



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1986

### CONTENTS

### PAGE NO.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

GOVT URGED TO LIAISE WITH UMELCO ON NATIONALITY .....	1
RATE PERCENTAGE INCREASE EXPLAINED .....	2
TRADE BOARDS INFORMATION REGULARLY MADE KNOWN .....	3
MANY FREE, SPECIAL SCHEMES FOR ELDERLY .....	4
DRUGS CHARGE ABOUT HK NOT SUPPORTED .....	4
OIL DEPOT NOT POSING UNACCEPTABLE RISK .....	6
CHECKS KEPT ON PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES .....	7
HIGH QUALITY REQUIRED OF TV .....	7
HOSPITAL CONSULTANT DUTIES EXPLAINED .....	8
FACTORY CHECKS BASED ON HAZARD POTENTIAL .....	9
PUBLIC VIEWS BEING SOUGHT ON BILLIARD SALOONS .....	10
HEALTH SERVICE MAINTAINED DESPITE DOCTOR SHORTAGE .....	11
VICE CONTROL UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW .....	12
APPROVAL SEEN IN REVENUE PROPOSALS .....	13
PROTECTION FOR LANDOWNERS ON NEW MTR ROUTE .....	14
+MUCH ACHIEVED IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING WORK+ .....	15
POPULATION BY-CENSUSES TO BE CONDUCTED .....	16
JURY OF NINE APPROVED .....	16
BILLS PROPOSED TO UPDATE LAW ON DAMAGES .....	18

/BILL AIMS .....

BILL AIMS TO REMOVE ANOMALY .....	20
SPECIAL SUSPENSE ACCOUNT APPROVED .....	21
SPECIAL FUND ON ALLOCATED STORES .....	22
LEGCO DEALS WITH SIX BILLS .....	23
GOVERNOR TO VISIT LONDON .....	24
AG TO MEET MEDIA .....	24
JACOBS BRIEFED ON TDC WORK .....	24
CONSULAR OFFICERS VISIT CENTRE .....	25
PRESS CONFERENCE .....	25
BOE MEMBERS VISIT COLLEGE OF EDUCATION .....	25
MORE VEHICLE DEPOTS PLANNED .....	26
CAMPAIGN AGAINST LITTERING ALONG WATERCOURSES .....	27
COMMITTEE MEETINGS OPEN TO PUBLIC .....	27
BOARD TO DISCUSS BROADCASTING REPORT .....	28
RESTRICTED ZONES SET UP .....	29
SALT WATER CUT IN NORTH POINT .....	29

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1986

- 1 -

GOVT URGED TO LIAISE WITH UMELCO ON NATIONALITY  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN URGED TO LIAISE CLOSELY WITH THE UMELCO AD HOC GROUP ON THE NATIONALITY ISSUE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE TALKS THE OFFICIAL TEAM IS GOING TO HAVE IN LONDON.

IT HAS ALSO BEEN ASKED BY THE HON LYDIA DUNN TO REPORT BACK TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON THE OUTCOME OF THE TEAM'S VISIT AS WELL AS THE FORM OF WORDING IN THE PASSPORT ENDORSEMENT WHEN THAT IS DECIDED.

MISS DUNN WAS MAKING A STATEMENT IN THE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ON THE DRAFT HONG KONG (BRITISH NATIONALITY) ORDER 1986.

POINTING OUT THAT UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WERE STILL AWAITING THE OUTCOME TO THEIR THREE PROPOSALS, MISS DUNN SAID THEY HAD NOTED THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, MR TIMOTHY RENTON'S ASSURANCE ON JANUARY 24 THAT HMG WOULD AGREE TO THEIR REQUEST FOR AN ENDORSEMENT IN THE NEW BN(O) PASSPORT WHICH WOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT HOLDERS OF THESE PASSPORTS WOULD NOT REQUIRE ENTRY VISAS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR BONA FIDE VISITS.

MISS DUNN SAID UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WELCOMED THE NEWS THAT A TEAM OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WOULD VISIT LONDON TO PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE NON-ETHNIC MINORITIES AND THE STATUS OF EX-SERVICEMEN.

+THESE ARE POSITIVE INITIATIVES IN RESPONSE TO THE SERIOUS CONCERN IN HONG KONG ABOUT THESE IMPORTANT MATTERS AND WE WELCOME THEM,+ SHE SAID.

SHE SAID MEMBERS WERE SURE THAT A SATISFACTORY FORMULA COULD BE WORKED OUT FOR THE ENDORSEMENT IN THE PASSPORT.

+AS I SAID BEFORE, 'WHERE THERE IS A WILL, THERE IS A WAY.' I SHOULD LIKE TO MAKE CLEAR YET AGAIN THAT WE DO NOT SEEK TO BE EXEMPTED FROM NORMAL IMMIGRATION FORMALITIES,+ SHE SAID.

+ON THAT POINT, THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR POSITION AND THAT OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT,+ SHE ADDED.

ON THE PLIGHT OF THE NON-ETHNIC MINORITIES AND EX-SERVICEMEN, MISS DUNN SAID MEMBERS WERE ENCOURAGED BY MR RENTON'S ASSURANCE THAT +MINDS ARE NOT CLOSED+ IN WESTMINSTER ON THIS ISSUE.

SHE HOPED THAT WAYS AND MEANS OF MEETING FULLY THEIR CONCERN WOULD BE EXPLORED IN THE LIGHT OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE HONG KONG TEAM OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

MISS DUNN SAID THAT SINCE THE UNOFFICIALS' MOTION ON JANUARY 8, MANY DISTRICT BOARDS, ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS HAD VOICED THEIR SUPPORT.

/+THE COMMUNITY .....

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1986

- 2 -

+THE COMMUNITY IS OVERWHELMINGLY UNITED ON THE PRINCIPLES AND THE MORAL ISSUES INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER,+ SHE SAID.

SHE ADDED THAT SPEAKERS IN THE RECENT DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS HAD GRASPED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS FACT.

SHE NOTED THAT LORD AVEBURY HAD POINTED OUT THAT +THE FORCEFUL AND UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CONSTITUTED THE ONLY POSSIBLE MEANS BY WHICH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ARE ABLE TO GAUGE THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AS A WHOLE+ WHILE LORD MACLEHOSE SAID THAT HE COULD NOT RECALL AN OCCASION ON WHICH THERE HAD BEEN SUCH UNANIMITY Y AND SUCH FORCE BEHIND A REQUEST BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

+SO THE DEPTH OF OUR FEELINGS ON THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN RECOGNISED IN WESTMINSTER.

+OUR DEMANDS HAVE BEEN LODGED, WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. WE AWAIT THEIR DECISION,+ MISS DUNN SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### RATE PERCENTAGE INCREASE EXPLAINED

\* \* \* \*

FOLLOWING THE ENACTMENT OF THE RATING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 ON JANUARY 22, 1986, A RESOLUTION WAS PASSED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO INCREASE FROM APRIL 1, 1986 THE TOTAL RATES PERCENTAGES IN BOTH THE URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCIL AREAS FROM 5.5 PER CENT TO 6 PER CENT.

THESE INCREASES ARE NECESSARY TO MEET THE FINANCIAL NEEDS OF THE TWO COUNCILS IN 1986-87 AND 1987-88.

COMMENTING ON THE RESOLUTION, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT UNDER EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS, MOST DOMESTIC FLATS WOULD IN ANY CASE FACE A RATES INCREASE IN THESE TWO YEARS.

IN THE CASE OF DOMESTIC PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS, THESE INCREASES WOULD AVERAGE APPROXIMATELY \$11 PER MONTH IN 1986-87 AND A FURTHER \$6 IN 1987-88.

FOR SMALL DOMESTIC UNITS (I.E. THOSE WITH A NET AREA OF LESS THAN 100 SQUARE METRES) AND LARGE DOMESTIC UNITS (I.E. THOSE WITH A NET AREA OF 100 SQUARE METRES OR MORE) THEY WOULD AVERAGE APPROXIMATELY \$15 AND \$43 PER MONTH RESPECTIVELY IN 1986-87, WITH NO FURTHER INCREASE IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

AS A RESULT OF THE INCREASE IN THE RATES PERCENTAGES WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, DOMESTIC PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS WILL ON AVERAGE PAY NO MORE THAN THE ADDITIONAL \$11 PER MONTH PAYABLE UNDER THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS IN 1986-87 AND A FURTHER \$6.40 IN 1987-88.

/FOR SMALL .....

FOR SMALL DOMESTIC UNITS, APPROXIMATELY \$10 AND \$13 PER MONTH MORE WILL ON AVERAGE BE PAYABLE IN 1986-87 AND 1987-88 RESPECTIVELY.

FOR LARGE DOMESTIC UNITS, ON AVERAGE, APPROXIMATELY \$56 PER MONTH MORE WILL BE PAYABLE IN 1986-87, WITH NO FURTHER INCREASE IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE VARIATION IN THE EFFECT OF THE INCREASED RATES PERCENTAGES WAS DUE TO THE PRESENT RATE RELIEF SCHEME WHICH LIMITED THE ANNUAL INCREASES IN RATES PAYABLE TO 20 PER CENT.

HE STRESSED THAT THE FIGURES GIVEN WERE ONLY AVERAGES AND INDIVIDUAL RATEPAYERS WOULD EXPERIENCE INCREASES DIFFERENT TO THOSE QUOTED.

