



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1974

## LEGAL AID FOR TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS SELFISHNESS OF EYEWITNESSES BLAMED FOR LOW APPROVAL RATE \* \* \* \* \*

ABOUT HALF THE NUMBER OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS WHO APPLY FOR LEGAL AID TO OBTAIN DAMAGES OR COMPENSATION ARE UNABLE TO GET IT BECAUSE OF THE SELFISH ATTITUDE OF SOME PEOPLE WHO DO NOT WANT +TO GET INVOLVED+.

THIS +HUMAN TRAGEDY+, THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID, MR. D.F. O'REILLY MAYNE, SAID COULD BE PREVENTED IF ONLY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WITNESS ACCIDENTS WOULD COME FORWARD TO GIVE EVIDENCE AS TO THE CAUSES.

BY PERSISTING IN THEIR ATTITUDE NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN OTHER PEOPLE'S AFFAIRS AND, ABOVE ALL, IN NOT WISHING TO GIVE EVIDENCE IN COURT, THESE PEOPLE ARE OFTEN DOING UNTOLD HARM TO THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS, HE REMARKED.

+MONEY CAN NEVER COMPENSATE FOR THE LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE, OR INDEED, FOR ANY SERIOUS INJURY,+ HE SAID, +BUT IN PRACTICAL TERMS AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY A MODICUM OF COMPENSATION CAN MAKE A GREAT DEAL OF DIFFERENCE TO THOSE WHO SEE THEMSELVES AS THE FORGOTTEN ONES IN OUR SOCIETY.+

MR. O'REILLY MAYNE SAID THOUGHT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO A MASSIVE PROGRAMME OF EDUCATION TO EXPLAIN TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHY THEY SHOULD, IN SUCH CASES, COME FORWARD AND STATE WHAT THEY SAW IN RELATION TO ACCIDENTS.

BUT HE FELT THAT PERHAPS THE BEST EDUCATION FOR THEM WOULD BE TO SPEND A FEW HOURS IN THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT. +ONE LOOK AT THE DESPAIRING EYES OF A CRIPPLE, CONDEMNED TO EKE OUT HIS LIFE WITHOUT ANY POSSIBLE LEGAL REDRESS, IS PROBABLY THE VERY BEST EDUCATION THAT ONE CAN ENVISAGE. IT IS HEART-BREAKING.

+A LIFE OF PAIN WITH FEW, IF ANY, CREATURE COMFORTS IS HARD TO FACE= BUT THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS ON THE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD PEOPLES OF HONG KONG OF HAVING TO EXIST ON +HAND-OUTS+ FROM GOVERNMENT OR FROM THE RELATIVES AND CLANSMEN IS DISASTROUS.

+OUR POPULATION DESERVES AND NEEDS A MODICUM OF HUMAN DIGNITY. THIS ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT IS, IN MANY CASES, GONE FOREVER WHEN VICTIMS BECOME PERMANENTLY DEPENDENT ON CHARITY.+

/HE EMPHASIZED .....

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HE EMPHASIZED THAT HIS DEPARTMENT WAS IN NO WAY SEEKING BIASED OR FALSE EVIDENCE. +WE ONLY WANT TO OBTAIN FROM WITNESSES THE CORRECT DATA RELEVANT TO THE CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS. IF WE CAN OBTAIN MERELY THIS, THEN ALL PARTIES WILL BENEFIT.+

MOST TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS, HE SAID, WERE DUE PARTLY TO THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE OWNER OR DRIVER OF THE VEHICLE CONCERNED, AND PARTLY TO THE NEGLIGENCE OF PEDESTRIANS.

+BUT EVEN IF THE VICTIM IS LARGELY BUT NOT WHOLLY TO BLAME FOR THE ACCIDENT, IT IS STILL POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN SOME COMPENSATION FOR HIM. HOWEVER, THERE MUST BE EVIDENCE OF SOME NEGLIGENCE ON THE PART OF THE PROPOSED DEFENDANT,+ HE SAID, POINTING OUT THAT THIS EVIDENCE COULD SURELY BE OBTAINED IN MANY CASES IF ONLY MORE PEOPLE WOULD WILLINGLY COME FORWARD TO GIVE THEIR EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT OF THE INCIDENTS.

