOLK SONG SINGING.

THE WAN CHAI CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL BE THE GUEST PERFORMER AT THE SHOW WHICH IS SPONSORED BY THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD AND ORGANISED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT ARTS AND CULTURE ASSOCIATION.

A DISTRICT BOARD SPOKESMAN SAID THE SHOW WAS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF DISTRICT BOARD-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE ASSOCIATION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

+A SUM OF \$100 000 DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS HAS BEEN SET ASIDE THIS YEAR TO SUBSIDISE THE ASSOCIATION IN PROMOTING ARTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT,+ HE ADDED.

FREE TICKETS FOR THE SHOW ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF MEI FUNG COURT IN ABERDEEN CENTRE, AND ITS SUB-OFFICES IN WAH FU ESTATE AND STANLEY.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 1984

- 23 -

TWO DISTRICT BOARDS TO DISCUSS HOUSING REVIEW
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THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED REVIEW OF PUBLIC HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICIES WILL BE DISCUSSED BY SAI KUNG AND SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AT THEIR MEETINGS ON FRIDAY (MAY 4).

SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALSO COMMENT ON THE 1983 TAXI REVIEW AT THEIR MEETING IN THE MORNING.

MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE WATER TREATMENT AND TRANSFER WORKS AT PAK KONG, WHICH INVOLVES THE TREATING AND PUMPING OF WATER FROM THE PLOVER COVE AND HIGH ISLAND RESERVOIR SYSTEMS TO A SERVICE RESERVOIR AT JUNK BAY.

THE WORKS WILL PROVIDE WATER SUPPLIES TO JUNK BAY NEW TOWN, EAST KOWLOON, HONG KONG ISLAND (EAST), SAI KUNG AND JUNK BAY HINTERLAND.

CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS AND DRAINAGE WORKS IN RECLAMATION AREAS WITHIN SAI KUNG TOWN, WORK ON THE PRINCIPAL ACCESS TO JUNK BAY AND THE OUTLINE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR NORTH HEBE HAVEN WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED.

IN THE AFTERNOON, SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE LAYOUT PLAN FOR A PROPOSED COOKED FOOD CENTRE AND A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AT NAM LONG SHAN.

THEY WILL ALSO STUDY PROPOSALS BY A WORKING GROUP TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS RELATED TO WATER SPORTS ACTIVITIES AT STANLEY EAST BEACH.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE WELCOME TO COVER:

- (I) THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 4) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE BOARD'S SECRETARIAT ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF AMOY PLAZA, 77 NGAU TAU KOK ROAD= AND
- (II) THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 2.30 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF MEI FUNG COURT IN ABERDEEN CENTRE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

KWUN TONG BOARD TO MEET PRESS
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KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE WORK PLANS OF THE BOARD AND ITS SIX COMMITTEES FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, MR KEVIN MAK, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SIX COMMITTEES WILL BE PRESENT.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE PRESS CONFERENCE AT 2.30 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF KWUN TONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING IN TUNG YAN STREET.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

NEW CLINIC FOR TO KWA WAN
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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WILL OFFICIALLY OPEN THE SHUN TAK FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION LEUNG KAU KUI CLINIC IN TO KWA WAN ON FRIDAY (MAY 4) AT 3 PM.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE MR LEUNG KAU KUI, HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION, WHO HAS DONATED MORE THAN \$1 MILLION FOR THE PROJECT.

DR K.L. THONG, DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, WILL ADDRESS THE GATHERING.

THE CLINIC IS LOCATED ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE TO KWA WAN MARKET AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT 165 MA TAU WAI ROAD, KOWLOON.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 1984

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

RECEPTION TALK

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN YAXLEY, WILL ADDRESS A RECEPTION TO BE HELD TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 5 PM BY KRAS ASIA LTD. TO MARK THE EXPANSION OF THE COMPANY'S PREMISES AT FIRST FLOOR, 79 HUNG TO ROAD, KWUN TONG, KOWLOON.

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NOT FOR LEARNER DRIVERS

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FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 4), KWAI YIP STREET WILL BE DESIGNATED A PROHIBITION ZONE TO LEARNER DRIVERS BETWEEN 6 AM AND 7.30 PM, EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

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