----- 0 -----

TRADE BOARDS INFORMATION REGULARLY MADE KNOWN  
\* \* \* \* \*

INFORMATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES UNDER CONSIDERATION, RECOMMENDATIONS MADE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE TRADE ADVISORY BOARD (TAB) AND THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD (IDB) IS AT PRESENT REGULARLY MADE KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE HON E.P. HO, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON THOMAS CLYDESDALE, MR HO SAID THIS WAS DONE THROUGH SUITABLE PUBLICITY ARRANGEMENTS SUCH AS THE ISSUE OF PRESS STATEMENTS AND FEATURES, SPEECHES IN PUBLIC FORUM, BRIEFINGS AND INTERVIEWS GIVEN TO THE MEDIA.

HE SAID MEMBERS OF THE TWO BOARDS ALSO DISSEMINATED INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORK OF THE BOARDS TO THE MANY TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS TO WHICH THEY BELONGED.

+IN THE CASE OF THE IDB, CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN ISSUED TO THE TRADE WHERE APPROPRIATE.

+FOR THE TAB, NOTIFICATION TO THE TRADE OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS ARE SOMETIMES COVERED IN COMMERCIAL INFORMATION CIRCULARS ISSUED BY THE TRADE DEPARTMENT.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ROLE, FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE TWO BOARDS WERE ALSO HIGHLIGHTED IN RELEVANT GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SUCH AS THE HONG KONG ANNUAL REPORT AND IN THE CASE OF THE IDB - PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS PRODUCED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

AS TO HONG KONG'S EXPORT GROWTH IN 1985, MR HO REITERATED THAT 1984 WAS AN EXTRAORDINARILY GOOD YEAR AND HONG KONG'S EXPORT PERFORMANCE IN 1985 OVER 1983 - IN ITSELF A YEAR OF CONSIDERABLE GROWTH - SHOWED REASONABLE PROGRESS OVER A TWO YEAR PERIOD.

AND THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 1985 SHOWED THAT DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR THAT MONTH REGISTERED A GROWTH OVER BOTH DECEMBER 1984 AND NOVEMBER 1985.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MANY FREE, SPECIAL SCHEMES FOR ELDERLY  
\* \* \* \*

PUBLIC SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY WERE NORMALLY FREE OR HEAVILY SUBSIDISED AND THE QUESTION OF CONCESSIONARY RATES DID NOT ARISE, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MR CHAMBERS SAID ALSO THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF SCHEMES WERE OPERATED AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL, PROVIDING SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY AT CONCESSIONARY RATES.

THESE WERE MAINLY INITIATED AND CO-ORDINATED BY VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS WELFARE AGENCIES, SERVICE CLUBS AND DISTRICT BOARDS.

THE SERVICES PROVIDED INCLUDE PRIVATE MEDICAL TREATMENT AT SPECIAL RATES, REDUCED FARES ON MAXICABS, AND A NUMBER OF SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS GIVE DISCOUNTS TO ELDERLY CUSTOMERS.

HE DID NOT THINK THERE WOULD BE MUCH TO BE GAINED BY GOVERNMENT BEING INVOLVED IN THE CO-ORDINATION OF SCHEMES OF THIS KIND.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DRUGS CHARGE ABOUT HK NOT SUPPORTED  
\* \* \* \* \*

THERE WAS NOT SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE IMPRESSION GIVEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD THAT HONG KONG WAS A MAJOR DRUG RE-EXPORTING CENTRE, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LIU LIT-FOR, MR THOMAS SAID THAT THE BOARD HAD STATED IN ITS 1985 REPORT THAT HONG KONG SERVED AS A TRANSHIPMENT POINT FOR HEROIN DESTINED FOR AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

/THIS OBSERVATION .....

THIS OBSERVATION HAD BEEN MISREPRESENTED, AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD, THROUGH PRESS STATEMENTS AND INTERVIEWS, DRAWN ATTENTION TO THIS POINT, MR THOMAS SAID.

THE BOARD, HE SAID, HAD NOT ATTEMPTED TO COMPARE HONG KONG'S INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFIC WITH THAT OF OTHER CENTRES IN THE REGION.

+THE FIGURES SHOW THAT IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN EIGHT PROSECUTIONS IN HONG KONG OF RESIDENTS ATTEMPTING TO SMUGGLE DRUGS OUT OF HONG KONG AND 21 PROSECUTIONS OVERSEAS INVOLVING HONG KONG RESIDENTS IN DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENCES.

+ALTOGETHER 42 HONG KONG RESIDENTS WERE IMPLICATED AS DRUG COURIERS IN THESE CASES, AND SOME 75 KILOGRAMS OF ILLICIT DRUGS WERE SEIZED,+ HE SAID.

ON THE BASIS OF THESE FIGURES, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO REFUTE THE BOARD'S ACTUAL STATEMENT.

BUT IT WAS TRUE THAT THE BOARD'S OBSERVATION HAD BEEN MISREPRESENTED AND THE IMPRESSION HAD BEEN GIVEN THAT HONG KONG WAS A MAJOR DRUG RE-EXPORTING CENTRE.

MR THOMAS SAID THAT, GIVEN HONG KONG'S GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION, THE GOOD AIR AND SEA COMMUNICATIONS, AND THE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHO ARRIVED AND DEPARTED EACH YEAR, IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IF HONG KONG WERE USED FROM TIME TO TIME TO FACILITATE THE DISTRIBUTION OF DRUGS INTERNATIONALLY.

EFFECTIVE ACTION BY THE POLICE AND CUSTIMS HAD IN RECENT YEARS DONE MUCH TO RESTRICT THE USE OF HONG KONG FOR TRANSHIPMENT.

THE RISK TO TRAFFICKERS OF DETECTION IN RE-EXPORTING ILLICIT DRUGS FROM HONG KONG WAS THOUGHT TO BE HIGH, MR THOMAS SAID.

+OVER THE YEARS, HONG KONG'S ANTI-NARCOTIC EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MUCH APPRECIATED IN INTERNATIONAL CIRCLES,+ MR THOMAS SAID, QUOTING AGAIN THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS BOARD REPORT THAT THE +HONG KONG AUTHORITIES ARE VIGOROUSLY PURSUING ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS AS WELL AS TREATMENT AND PREVENTION ACTIVITIES.+

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1986

- 6 -

OIL DEPOT NOT POSING UNACCEPTABLE RISK  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT WAS SATISFIED THAT THE EXISTENCE OF THE SHELL OIL DEPOT AT CHA KWO LING DID NOT POSE AN UNACCEPTABLE RISK, THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON NICKY CHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

ANSWERING A QUESTION FROM THE HON POON CHI-FAI, MR CHAN SAID IT WAS ONE OF A NUMBER OF SIMILAR FACILITIES WHICH, BY VIRTUE OF THE FACT THAT THEY STORED LARGE QUANTITIES OF FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS AND LIQUEFIED GASES, CONSTITUTED A POTENTIAL HAZARD TO NEIGHBOURING DEVELOPMENT IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT OF A FIRE OR OTHER ACCIDENT.

IN IDEAL CIRCUMSTANCES, ALL INSTALLATIONS WHICH POSED EVEN THE SLIGHTEST RISK WOULD BE LOCATED AWAY FROM POPULATION CENTRES, BUT HONG KONG'S VERY LIMITED LAND RESOURCES MADE THIS UNREALISTIC.

+THE GOVERNMENT IS SATISFIED THAT THE EXISTENCE OF THIS DEPOT DOES NOT, UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, POSE AN UNACCEPTABLE RISK TO THE NEIGHBOURING AREAS OF KWUN TONG, WHICH ARE LARGELY INDUSTRIAL IN CHARACTER,+ HE SAID.

NO DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN TO RELOCATE THE DEPOT, ALTHOUGH THE SHELL COMPANY HAD RECENTLY PROPOSED TO THE GOVERNMENT A NUMBER OF OPTIONS WHICH WOULD REDUCE, STILL FURTHER, ANY POSSIBLE RISK TO PUBLIC SAFETY FROM THEIR STORAGE INSTALLATIONS.

+THESE INITIATIVES ARE WELCOMED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND ARE BEING CAREFULLY CONSIDERED.+

HE STRESSED THAT STORAGE DEPOTS SUCH AS THE ONE AT KWUN TONG WERE OPERATED TO THE HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF SAFETY AND FIRE PROTECTION.

+ALL CATEGORIES OF DANGEROUS GOODS WITHIN THE DEPOT ARE SEPARATELY LICENSED.

+EVERY LICENCE IS SUBJECT TO ANNUAL RENEWAL WHICH REQUIRES AN INSPECTION BY STAFF OF THE FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO ENSURE THAT ALL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN COMPLIED WITH,+ MR CHAN SAID.

IN ADDITION TO THESE REGULAR VISITS A MAJOR EXERCISE WAS HELD ON AVERAGE ONCE A YEAR INVOLVING FIRE SERVICES PERSONNEL AND STAFF OF THE DEPOT TO ENSURE THAT, IN THE EVENT OF ANY INCIDENT, FIRE-FIGHTING RESOURCES WOULD BE SWIFTLY MOBILISED AND CO-ORDINATED TO MAXIMUM EFFECT.

