



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Monday, April 12, 1976

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DECISION ON RENT INCREASE FOR GROUP B SHOPS UNCHANGED

GOVERNMENT SAYS "NO" TO SHOPKEEPERS' PETITION

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The Colonial Secretary, in his reply to a group of shopkeepers who petitioned the Governor last Friday, says that the Housing Authority's decision to introduce a small rent increase to Group B shops on month-to-month tenancies from April 1 is to stand.

"There can be no question of delaying the increase or varying the amount of the increase," he added.

The letter said that the increase has had the full support of the Government and that in cash terms, for about 92 per cent of the shop tenancies, operators have only to pay an extra \$10 to \$32 a month.

"His Excellency is satisfied that the increase is necessary and will not cause hardship for commercial premises such as these, and he asks you to inform the members of your group that there can be no question of delaying the increase or varying the amount of the increase," it added.

"The Authority's decision is a very reasonable one and he hopes that all the shop tenants concerned will respond in a responsible manner, remembering that they have for years enjoyed - and will continue to enjoy - a highly privileged situation as tenants of these shops."

Commenting on reports that some shop tenants are worried about the cheques or cashier orders they had purchased for payment of the old rent, a spokesman for the Housing Department said they are acceptable for rent payment purpose on condition that tenants make up the balance equivalent to the new rents.

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INDUSTRIAL TRAINING, TECHNICAL EDUCATION MUST BE INTEGRATED

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Industrial training and technical education can no longer be regarded as separate entities, but must be planned as an integrated whole to achieve effectively their common aim.

The Commissioner for Labour, Mr. Ian Price, stressed this today (Monday) at the opening of the Hong Kong Cotton Spinners' Association's Pre-vocational School.

He pointed out that close co-operation existed between the Labour Department and the Education Department in the related fields of industrial training and technical education.

The presence of the Deputy Director of Education (Technical), Mr. Andrew Kingwell, at the ceremony was indicative of this close degree of co-operation, Mr. Price remarked.

Referring to pre-vocational education, Mr. Price said it was not an offshoot of technical education but was an integral part of it.

He went on: "The system is designed so that anyone with determination and resolve can, through part-time studies, progress from one level of technical education to another, through various bridging courses.

"In the near future, it may even be possible to reach diploma status through this part-time route."

Mr. Price, however, stressed that to be qualified technically demanded more than mere book knowledge.

Practical training and experience under industrial conditions were essential, he said.

/Pointing out.....

Pointing out that the best way to a technical career was through an apprenticeship, Mr. Price told the students that when they left the Association's pre-vocational school on completing their studies, they would be ideally placed for a technical career through an approved apprenticeship.

He said that the Industrial Training Division of the Labour Department had encouraged and assisted employers to start proper apprenticeship schemes, in which apprentices would receive both the practical on-the-job training and the related technical education by means of part-time day-release system.

No fewer than 210 of the 290 young people placed in craft apprenticeship schemes last year came from pre-vocational schools, Mr. Price said.

"Those from pre-vocational schools have a distinct advantage, particularly in that for those who entered an apprenticeship in the trades in which they specialised during their pre-vocational schooling, the normal period of apprenticeship of four years is reduced to three years," he added.

Mr. Price predicted that because the Apprenticeship Ordinance provided for an over all expansion of apprenticeship, there would be more and more apprenticeship opportunities for young people who left pre-vocational schools.

Commenting on the ratio of general and practical education a pre-vocational school should provide, Mr. Price said the combination of about 50% per cent of general education and 50 per cent of practical technical education, as was given in the Association's pre-vocational school, was the correct mix.

/He also.....

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He also noted with satisfaction that the practical instruction in the school was not limited solely to textiles but provided training also in mechanical and electrical subjects.

"The advantage of this is that while it provides a degree of specialisation in one field, it also provides a broad knowledge of other fields and this will prepare young people either for entry into semi-skilled occupations or for additional training and technical education leading to eventual employment in a skilled occupation," Mr. Price said.

Concluding, he said that the pupils in this Hong Kong Cotton Spinners' Association's Pre-vocational School were not receiving an education inferior to a grammar-type education, but rather were being educated to play a significant role in the industrial and economic development of Hong Kong.

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CREDITATION SYSTEM FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION

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The Technical Branch of the Education Department is now working on a creditation system which will provide a link between pre-vocational, technical institute and polytechnic courses, the Deputy Director of Education (Technical), Mr. Andrew Kingwell, said this afternoon.

He was speaking at the opening of the Cotton Spinners' Association Pre-vocational School in Kwai Chung by the Commissioner for Labour, Mr. Ian Price.

Mr. Kingwell stressed that the curriculum in pre-vocational schools consisted of about 55 per cent general education and the practical work was split between three related trades.

"It cannot be over-emphasised that these are not trade schools or vocational training centres.