OTHER THAN TRAFFIC ACCIDENT CASES, THE DEPARTMENT GENERALLY HAS BEEN ABLE TO PROCESS APPLICATIONS MORE SATISFACTORILY.

SIGNIFICANTLY, APPLICANTS - WHO IN THE PAST WERE MOSTLY REFERRED TO THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT BY OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS - NOW, FOR THE MOST PART, THEY COME DIRECT.

+GENERALLY SPEAKING, THEIR EXPECTATIONS ARE BEING BETTER MET, AND WITH GREATER EXPEDITION THAN BEFORE,+ MR. O'REILLY MAYNE SAID.

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#### EXPRESS MAIL SERVICE

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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE EXPRESS LETTER SERVICE, EXCLUDING PARCELS, WILL BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FROM MONDAY (AUGUST 5).

THE EXPRESS SERVICE IS NOW AVAILABLE TO 56 COUNTRIES. FULL DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE AT ANY POST OFFICE OR FROM THE POST OFFICE ENQUIRY BUREAU ON TELEPHONE 5-247116.

MEANWHILE, THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE DELIVERY OF MAIL ON MONDAY (AUGUST 5) WHICH IS A GENERAL HOLIDAY.

HOWEVER, FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE PUBLIC 32 POST OFFICES IN HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE OPEN IN THE MORNING BETWEEN 9 A.M. AND 12 NOON. THESE WILL INCLUDE THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, THE KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE AND THE TSIN SHA TSUI POST OFFICE.

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FIRST GRADUATES OF DAY-RELEASE CONSTRUCTION TECHNICIANS COURSE  
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TWENTY-SEVEN CONSTRUCTION TECHNICIANS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THEIR FOUR-YEAR, PART-TIME DAY-RELEASE COURSE AT THE MORRISON HILL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.

THESE TECHNICIANS, ALL SPONSORED AND EMPLOYED BY LOCAL CONSTRUCTION FIRMS, ARE THE FIRST BATCH TO GRADUATE FROM THE COURSE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

THE PROVISION OF THE CONSTRUCTION TECHNICIANS' COURSE WAS RECOMMENDED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN A PAPER ON "PROPOSED MODERN APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME FOR HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIES" IN APRIL 1970.

+THIS PROPOSAL GAINED STRONG SUPPORT FROM LOCAL CONTRACTORS WHO WERE WILLING TO RELEASE THEIR APPRENTICES TO ATTEND CLASSES FOR ONE DAY AND TWO EVENINGS A WEEK DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS COVERED IN THE FOUR-YEAR COURSE INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY, QUANTITY SURVEYING, SITE SURVEYING, PRINCIPLES OF STRUCTURES, SANITATION AND SERVICES, AS WELL AS PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS SUCH AS THE WOOD, TROWEL, PLUMBING AND PAINTING TRADES.

+WITH THE COMPLETION OF TWO MORE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES NEXT YEAR, IT IS HOPED THAT MORE INDUSTRIALISTS WILL SUPPORT THEIR APPRENTICES TO ATTEND PART-TIME DAY-RELEASE COURSES.

+THIS IS CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE MOST SUITABLE FORMS OF TRAINING FOR BOTH TECHNICIAN AND CRAFT STUDENTS BECAUSE IT SUCCESSFULLY COMBINES ON-THE-JOB INDUSTRIAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE WITH RELATED TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN INSTITUTES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THE 27 GRADUATES WILL BE CELEBRATING THEIR GRADUATION AT A DINNER AT THE FURAMA HOTEL ON AUGUST 8.

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DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE TO OFFICIATE  
HONG KONG JUVENILE CARE CENTRE SPEECH DAY  
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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE 1973/74 SPEECH DAY CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG JUVENILE CARE CENTRE AT 5.15 P.M. ON TUESDAY (AUGUST 6).

MRS. LEE WILL PRESENT PRIZES AND CERTIFICATES TO THE CHILDREN AND GRADUATES.

THE HONG KONG JUVENILE CARE CENTRE IS LOCATED IN LOWER ALBERT ROAD.

COPIES OF MR. LEE'S SPEECH WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH G.I.S. THAT DAY.