IN ADDITION TO ANNUAL INSPECTION, THE STORAGE OF LIQUID PETROLEUM GAS AT THE DEPOT WAS ALSO MONITORED, AT QUARTERLY INTERVALS, BY EXPERIENCED ENGINEERS OF THE GAS ADVISER'S OFFICE OF THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND A NUMBER OF REFINEMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO FACILITIES HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED, MR CHAN SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/7 .....

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1986

- 7 -

CHECKS KEPT ON PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES

\* \* \*

THE MONITORING BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE QUALITY OF SERVICE PROVIDED BY PUBLIC UTILITY AND TRANSPORT COMPANIES WAS A CONTINUAL PROCESS, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE SAID TODAY.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEE YU-TAI ON HOW THE GOVERNMENT ENSURED PROMISES WERE FULFILLED BY PUBLIC UTILITY AND TRANSPORT COMPANIES, SIR JOHN SAID THE MONITORING WAS NOT LIMITED ONLY TO THOSE OCCASIONS ON WHICH A COMPANY APPLIED FOR AN INCREASE IN TARIFFS OR FARES.

+THERE IS REGULAR AND CLOSE LIAISON BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC UTILITY AND TRANSPORT COMPANIES TO ENSURE THAT THE MANAGEMENT OF THOSE COMPANIES TAKES THE ACTION NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE LEVEL OF SERVICE WHICH THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS SHOULD BE PROVIDED,+ HE SAID.

SIR JOHN EXPLAINED THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE QUALITY OF THE SERVICE PROVIDED BY PRIVATELY OWNED PUBLIC UTILITY AND TRANSPORT COMPANIES RESTED PRIVATELY WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF THOSE COMPANIES.

THE COMMUNITY LOOKED TO THE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE MONOPOLY STYLE SERVICES PROVIDED WERE EFFICIENT AND RELIABLE AND WERE PROVIDED AT A REASONABLE COST.

IN THIS LATTER REGARD THE SCHEMES OF CONTROL PLAYED A MAJOR PART.

SIR JOHN SAID, +JUDGING BY COMMENTS IN THE MEDIA AND ELSEWHERE PUBLIC OPINION APPEARS TO INDICATE THAT WHILE THE QUALITY AND COST OF SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONE COMPANIES IS PRESENTLY ACCEPTABLE, THERE CONTINUES TO BE A DEGREE OF CONCERN ABOUT THE QUALITY OF SERVICE PROVIDED BY, FOR EXAMPLE, SOME OF THE TRANSPORT COMPANIES.+

- - - - 0 - - - -

HIGH QUALITY REQUIRED OF TV

\* \* \*

IF THE COMMISSIONER FOR TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING FELT THAT A TELEVISION DRAMA CONTAINED SERIOUS HISTORICAL INACCURACIES AND THAT THE LICENSEE SHOULD BE WARNED OF THIS, HE WOULD FIRST WRITE TO THE LICENSEE CONCERNED, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SUCH A STEP, SIR DAVID EXPLAINED, WAS BASED ON SECTION 26 OF THE TELEVISION ORDINANCE, WHICH REQUIRES THAT PROGRAMMES BROADCAST BY COMMERCIAL LICENSEES 'MAINTAIN A HIGH GENERAL STANDARD OF QUALITY'.

/REPLYING TO .....

- 8 -

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PAULINE NG, SIR DAVID SAID THAT THE COMMISSIONER HAD, IN FACT, RECENTLY WRITTEN TO ONE OF THE LICENSEES ON THIS SUBJECT, ON THE ADVICE OF THE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD.

THE COMMISSIONER RECOGNISED HOWEVER, THAT MANY PURPORTEDLY HISTORICAL DRAMAS ON TELEVISION NORMALLY CONTAINED A GOOD DEGREE OF DRAMATIC LICENCE, SIR DAVID SAID.

+BECAUSE OF THIS, THE COMMISSIONER EXERCISES HIS POWER WITH GREAT CARE,+ HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### HOSPITAL CONSULTANT DUTIES EXPLAINED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE SUBJECT OF THE RATIO OF CONSULTANTS TO HOSPITAL BEDS HAS BEEN ADDRESSED IN THE REPORT ON THE DELIVERY OF MEDICAL SERVICES IN HOSPITALS, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

AND, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE REPORT WOULD BE PUBLISHED SHORTLY AS A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT, HE ADDED.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CHIU HIN-KWONG, MR CHAMBERS SAID AT PRESENT A CONSULTANT IN A CLINICAL UNIT OF A REGIONAL HOSPITAL WAS IN CHARGE OF ABOUT 120 BEDS.

HOWEVER, WHILE THE CONSULTANT HAD OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PATIENT-CARE, IT HAD TO BE EMPHASISED THAT THERE WERE ALSO A NUMBER OF SENIOR MEDICAL STAFF HOLDING SIMILAR QUALIFICATIONS IN EACH OF THE CLINICAL UNITS WHO SHARED WITH HIM THE DUTIES OF PROVIDING SPECIALIST CARE TO PATIENTS, HE SAID.

AS FOR THE RATIO OF CONSULTANTS TO PATIENTS IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS, HE SAID THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, REVIEWED THE PROJECTED OVERALL REQUIREMENTS AND PROVISION OF MANPOWER IN THE MEDICAL FIELD, BUT DID NOT REVIEW THE NEED FOR DOCTORS OF A SPECIFIC RANK OR HOLDING PARTICULAR QUALIFICATIONS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1986

- 9 -

FACTORY CHECKS BASED ON HAZARD POTENTIAL  
\* \* \* \*

FACTORIES WERE RATED ACCORDING TO THEIR HAZARD POTENTIAL TO ESTABLISH THE PRIORITIES FOR ROUTINE INSPECTION, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON NEIL HENDERSON SAID TODAY.

FACTORS SUCH AS THE NATURE OF THE INDUSTRIAL PROCESS INVOLVED, THE COMPLEXITY OF THE PLANT, THE NATURE OF THE PREMISES, THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AND THE RECORD OF ACCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

THE GREATER THE POTENTIAL HAZARD, THE MORE FREQUENT THE INSPECTIONS.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG, HE SAID THAT THE FREQUENCY OF ROUTINE INSPECTION VARIED FROM ONCE IN SIX MONTHS IN THE CASE, FOR EXAMPLE, OF A LARGE FACTORY WITH HIGH HAZARD POTENTIAL TO ONCE IN A MAXIMUM OF 54 MONTHS IN THE CASE OF, A SMALL LOW-RISK FACTORY WITH A GOOD SAFETY RECORD.

+IN ADDITION TO ROUTINE INSPECTIONS, SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS ARE UNDERTAKEN IN THE CASE OF SERIOUS OR FATAL ACCIDENTS OR COMPLAINTS.

+FOLLOW-UP INSPECTIONS FOR ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES ARE NORMALLY MADE WITHIN ONE TO THREE MONTHS WHERE A NEED FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED,+ HE SAID.

THE PRESENT INSPECTION SYSTEM WAS WORKING SATISFACTORILY AND EVERY EFFORT WAS MADE TO MAXIMISE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INSPECTION WITHIN PRESENT MANPOWER CONSTRAINTS, MR HENDERSON SAID.

THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE HAD 187 INSPECTORS, 130 OF THEM ASSIGNED TO FACTORIES. THIRTY THREE OTHERS WERE ON INSPECTION OF CONSTRUCTION SITES AND THE REST IN VARIOUS SUPPORT FUNCTIONS, INCLUDING TRAINING AND PROSECUTION WORK.

THE DEPARTMENT HAD PLANS TO INCREASE THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE TO ABOUT 250 WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES PERMITTED TO ALLOW MORE FREQUENT INSPECTIONS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1936

- 10 -

PUBLIC VIEWS BEING SOUGHT ON BILLIARD SALOONS  
\* \* \* \* \*

AN EXERCISE TO GAUGE PUBLIC OPINION ON THE CONTROL OF BILLIARD SALOONS IS UNDER WAY AND PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE LAW WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE LIGHT OF THE OUTCOME, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON DANIEL TSE, MR THOMAS EXPLAINED THAT BILLIARD SALOONS THAT WERE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WERE SUBJECT TO LICENSING CONTROL AND THE POLICE HAD POWERS OF ENTRY.

THE POLICE REGULARLY VISITED LICENSED BILLIARD SALOONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENSURING THAT GOOD ORDER IS MAINTAINED ON THE PREMISES, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, BILLIARD SALOONS WHICH WERE RUN BY PRIVATE CLUBS AND WERE NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, WERE NOT SUBJECT TO LICENSING AND THE POLICE DID NOT HAVE POWERS OF ENTRY.

+POLICE ACTION IS, HOWEVER, POSSIBLE IF IT CAN BE SHOWN THAT THE CLUB IS A SHAM AND NO MORE THAN A DEVICE TO AVOID THE NEED FOR LICENSING.

+A NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS ARE PENDING BEFORE THE COURTS IN SUCH CASES,+ HE ADDED.

MR THOMAS SAID THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS INFORMED ON JUNE 26 THAT THE SECRETARY FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES WAS EXAMINING THE ISSUE OF WHETHER AND HOW SOME MEASURE OF CONTROL SHOULD BE INTRODUCED OVER UNLICENSED BILLIARD CLUBS.

+SINCE THEN, BOTH WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE URBAN COUNCIL, WHICH IS THE LICENSING AUTHORITY FOR PUBLIC BILLIARD SALOONS IN THE URBAN AREA, THERE HAS BEEN AGREEMENT THAT BILLIARD CLUBS SHOULD BE CONTROLLED IN THE SAME WAY AS LICENSED PUBLIC BILLIARD SALOONS.