"They are primarily schools providing an education through the medium of practical expression. They are certainly not industrial training centres. Industrial training is the responsibility of industry," the Deputy Director said.

At present there are seven pre-vocational schools with more than 5,000 places. Another five are planned or approved in principle.

"The total planned provision of this type of education will soon be increased from 11,000 places to 18,000 places," Mr. Kingwell said.

He pointed out that at present the available pre-vocational places were over-subscribed approximately tenfold. Last year 10,976 candidates competed for 1,018 places.

/"This is .....

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"This is partly due to the fact that there are so few places available in relation to the general demand for education at this level," Mr. Kingwell said.

Technical education was comparatively expensive and pre-vocational schools were no exception, he said.

"So, any further expansion must be geared to public demand.

"If the public require more of this type of school, they must make their wishes known," the Deputy Director said.

He stressed that pre-vocational education was general education primarily intended for those students who wished to find employment after three years of post-primary education. It was not terminal education.

The apprentice would be able to continue his technical education in part-time classes at technical institutes.

As a result of the Apprenticeship Ordinance this was now a requirement by law.

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GOVERNOR TO START STUDENT SAILING RACE

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The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, will start the final race of the inter-schools sailing events organised by the Hong Kong Schools Sailing Association at Tai Mei Tuk on Wednesday (April 14).

This coincide with the finals of the Canoeing Championships in which some 100 boys and girls will compete. The heats of the championships, organised by the Education Department, were held last weekend.

After starting the sailing race, Sir Murray will watch some of the canoeing activities before going ashore to open the Schools Sailing Association's Sailing and Canoeing Centre.

The Governor will also present the Winners Cup for sailing and the Losers Shield to representatives of the schools concerned. He will also present to the winners of the Canoeing Championships the Challenge Shield for Boys and the Challenge Cup for Girls.

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Note to Editors:

You are invited to cover the sailing and canoeing events on Wednesday (April 14). The Governor will arrive at Tai Mei Tuk, New Territories, at 3.15 p.m. on that day.

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DRUG ABUSE DATA EXPERT TO VISIT HONG KONG

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An expert in drug abuse data processing from New York will arrive in Hong Kong tomorrow (Tuesday) to assist the Government in improving its system of drug abuse data collection and processing.

The expert, Mr. B. Werbell, who is Swedish, is employed by the New York City Council as the project manager of their Health Data Processing Department. One of his main responsibilities is the management of the New York City Register of Drug Addicts, which is the largest in the United States outside Washington where a federal register is maintained.

In Hong Kong, Mr. Werbell will examine the data on drug addicts currently produced by all Government departments and voluntary agencies engaged in anti-narcotics work, and the system by which it is collected and processed. In particular, he will study the operation of the Central Registry of Drug Addicts, which was established four years ago.

At the conclusion of his study, Mr. Werbell will make a report to the Secretary for Security on how the local addict population and its characteristics can be more accurately determined, and on the ways of monitoring the effectiveness of Hong Kong's treatment and rehabilitation programmes.

Commenting on Mr. Werbell's consultancy, a Government spokesman said this was another important step in Government's on-going effort to fight drug abuse.

"Accurate statistical information about the number and the characteristics of the local addict population will be invaluable in the planning of all action programmes against narcotics," he said.

/Mr. Werbell's ...

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Mr. Werbell's consultancy is being provided by the courtesy of the United States Government which finances Mr. Werbell's visit to Hong Kong through its National Institute on Drug Abuse. The visit will last about two and a half months.

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#### WATER CUT IN NORTH POINT

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Salt water supply to a number of premises in North Point will be turned off for five hours starting from 1 a.m. on Wednesday (April 14).

This is to enable the Waterworks Office to carry out leakage tests in the area.

The affected area is bounded by Electric Road, Java Road from Lau Sin Street to Tin Chiu Street, North Point Road, Chun Yeung Street, Tong Shui Road, Shu Kuk Street, Kam Hong Street, south side of King's Road from Ming Yuen Western Street to Model Lane, including Tsat Tsz Mui Road, Tanner Road and Pak Fuk Road.

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TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE TO HOLD FIRST OPEN DAY

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The Hong Kong Technical Teachers' College will hold its first Open Day on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Students, parents, educationalists and members of the public are welcome.

The Deputy Director of Education (Technical), Mr. Andrew Kingwell, will visit the College at 12 noon on that day.

The College was opened in September 1974. On this Open Day, the public will be able to see the structure of the College, the courses offered, the various facilities available, and above all, the work of the students over the past 18 months.

Besides static displays, there will be demonstrations of the activities usually found in the College. Exhibitions of students' work designed and manufactured by the students themselves, will also be held in various workshops.

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Note to Editors:

You are invited to cover the Open Day. The College is at 373 Queen's Road East, Hong Kong.

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