+WHAT HAS NOT BEEN AGREED YET IS HOW BEST BOTH TYPES OF BILLIARD SALOONS SHOULD BE CONTROLLED.

+AN EXERCISE TO GAUGE PUBLIC OPINION IS UNDER WAY AND PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE LAW WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THIS COUNCIL IN THE LIGHT OF THE OUTCOME,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

ON THE NUMBER OF CRIME CASES WHICH OCCURRED IN BILLIARD SALOONS, MR THOMAS SAID THAT ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF RECENT CASES HAD ATTRACTED PUBLIC ATTENTION, THE RELATIVE INCIDENCE OF CRIME IN BILLIARD SALOONS AND BILLIARD CLUBS WAS NOT UNDULY HIGH.

+THERE WAS A TOTAL OF 230 CASES IN THE WHOLE OF 1985. AND THERE ARE 48 BILLIARD SALOONS AND AT LEAST 130 BILLIARD CLUBS--THAT IS ON AVERAGE NOT MUCH MORE THAN ONE CASE EACH YEAR IN EACH ESTABLISHMENT.+

/HOWEVER, HE .....

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THERE HAD BEEN A DISTURBING INCREASE IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1985, PROBABLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF UNLICENSED BILLIARD CLUBS.

+I CAN ASSURE MEMBERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE TAKING STEPS TO BRING UNLICENSED BILLIARD CLUBS UNDER CONTROL AND OPEN TO THE POLICE TO ENSURE THAT LAW AND ORDERS IS MAINTAINED IN THESE ESTABLISHMENTS,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

HEALTH SERVICE MAINTAINED DESPITE DOCTOR SHORTAGE  
\* \* \* \* \*

WHILE THE SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR MIGHT CAUSE STRAIN IN SOME AREAS, THE OVERALL AVAILABILITY AND QUALITY OF HEALTH SERVICES COULD NONETHELESS BE MAINTAINED, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON JOHN CHAMBERS TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT REVIEW CONDUCTED BY THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE SHORTFALL OF DOCTORS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN 1985 WAS 490 OUT OF A TOTAL REQUIREMENT OF 2 510.

HOWEVER, IT HAD TO BE STRESSED THAT THIS NUMBER ONLY REPRESENTED A SHORTFALL AS AGAINST A REQUIREMENT BASED ON PLANNING STANDARDS, HE SAID, IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM.

THERE WERE AT PRESENT 152 VACANCIES FOR DOCTORS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, OUT OF A TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT OF 2 162, REPRESENTING A VACANCY RATE OF SEVEN PER CENT.

THE VACANCIES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR MAINLY OCCURRED IN THE LESS POPULAR SPECIALITIES SUCH AS ANAESTHESIA AND PATHOLOGY, HE SAID.

MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO OVERCOME THE SHORTAGE INCLUDED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEDICAL FACULTY IN THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG WHICH WOULD PRODUCE ITS FIRST GROUP OF QUALIFIED DOCTORS IN 1987, AND OVERSEAS RECRUITMENT OF DOCTORS WHEN VACANCIES COULD NOT BE FILLED LOCALLY, PARTICULARLY IN SENIOR POSTS IN ANAESTHESIA, PATHOLOGY, +ENT+ AND DERMATOLOGY.

WITH REGARD TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAD CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS NO METHOD OF ADEQUATELY DETERMINING THE DEMAND FOR AND SHORTFALL OF DOCTORS THERE.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1936

- 12 -

VICE CONTROL UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW

\* \* \* \* \*

ISSUES RELATING TO FURTHER CONTROL OF VICE-ESTABLISHMENTS AND OBSCENE SIGNBOARDS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE KEPT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW BY THE CENTRAL FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE AND THE GOVERNMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, THE HON DONALD LIAO TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL, MR LIAO SAID, THE DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE REGULARLY MONITORED THE SITUATION ON VICE-ESTABLISHMENTS AND TRENDS, AND THE POLICE HAD CONTINUED TO CONDUCT RAIDS ON THESE ESTABLISHMENTS AS WELL AS PORNOGRAPHIC OUTLETS FROM TIME TO TIME.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON LEE YU-TAI ON STEPS TO IMPROVE THE +RED LIGHT DISTRICT+ OR +SUSIE WONG'S WORLD+ IMAGE OF WAN CHAI, MR LIAO SAID THE DISTRICT HAD, OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, GRADUALLY ACHIEVED A MORE POLISHED IMAGE.

+GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE PROBABLY SHARE THE SAME FEELING THAT THE 'SUSIE WONG'S WORLD' SHOULD EVENTALLY BE A TALE IN THE PAST,+ HE SAID.

+IN FACT THE SUSIE WONG-TYPE BARS HAVE GRADUALLY DECLINED IN VIEW OF URBAN RE-DEVELOPMENT AND DECREASING CUSTOMERS.

+MANY OF THE OLD FOUR-STOREY TENEMENT BUILDINGS, TRADITIONAL SITES OF THE SUSIE WONG-TYPE BARS, HAVE NOW DISAPPEARED.

+WITH THE END OF THE VIETNAM WAR 10 YEARS AGO, VISITS BY OLD CUSTOMERS, NAMELY SAILORS FROM THE U.S. NAVY ON REST AND RECREATION HAVE DECREASED,+ HE ADDED.

MR LIAO SAID THERE WERE ONLY 18 LICENSED BARS IN THE VICINITY OF LOCKHART ROAD AND THAT BUSINESSMEN WERE OPENING MORE DISCOS AND PUB-TYPE BARS FOR SOCIAL DRINKING IN RESPONSE TO A CHANGING DEMAND.

+GOVERNMENT IS NEVER COMPLACENT ABOUT TRANSFORMING THE IMAGE OF WAN CHAI INTO ONE WITH A MODERN OUTLOOK BOTH IN TERMS OF DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL AND ADEQUATE PROVISION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES,+ HE SAID.

MR LIAO POINTED OUT THAT ALL UNLICENSED MASSAGE PARLOURS IN THE DISTRICT HAD BEEN REMOVED AND THE 18 LICENSED ONES WERE SUBJECT TO LEGISLATIVE CONTROL. THE NUMBER OF VICE-ESTABLISHMENTS HAD ALSO DROPPED IN THE PAST THREE YEARS.

+THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD HAS ALSO ACCORDED PRIORITY TO ANTI-PORNOGRAPHIC EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS WHICH CONTRIBUTES TO IMPROVING THE IMAGE OF WAN CHAI THROUGH JOINT COMMUNITY EFFORT.+

/+OVERALL, THE .....

+OVERALL, THE IMAGE OF WAN CHAI IS CHANGING BEARING IN MIND THE DEVELOPMENT OF OLD SITES INTO HIGH-RISE COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS AND THE EXTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WAN CHAI RECLAMATION,+ HE SAID.

+THE INCREASE OF NEW COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL COMPLEXES, FOR EXAMPLE, THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, THE ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS, HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE, ETC., IS GIVING THE DISTRICT A MORE POLISHED IMAGE,+ HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

APPROVAL SEEN IN REVENUE PROPOSALS  
\* \* \*

CHANGES INCORPORATED INTO THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE UMEICO REVIEW PANEL, WOULD MEET WITH THE APPROVAL OF ALL RESPONSIBLE MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN PARTICULAR, AND OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AT LARGE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, SIR JOHN SAID THAT IT DIFFERED IN MANY RESPECTS FROM THE DRAFT BILL PUBLISHED IN JULY LAST YEAR WHICH CONTAINED A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS MADE IN HIS 1985 BUDGET SPEECH.

THESE PROPOSALS HAD SINCE BEEN SUBJECTED TO CLOSE SCRUTINY BY THE UMEICO AD-HOC INLAND REVENUE REVIEW PANEL WHICH HAD RECEIVED A LARGE NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIONS FROM INTERESTED PERSONS AND INSTITUTIONS.

THE ALTERATIONS TO THE EARLIER DRAFT BILL, HE SAID, RETAINED THE OVERALL PHILOSOPHY OF HIS BUDGET PROPOSALS.

SIR JOHN SAID THAT IN VIEW OF BOTH THE DETAILED EXAMINATION WHICH HAD BEEN MADE OF THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE BILL, AND OF THE INFORMATION ALREADY PROVIDED TO MEMBERS, HE DID NOT INTEND TO EXPAND FURTHER ON THEM.

BUT, REFERRING TO THE 1984 AMENDMENTS WHICH HAD BROUGHT INTO THE CHARGE TO PROFITS TAX SO CALLED +OFF SHORE+ INTEREST INCOME, SIR JOHN SAID THIS MATTER HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE UMEICO REVIEW PANEL.

SIR JOHN SAID: +ON THIS POINT THEY CONCLUDED THAT THE 1984 AMENDMENTS HAVE ERODED HONG KONG'S BASIC TAX PHILOSOPHY AND HAVE BREACHED THE TERRITORIAL SOURCE CRITERION.

+I HAVE GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE FINDINGS OF THE PANEL AND HAVE HELD USEFUL DISCUSSIONS ON THIS DIFFICULT ISSUE.

/+I STILL .....

+I STILL DO NOT ACCEPT THAT THE 1984 AMENDMENTS BREACH THE TERRITORIAL SOURCE RULE BUT BECAUSE OF DRAFTING DIFFICULTIES I ACCEPT THAT THEY MAY UNWITTINGLY HAVE INTRODUCED AN ELEMENT OF UNCERTAINTY INTO THIS MOST FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPT OF OUR TAXATION SYSTEM.

+THIS IS MOST UNDESIRABLE. PRACTICE NOTES ARE NOT A PROPER PALLIATIVE.

+I AM THEREFORE PREPARED IN PRINCIPLE TO CONSIDER APPROPRIATE AMENDMENTS TO ENSURE THAT THE TAXATION LAW CONTINUES TO BE SEEN TO BE APPLYING ONLY TO INCOME ARISING IN OR DERIVED FROM HONG KONG.

+AS SUCH AMENDMENTS MUST INVOLVE A VERY CONSIDERABLE COST TO THE REVENUE THE TIMING OF THEIR INTRODUCTION WILL DEPEND ON BUDGETARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

+I WILL ADDRESS THE ISSUE FURTHER IN MY BUDGET SPEECH.+  
DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PROTECTION FOR LANDOWNERS ON NEW MTR ROUTE  
\* \* \* \* \*

A BILL DESIGNED TO PROTECT LANDOWNERS WHO MAY BE AFFECTED BY THE EXTENSION OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY THROUGH THE NEW EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING WAS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS, THE HON NICKY CHAN, TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

KNOWN AS THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, IT EXTENDS COMPENSATION PROVISIONS UNDER THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE TO THE ROUTE OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING.

MR CHAN SAID: +PROVISIONS FOR COMPENSATION TO THE AFFECTED LANDOWNERS, AS THE LAW NOW STANDS, ONLY REFER TO THOSE SECTIONS OF THE MTR ALREADY COMPLETED OR UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

+FOR THESE PROVISIONS TO APPLY TO THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING IT IS PROPOSED TO ADD A REFERENCE TO THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING AND A DEFINITION OF THE PROJECT AT APPROPRIATE PLACES.

+ONCE THE AMENDMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE, ANY LANDOWNER ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE PROJECT WILL BE ENTITLED TO CLAIM COMPENSATION.+

MR CHAN ADDED THAT THE OPPORTUNITY HAD ALSO BEEN TAKEN TO TIDY UP A MINOR ANOMALY ARISING FROM AN AMENDMENT TO THE ORDINANCE IN 1983. AT THAT TIME THE WORDS +OR RIGHTS+ WERE ADDED TO SECTION SIX TO ENABLE THE GOVERNOR TO CREATE EASEMENTS IN THE RAILWAY AREA.

/HE SAID: .....

HE SAID: +THE SAME WORDS SHOULD, AT THE SAME TIME, HAVE BEEN ADDED TO SECTION THREE TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT RAILWAY AREA PLANS PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THAT SECTION SHOULD SHOW THE AREA WITHIN WHICH LAND MAY BE RESUMED OR EASEMENTS OR RIGHTS CREATED.

+IT IS NOW PROPOSED TO AMEND SECTION THREE TO REMEDY THE OVERSIGHT.+

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

+MUCH ACHIEVED IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING WORK+  
\* \* \* \*

THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING IN HONG KONG IN ITS THIRD YEAR OF OPERATION, THE HON S.L. CHEN SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

TABLING THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1984-85, MR CHEN QUOTED THE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, DR FRANCIS TIEN AS SAYING THAT 1984 WAS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL AND HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT YEAR FOR THE COUNCIL.

HE SAID THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR WAS THE COMPLETION OF THE KOWLOON BAY TRAINING CENTRE COMPLEX WITH FIVE TRAINING CENTRES.

THE KWAI CHUNG TRAINING CENTRE COMPLEX HOUSING SEVEN CENTRES WAS NEAR COMPLETION AT THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD, HE ADDED.

+WITH THE COMPLETION OF THESE MULTI-DISCIPLINE TRAINING CENTRE COMPLEXES, BUILT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF INDUSTRY, HONG KONG CAN BE JUSTLY PROUD OF THESE UNIQUE FACILITIES,+ MR CHEN SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ANOTHER MILESTONE WAS THE COMING INTO OPERATION DURING THE YEAR OF THE COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT CENTRE.

+THIS CENTRE HAS THE IMPORTANT TASK OF REMEDYING WEAKNESSES IN MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISORY TRAINING IN HONG KONG PIN-POINTED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION IN 1979,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT DURING THE YEAR THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALLOCATED LAND TO THE COUNCIL AT TAI LAM EAST IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TO BUILD A PERMANENT SEAMEN'S TRAINING CENTRE TO REPLACE THE TEMPORARY ONE AT LITTLE SAI WAN.

+THE GOVERNMENT FURTHER APPROVED THE COUNCIL'S PROPOSALS FOR A PRECISION TOOLING TRAINING CENTRE, A GAS INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE AND AN INSURANCE TRAINING CENTRE,+ MR CHEN SAID.

ON PROGRESS MADE IN TECHNICAL EDUCATION, MR CHEN SAID THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AT SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN HAD STARTED AND THE PLANNING WORK FOR ANOTHER ONE AT CHAI WAN WAS COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR.

+THE SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN INSTITUTES ARE SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN 1986 AND THE CHAI WAN INSTITUTE IN 1987,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

POPULATION BY-CENSUSES TO BE CONDUCTED  
\* \* \* \*

TWO POPULATION BY-CENSUSES WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT THIS YEAR, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

INTRODUCING THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS (1986 POPULATION CENSUS) (MARINE) ORDER 1986 AND CENSUS AND STATISTICS (1986 POPULATION CENSUS) (LAND) ORDER 1986, SIR JOHN SAID ON OCTOBER 25, 1983, THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL ORDERED THAT A POPULATION BY-CENSUS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED THIS YEAR.

THERE WOULD IN FACT BE TWO BY-CENSUSES, NAMELY, A BY-CENSUS (MARINE) TO BE CARRIED OUT FROM FEBRUARY 4 TO 8, 1986, AND A BY-CENSUS (LAND) TO BE CARRIED OUT FROM MARCH 7 TO 16, 1986, HE SAID.

SIR JOHN SAID THAT UNLIKE A FULL CENSUS, A BY-CENSUS INVOLVED ONLY A SAMPLE OF THE POPULATION.

+ON THIS OCCASION, ABOUT 210 000 HOUSEHOLDS WILL BE COVERED, OF WHICH ABOUT 1 000 WILL BE MARINE,+ HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

JURY OF NINE APPROVED  
\* \* \*

THE JURY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 WHICH PROVIDES FOR A JURY OF NINE TO BE EMPANELLED IN APPROPRIATE CASES WAS TAKEN THROUGH ALL ITS STAGES AT ONE SITTING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE READINGS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS SAID AT PRESENT THE JURY ORDINANCE PROVIDED FOR A JURY OF SEVEN IN BOTH CRIMINAL AND CIVIL CASES.

HOWEVER, DURING THE COURSE OF A TRIAL, UP TO TWO JURORS MIGHT BE DISCHARGED WHERE, IN THE INTERESTS OF JUSTICE OR OF THE JUROR, IT APPEARED TO THE COURT TO BE EXPEDIENT TO DO SO WITHOUT BRINGING THE TRIAL TO AN END.

/+THUS, A .....

+THUS, A JURY CONSISTING OF ONLY FIVE MAY STILL DELIVER AN EFFECTIVE VERDICT,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

MR THOMAS NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN INSTANCES WHERE TRIALS HAD HAD TO BE STOPPED AND STARTED AFRESH BEFORE A NEW JURY BECAUSE THE NUMBER OF JURORS HAD FALLEN FROM THE ORIGINAL SEVEN TO LESS THAN THE MINIMUM OF FIVE, DUE TO DEATH, ILLNESS, OR SOME OTHER CAUSES.

THE RISK THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT JURORS LEFT AT THE END OF THE TRIAL TO DELIVER A VERDICT WAS PARTICULARLY ACUTE IN THE CASE OF COMPLEX COMMERCIAL CASES WHICH COULD TAKE MANY MONTHS TO COMPLETE, HE SAID.

+IF THIS OCCURS, AND A NEW TRIAL WITH A NEW JURY HAS TO BE ORDERED, THE COST IN TIME, INCONVENIENCE AND MONEY TO THE PUBLIC PURSE, THE CROWN AND THE DEFENDING PARTIES, COULD BE VERY HIGH INDEED,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

MR THOMAS SAID DURING THE PRE-TRIAL REVIEW OF THE +CARRIAN+ CASE WHICH RAISED COMPLEX COMMERCIAL ISSUES, THE TRIAL JUDGE HAD SUGGESTED THAT A LARGER JURY THAN USUAL SHOULD IF POSSIBLE BE EMPANELLED FOR THE TRIAL IN CASE SOME OF THEM WERE TO DROP OUT BEFORE IT ENDED.

+THE TRIAL JUDGE'S SUGGESTION HAS SECURED THE SUPPORT OF ALL THE PARTIES TO THE CASE, BOTH PROSECUTION AND THE SEVERAL DEFENDANTS,+ HE SAID.

+JUDICIARY AS A WHOLE HAS ALSO WELCOMED THE SUGGESTION.+

THEY CONSIDERED THAT NOT ONLY SHOULD THE TRIAL JUDGE OF THE +CARRIAN+ CASE BE EMPOWERED TO EMPANEL A LARGER JURY THAN USUAL, BUT THAT THE COURTS SHOULD BE GIVEN A GENERAL POWER TO DO SO IN SIMILAR LONG CASES, HE SAID.

MR THOMAS SAID THE PROPOSAL HAD ALSO ATTRACTED THE SUPPORT OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

HE SAID THAT IF THE PROPOSAL WAS IMPLEMENTED, UP TO FOUR JURORS COULD BE DISCHARGED DURING THE COURSE OF A TRIAL WITHOUT AFFECTING THE POWER OF THE REMAINING JURORS TO DELIVER A LAWFUL VERDICT.

+IT IS NOT ANTICIPATED THAT JUDGES WILL EXERCISE THIS POWER TO EMPANEL NINE JURORS EXCEPT IN HEAVY CASES WHICH ARE LIKELY TO TAKE A LONG TIME TO TRY,+ MR THOMAS NOTED.

EXPLAINING THE REASON FOR PASSING THE BILL THROUGH ALL ITS STAGES IN ONE SITTING, MR THOMAS SAID IT WAS DESIRED ON ALL SIDE THAT THE TRIAL JUDGE OF THE +CARRIAN+ CASE WHICH IS DUE TO COMMENCE ON FEBRUARY 24 SHOULD BE GIVEN THE POWER TO EMPANEL NINE JURORS IF NECESSARY THEREAFTER AND TO DISCHARGE MORE THAN TWO WITHOUT FRUSTRATING ITS OUTCOME.

+IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THAT, THIS LEGISLATION HAS TO BE ENACTED IN TIME FOR THE TRIAL,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

MR THOMAS ALSO MOVED AN AMENDMENT TO THE BILL AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE TO REMOVE DOUBTS CONCERNING THE MEANING OF A PARTICULAR PHRASE THAT MIGHT BE OPEN TO MISUNDERSTANDING.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BILLS PROPOSED TO UPDATE LAW ON DAMAGES  
\* \* \* \*

TWO BILLS SEEKING TO UPDATE THE LAW CONCERNING DAMAGES FOR PERSONAL INJURY AND DEATH WERE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE LAW AMENDMENT AND REFORM (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 AND THE FATAL ACCIDENTS BILL 1986, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID THE MEASURES PROPOSED IN THESE TWO BILLS WERE CLOSELY INTER-RELATED.

HE SAID THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT OF OUR COURT OF APPEAL IN RELATION TO ONE PROBLEM COMMENTED THAT THE STATE OF THE LAW HAD BEEN REGARDED WITH DISTASTE BY SEVERAL JUDGES.

+REFORMS WERE INTRODUCED TO VERY SIMILAR LEGISLATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1982,+ MR THOMAS NOTED.

IN THE SAME YEAR, THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION WAS ASKED BY THE FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL AND BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE TO REPORT ON WHETHER HONG KONG SHOULD ADOPT THE SAME AMENDMENTS AS THOSE INTRODUCED INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM STATUTES, AND WHETHER THERE WERE ANY OTHER CHANGES NECESSARY.

MR THOMAS SAID: +THESE BILLS ARE THE RESULT OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ENTITLED 'DAMAGES FOR PERSONAL INJURY AND DEATH' PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 1985.

+THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE TWO BILLS SEEK TO IMPLEMENT THEM.

+IN SOME RESPECTS THEY FOLLOW THE UNITED KINGDOM CHANGES, BUT IN OTHERS THEY APPLY UNIQUE SOLUTIONS TO HONG KONG'S PARTICULAR PROBLEMS.+

MR THOMAS CONTINUED: +FIRST, THE TWO BILLS TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF 'WINDFALL' DAMAGES.

+THE POSSIBILITY OF 'WINDFALL' DAMAGES OR DUPLICATED AWARDS AT PRESENT OCCURS WHEN AN INJURED PERSON DIES. HIS ESTATE THEN HAS THE RIGHT TO THE BENEFIT OF ANY CLAIM HE HAD FOR DAMAGES FOR HIS INJURY, BUT AT THE SAME TIME HIS DEPENDANTS ALSO HAVE A RIGHT TO A CLAIM FOR THEIR LOSSES.

/+IF THE .....

+IF THE BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE ESTATE ARE NOT ALSO DEPENDANTS, THIS CAN MEAN THAT THE DEFENDANT PAYS TWICE.+

MR THOMAS SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WERE AT PRESENT PROVISIONS IN THE LAW THAT IF A PARTY WAS ENTITLED TO AN AWARD UNDER BOTH ORDINANCES HE SHOULD ONLY RECEIVE THE HIGHER OF THEM, IT WAS POSSIBLE AS A RESULT OF A SERIES OF DECISIONS IN THE COURTS THAT WHERE THERE WAS MORE THAN ONE BENEFICIARY, A DEFENDANT WILL HAVE TO PAY MORE IN TOTAL UNDER A COMBINATION OF AWARDS UNDER BOTH ORDINANCES THAN HE WOULD UNDER EITHER ONE ALONE.

HE SAID: +THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION CONCLUDED THAT THESE PROBLEMS RESULTED FROM THE WAY IN WHICH AWARDS MAKE PROVISION FOR LOSS OF FUTURE SAVINGS, AND THE BILLS INTRODUCE A NEW FORMULA BASED ON THE DECEASED'S ACTUAL SAVINGS RECORD. THIS SHOULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM IN FUTURE.+

MR THOMAS CONTINUED: +SECONDLY, THE BILLS ABOLISH SOME OUTDATED PROVISIONS IN THE PRESENT LAW AND REPLACE THEM WITH NEW REMEDIES. THE MAJOR ONE IS AN AWARD OF \$40 000 AS DAMAGES FOR BEREAVEMENT WHICH WILL BE PAID TO THE CLOSE RELATIONS OF A DECEASED PERSON.

+WHERE A PERSON'S INJURIES REDUCE HIS ABILITY TO GIVE HIS CLOSE RELATIVES THE BENEFIT OF HIS SOCIETY COMPENSATION OF UP TO \$40 000 CAN BE AWARDED.

+IF AN INJURED OR DECEASED PERSON RENDERED GRATUITOUS SERVICES TO CERTAIN RELATIONS BEFORE THE ACCIDENT, COMPENSATION CAN BE AWARDED FOR HIS LOSS OF ABILITY TO RENDER THOSE SERVICE,+ HE SAID.

THIRDLY, HE SAID, +THE BILLS PROPOSE THAT THE RANGE OF DEPENDANTS WHO CAN MAKE A CLAIM FOR DAMAGES RESULTING FROM ANY PERSON'S DEATH CAUSED BY A WRONGFUL ACT, NEGLIGENCE OR DEFAULT, BE EXTENDED TO COVER PERSONS OF MORE DISTANT RELATIONS THAN HITHERTO, SUCH AS GREAT UNCLES AND AUNTS, GREAT-GRANDPARENTS, GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN, GODCHILDREN AND GODPARENTS ACCORDING TO CHINESE CUSTOM, AND UNMARRIED CO-HABITEES, AS LONG AS THEY HAVE LIVED TOGETHER FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS.+

+THE SAME RANGE OF DEPENDANTS WILL APPLY TO THE CLAIM FOR LOSS OF THE ABILITY TO RENDER SERVICES GRATUITOUSLY,+ HE NOTED.

MR THOMAS ADDED: +FOURTHLY, THERE IS A NEW PROVISION FOR THE COURTS TO MAKE PROVISIONAL ORDERS FOR DAMAGES WHERE THE EXTENT OF INJURY OR DISABILITY CANNOT BE FINALLY ASSESSED AT THE TIME OF THE COURT PROCEEDINGS.

+LASTLY THERE IS A PROPOSAL TO ABOLISH THE ARCHAIC REMEDIES WHICH ALLOW AN EMPLOYER TO SUE A PERSON WHO DEPRIVES HIM OF THE SERVICES OF A MENIAL SERVANT BY RAPING OR SEDUCING OR ENTICING HER. I CAN RECALL NO INSTANCE OF THEIR BEING USED IN RECENT YEARS,+ MR THOMAS SAID.

DEBATE ON THE BILLS WAS ADJOURNED.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1986

- 20 -

BILL AIMS TO REMOVE ANOMALY  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE PURPOSE OF THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 WAS TO REMOVE AN ANOMALY EXISTING IN RELATION TO INTEREST ON AWARDS MADE BY THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON MICHAEL THOMAS SAID TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR THOMAS SAID THAT THE CHIEF JUSTICE HAD POWER TO MAKE RULES UNDER THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL ORDINANCE (CAP. 25) TO PRESCRIBE THE RATE OF INTEREST ON AN AWARD IN THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL ON THE AMOUNT CLAIMED FOR ALL OR PART OF THE PERIOD FROM THE DATE WHEN THE CAUSE OF ACTION AROSE TO THE DATE OF THE AWARD.

AN AWARD DID NOT, HOWEVER, CARRY INTEREST THEREAFTER UNLESS AN ORDER WAS MADE UNDER SECTION 39(3) OF THE LABOUR ORDINANCE BY THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL.

+BECAUSE THE PARTIES IN THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL DO NOT HAVE LEGAL REPRESENTATION, THEY ARE USUALLY UNAWARE OF THE NEED TO ASK FOR SUCH AN ORDER.

+IF THE TRIBUNAL ITSELF OVERLOOKS THE MATTER, AND IT MAKES NO ORDER, A SUCCESSFUL CLAIMANT RECEIVES NO INTEREST ON THE JUDGMENT DEBT AFTER THE DATE WHEN THE AWARD IS MADE.

+IT WILL NOT BE UNTIL THE CLAIMANT REGISTERS HIS AWARD IN THE DISTRICT COURT, THAT INTEREST WILL START TO RUN AGAIN AS FROM THE DATE OF REGISTRATION,+ HE SAID.

THE BILL NOW PROVIDES FOR AN AWARD TO CARRY INTEREST AUTOMATICALLY FROM THE DATE WHEN IT IS MADE BY THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL AT A RATE TO BE PRESCRIBED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

+IT WILL THUS OBTIATE THE NEED FOR THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL TO MAKE AN ORDER.

+THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE DATE OF AWARD AND THE DATE OF REGISTRATION OF SUCH AWARD IN THE DISTRICT COURT,+ HE SAID.

DEBATE ON THIS BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

----- 0 -----

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1986

- 21 -

SPECIAL SUSPENSE ACCOUNT APPROVED

\* \* \* \*

A RESOLUTION SEEKING TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL SUSPENSE ACCOUNT TO BE KNOWN AS THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES INDUSTRIES SPECIAL SUSPENSE ACCOUNT FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATING THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES INDUSTRIES WAS ADOPTED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE RESOLUTION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID THE ACCOUNT WOULD NOT AT ANY TIME BE IN DEBT TO AN AMOUNT EXCEEDING \$40 MILLION WITHOUT THE FURTHER AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BEING OBTAINED.

SIR JOHN SAID THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT OPERATED A NUMBER OF INDUSTRIES TO KEEP INMATES PURPOSEFULLY OCCUPIED.

HE SAID: +THE GOODS AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE INDUSTRIES ARE SUPPLIED TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AT THE COST OF MATERIALS USED AND TO SEMI-GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS AT MARKET PRICES DECIDED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, PROVIDED THAT AT LEAST THE COST OF MATERIALS USED IS RECOVERED.

+PAYMENTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF INDUSTRIES MATERIALS ARE CURRENTLY CHARGED TO THE GROSS PROVISION UNDER HEAD 30 CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT SUBHEAD 236 CORRECTIONAL SERVICES INDUSTRIES MATERIALS WHICH HAS A CREDIT ITEM TO FACILITATE THE RECOVERY OF THE COST OF MATERIALS FROM CLIENT DEPARTMENTS AND ORGANISATIONS.

+RECOVERIES ABOVE THE COST OF MATERIALS ARE CREDITED TO GENERAL REVENUE.

+THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE GROSS PROVISION AND THE CREDIT ENTRIES IS THE NET PROVISION FOR THE SUBHEAD.+

AS WITH UNALLOCATED STORES CONTROLLED BY THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES, SIR JOHN SAID THE NET PROVISION MIGHT BE TEMPORARILY EXCEEDED FOR OPERATIONAL REASONS AND CONTINGENCIES WARRANTS HAD TO BE ISSUED BY HIM TO AUTHORISE SUCH EXCESS PAYMENTS.

+IN LINE WITH THE PROPOSAL FOR UNALLOCATED STORES, IT IS THEREFORE PROPOSED TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL SUSPENSE ACCOUNT UNDER SECTION 31 OF THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATING THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES INDUSTRIES,+ HE SAID.

SIR JOHN SAID ALL PAYMENTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF MATERIALS FOR THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES INDUSTRIES WOULD BE DEBITED TO THE ACCOUNT AND ALL PAYMENTS MADE BY CLIENT DEPARTMENTS AND ORGANISATIONS (EXCLUDING RECOVERIES ABOVE THE COST OF MATERIALS USED) FOR THE GOODS AND SERVICES SUPPLIED BY THE INDUSTRIES WOULD BE CREDITED TO THE ACCOUNT.

+THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE DEBIT AND CREDIT ENTRIES WILL REPRESENT THE STOCK BALANCE, OR THE LEVEL OF INDEBTEDNESS.

+RECOVERIES ABOVE THE COST OF MATERIALS USED WILL CONTINUE TO BE CREDITED TO GENERAL REVENUE,+ HE ADDED.

SPECIAL FUND ON ALLOCATED STORES

\* \* \* \*

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ADOPTED A MOTION TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL SUSPENSE ACCOUNT UNDER THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE FOR THE PURCHASE OF UNALLOCATED STORES BY THE GOVERNMENT.

MOVING THE MOTION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES PURCHASED UNALLOCATED STORES WHICH WERE HELD IN STOCK PENDING SUBSEQUENT SALE OR ISSUE TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE ECONOMIES OF BULK PURCHASE AND TO ENSURE UNINTERRUPTED SUPPLIES TO DEPARTMENTS.

+THESE INITIAL PAYMENTS ARE CURRENTLY CHARGED TO THE GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT HEAD OF EXPENDITURE, AND PAYMENTS MADE BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ON ISSUE TO THEM OF UNALLOCATED STORES ARE OFFSET AGAINST THIS EXPENDITURE.

+FUNDS ARE APPROPRIATED ANNUALLY FROM GENERAL REVENUE TO COVER THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE CREDITS AND DEBITS AT THE END OF A FINANCIAL YEAR, REPRESENTING ADDITIONS TO STOCK AND SALES TO SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS, THE PROCEEDS OF WHICH ARE CREDITED TO GENERAL REVENUE,+ HE SAID.

THE DISADVANTAGES OF THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS ARE:

- \* FIRST, THEY ARE UNNECESSARILY INFLEXIBLE, SINCE THEY PROVIDE NO AUTHORITY FOR THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CREDITS AND DEBITS TEMPORARILY TO EXCEED DURING THE COURSE OF A YEAR THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED TO COVER THIS DIFFERENCE, AND
- \* NO USEFUL PURPOSE IS SERVED BY APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO COVER EXPENDITURE WHICH WILL IN DUE COURSE BE OFFSET BY PAYMENTS FROM SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

+SECTION 30(1) OF THE PUBLIC FINANCE ORDINANCE PROVIDES THAT A SPECIAL SUSPENSE ACCOUNT MAY BE ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSES OF ANY COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY CARRIED ON BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT.

+I THEREFORE PROPOSE THAT THESE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE REPLACED, WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1, 1986, BY A SPECIAL SUSPENSE ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION,+ HE SAID.

THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE RESOLUTION AND THE ACCOUNT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

/\* INITIAL PAYMENTS .....

- 23 -

- \* INITIAL PAYMENTS FOR UNALLOCATED STORES WILL BE CHARGED TO THE ACCOUNT, AND PAYMENTS MADE BY SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ON ISSUE TO THEM OF SUCH STORES WILL BE CREDITED TO IT;
- \* THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE CREDITS AND DEBITS WILL REPRESENT THE STOCK IN HAND, OR THE LEVEL OF INDEBTEDNESS. THIS DEBT WILL BE A CHARGE TO THE GENERAL REVENUE BALANCE, SO CLAUSE 6 PROVIDES THAT THE AMOUNT OF SUCH DEBT SHOULD NOT EXCEED \$200 MILLION. THIS LIMIT IS SET AT A LEVEL ADEQUATE FOR SEVERAL YEARS OPERATION OF THE ACCOUNT TO AVOID THE NEED FOR REGULAR APPROACHES TO THIS COUNCIL TO REVISE IT. CLAUSE 6 ALSO PROVIDES THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY MAY SET A LOWER LIMIT IN THE MEANTIME TO ENSURE PROPER CONTROL, AND
- \* AS INITIAL PAYMENTS FOR UNALLOCATED STORES WILL BE MADE FROM PUBLIC MONEYS, CLAUSE 5 PROVIDES FOR THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO LIMIT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF SUCH PAYMENTS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### LEGCO DEALS WITH SIX BILLS

\* \* \* \*

THE JURY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 WAS PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

FIVE OTHER BILLS -- THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, THE LAW AMENDMENT AND REFORM (CONSOLIDATION)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1986, THE FATAL ACCIDENTS BILL 1986 AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 -- WERE READ A SECOND TIME AND DEBATE ON THEM WERE ADJOURNED.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED TO FEBRUARY 5.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1986

- 24 -

GOVERNOR TO VISIT LONDON

\*\*\*

THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, WILL BE VISITING LONDON IN THE MIDDLE OF FEBRUARY.

THIS VISIT WILL BE ONE IN THE SERIES OF HIS REGULAR CONSULTATIONS WITH MINISTERS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS ON MATTERS OF CURRENT INTEREST.

THE GOVERNOR WILL LEAVE FOR LONDON ON THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 8 AND RETURN OVER THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND.

----- 0 -----

AG TO MEET MEDIA

\*\*\*

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR MICHAEL THOMAS, WILL MEET MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES IN HIS CHAMBERS AT THE NEWLY COMPLETED QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 31) AT 4.30 PM.

BEFORE THE SESSION, MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA WILL BE SHOWN ROUND THE NEW OFFICES OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT.

-----

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING THE SESSION SHOULD ASSEMBLE ON THE DECK FLOOR OF THE QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, AT 3.55 PM ON FRIDAY.

----- 0 -----

JACOBS BRIEFED ON TDC WORK

\*\*\*

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY (DESIGNATE), MR PIERS JACOBS TODAY VISITED THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AS PART OF A SERIES OF BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS BEFORE TAKING UP HIS NEW POST LATER IN THE YEAR.

TDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MR JACK SO BRIEFED MR JACOBS ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE COUNCIL'S WORK WORLDWIDE -- FROM TRADE PROMOTIONS TO LOBBYING EFFORTS AGAINST PROTECTIONISM.

MR JACOBS ALSO HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER SENIOR PERSONNEL ON PROBLEMS BEING FACED IN VARIOUS MARKETS.

TOMORROW MR JACOBS WILL VISIT THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, AND ALSO THE TEMPORARY HONG KONG-CHINA FERRY PIER IN CENTRAL AND THE NEW MACAU FERRY TERMINAL.

----- 0 -----

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1986

- 25 -

CONSULAR OFFICERS VISIT CENTRE  
\* \* \* \*

A GROUP OF CONSULAR OFFICERS AND THEIR WIVES VISITED THE ABERDEEN REHABILITATION CENTRE TODAY TO SEE WORK BEING DONE FOR THE DISABLED.

OPENED IN 1964, THE CENTRE HAS PLACES FOR ABOUT 250 DISABLED PERSONS AGED 16 AND ABOVE. IT OFFERS RESIDENTIAL AND SUPPORTING SERVICES, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, AND A SHELTERED WORKSHOP.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PRESS CONFERENCE  
\* \* \*

A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE 'SUPPLEMENT TO THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE SCHEME' WILL BE HELD AT 2.15 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, 5/F, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL.

THE CONFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SCHEME, MR ANDREW SO; THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID, MR MICHAEL TURNBULL WHO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE AND THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR RICHARD BURN.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

6 BOE MEMBERS VISIT COLLEGE OF EDUCATION  
\* \* \* \* \*

FIVE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION VISITED THE SHA TIN ANNEXE OF SIR ROBERT BLACK COLLEGE OF EDUCATION TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY WERE MR DAVID CHEUNG, PROFESSOR B.L. COOKE, DR JOHN CHEN, MR TIMOTHY HA AND MRS PEGGY LAM. THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (FURTHER), MR ROBERT LO.

/THE PARTY .....

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1986

- 26 -

THE PARTY WAS TOLD BY THE PRINCIPAL OF THE COLLEGE, DR KONG YUN-FUN, THAT THE SHA TIN ANNEXE WAS OPENED IN NOVEMBER 1983 TO CATER FOR THE EXPANSION OF TEACHER EDUCATION.

THE COLLEGE AND ITS SHA TIN ANNEXE OFFERED TWO-YEAR AND THREE-YEAR FULL-TIME COURSES TO 900 STUDENTS, DR KONG SAID, ADDING THAT THE ANNEXE ALSO PROVIDED TWO-YEAR PART-TIME IN-SERVICE COURSES FOR TEACHERS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MORE VEHICLE DEPOTS PLANNED  
\* \* \* \*

THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL BUILD FOUR MORE MODERN VEHICLE DEPOTS SIMILAR TO THE KWAI CHUNG VEHICLE DEPOT IN FOUR OTHER DISTRICTS IN THE NON-URBAN AREAS, THE DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL SERVICES, MR TONY HAMMOND, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

EACH DEPOT WILL HAVE THE FULL RANGE OF DAILY MAINTENANCE FACILITIES, INCLUDING PROPER WASHING AND CLEANSING EQUIPMENT, AIR AND WATER POINTS, REFUELING, QUICK REPAIR FACILITIES, AND PURPOSE-BUILT SERVICES AND REPAIR BAYS FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE.

THEY ARE BEING PLANNED FOR SAI KUNG, SHA TIN, TAI PO AND YUEN LONG.

SPEAKING AT THE 1985 ACCIDENT FREE CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION CEREMONY, MR HAMMOND SAID, "THESE FACILITIES WILL NO DOUBT IMPROVE THE ROADWORTHINESS OF OUR VEHICLES AND CONTRIBUTE TO KEEPING DOWN THE NUMBER OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS."

MR HAMMOND NOTED THAT THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS INVOLVING RSD VEHICLES FELL NINE PER CENT IN 1985 AS COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

ALTOGETHER, 22 RSD DRIVERS WERE AWARDED CERTIFICATES FOR FIVE YEARS AND 64 DRIVERS FOR THREE YEARS WITHOUT AN ACCIDENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/27 .....

CAMPAIGN AGAINST LITTERING ALONG WATERCOURSES  
\* \* \* \* \*

A CAMPAIGN TO REMIND RESIDENTS OF THE PROBLEM OF LITTERING AND ITS ILL EFFECTS ON RIVERS AND STREAMS WILL BE LAUNCHED FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) BY THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE.

THE CAMPAIGN INVOLVES THE DISTRIBUTION OF POSTERS AND LEAFLETS WHICH EXPLAIN THE NEED FOR PROPER WASTE DISPOSAL, WITH THE EMPHASIS ON HEALTH HAZARDS AND THE EFFECTS OF LITTERING ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

THE POSTERS WILL BE DISPLAYED IN PROMINENT LOCATIONS IN THE DISTRICT INCLUDING VILLAGE OFFICES, PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AND SCHOOLS, WHILE THE LEAFLETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH STUDENTS ALONG THE MAIN RIVERS OF THE DISTRICT.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE, MR LAW CHAK-TONG, SAID THE RIVERS SUCH AS THE INDUS, THE BEAS AND THE GANGES ALL FORMED PART OF AN INTEGRAL WATERCOURSE SYSTEM IN THE DISTRICT.

+MORE THAN A TONNE OF REFUSE IS CLEARED FROM THE WATERCOURSES EACH DAY WHICH SHOULD, IN FACT, BE COLLECTED FROM THE NEARBY REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS.

+VILLAGERS WHO HAVE PROBLEMS IN DISCARDING REFUSE SUCH AS ANIMAL CARCASSES COULD CONTACT THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR HELP, + HE SAID.

MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WILL LATER VISIT LITTER BLACKSPOTS TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO SHOW INTEREST IN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

COMMITTEE MEETINGS OPEN TO PUBLIC  
\* \* \*

KOWLOON CITY RESIDENTS INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT DISTRICT AFFAIRS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS OF THE THREE COMMITTEES OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD.

THE MEETINGS ARE HELD AT 2.15 PM ON THURSDAYS IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE AT 141 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD, TO KWA WAN.

THOSE WISHING TO ATTEND THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT ON 3-7110171 TO MAKE RESERVATIONS.

THE DATES OF THE COMING THREE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1986

- 28 -

- \* ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE, JANUARY 30 (THURSDAY);
- \* COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE, FEBRUARY 6 (THURSDAY), AND
- \* TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE, FEBRUARY 13 (THURSDAY).

AT THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW (THURSDAY), MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE JOINT DEPARTMENTAL TIDY-UP EXERCISE AND THE PROVISION OF STREET LIGHTS AT HO KAR YUEN, LAI CHI YUEN AND HAU WONG TEMPLE NEW VILLAGES NEAR JUNCTION ROAD.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES IN 1986-87, MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES IN GARDENS AND PLAYGROUNDS AND WORKS ON THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM OF TO KWA WAN RECLAMATION.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETINGS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BOARD TO DISCUSS BROADCASTING REPORT

\* \* \* \*

MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL MEET TOMORROW (THURSDAY) TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS SET OUT IN THE REPORT OF THE BROADCASTING REVIEW BOARD.

MEMBERS WILL PROPOSE PLANS FOR THE FORTHCOMING FINANCIAL YEAR AND CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS IN FUTURE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES. THEY WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENTS OF MEMBERS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE THE REVIEW OF PROGRESS REPORTS FROM VARIOUS COMMITTEES OF THE DISTRICT BOARD.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE FIRST FLOOR, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/29 .....

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1986

- 29 -

RESTRICTED ZONES SET UP

\* \* \* \*

THE LAY-BY ON THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF LUNG CHEUNG ROAD AT A POINT ABOUT 300 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH HAMMER HILL ROAD WILL BE MADE A RESTRICTED ZONE FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY, WITH EFFECT FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 31).

NO VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONES.

FROM 10 AM ON FEBRUARY 1, THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS ON SAI LAU KOK ROAD, TSUEN WAN WILL BE DESIGNATED 24-HOUR DAILY PUBLIC LIGHT BUS (PLB) RESTRICTED ZONES:

- \* SAI LAU KOK ROAD WESTBOUND BETWEEN ITS JUNCTIONS WITH TAI HO ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD;
- \* SAI LAU KOK ROAD EASTBOUND FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH CASTLE PEAK ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 90 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH MEI WAN STREET; AND
- \* SAI LAU KOK ROAD EASTBOUND FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH TAI HO ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 130 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH MEI WAN STREET.

WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONES, NO PLB'S WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS.

MEANWHILE, THE EXISTING 24-HOUR PLB RESTRICTED ZONE ON SAI LAU KOK ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTIONS WITH CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND TAI HO ROAD WILL BE LIFTED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SALT WATER CUT IN NORTH POINT

\* \* \*

SALT WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN NORTH POINT WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 1) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE BOUNDED BY KING'S ROAD, LAU SIN STREET, HING FAT STREET, WHITFIELD ROAD, ELECTRIC ROAD AND MERLIN STREET, INCLUDING WATSON ROAD.

- - - - 0 - - - -