



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1978

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

LEGCO APPROVES MOTION TO ESTABLISH PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE	1
PLAN TO INTRODUCE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT INSURANCE SCHEME ...	3
PROECTION OF WOMEN AND JUVENILES (AMENDMENT) BILL PASSED	4
BILL TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION TO WORKERS SUFFERING FROM LUNG DISEASES	5
PROGRESS OF WORK ON STABLISING SLOPES	7
POLICE BEAT RADIO SCHEME TO BE EXTENDED	7
ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY COMMENTS ON PROPERTY SPECULATION	8
HOUSING BILL RECEIVES SUPPORT	10
FOOD STALL SITES AT INDUSTRIAL ESTATES	11
PLANS TO REBUILD OLD TYPE ESTATE BLOCKS	11
WORK ON A NEW ROAD IN NT TO START NEXT YEAR	12
PARKING FACILITIES IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS	13
METERED WATER SUPPLIES TO SQUATTER AREAS	14
MEASURES TO COMBAT DUST POLLUTION	15
GOVERNMENT AWARE OF MP'S REMARKS ON HK-EEC TEXTILE AGREEMENT	16
APPEAL FOR REVIEW OF SENTENCE BEING CONSIDERED	16

/UNOFFICIALS

UNOFFICIALS EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT NOISE-BAN EXEMPTIONS.	17
URBAN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL PASSED	18
CENSUS AND STATISTICS BILL	20
RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL	21
AUXILIARY FORCES PAY AND ALLOWANCES (AMENDMENT) BILL ..	21
USE OF TEAR-SMOKE IN CLEARANCE OPERATION EXPLAINED	22
BILLS PASSED	23
APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH SCHEME	24
SURVEY ON PROVISION OF SOCIAL FACILITIES AT HOUSING ESTATES	25
SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP ON NEW BIOLOGY SYLLABUS	26
STUDY ROOM FOR LAM TIN ESTATE STUDENTS	26
TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN CENTRAL AND WAN CHAI	27

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1978

- 1 -

LEGCO APPROVES MOTION TO SET UP PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY APPROVED A MOTION TO AMEND STANDING ORDERS TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

IN MOVING THE MOTION, THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE SAID THE COMMITTEE'S PRINCIPAL TASK WOULD BE TO CONSIDER THE REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNUAL ACCOUNTS WHICH ALSO COVER DISBURSEMENTS MADE THROUGH SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS.

IN ADDITION, THE COMMITTEE MAY, AT ITS DISCRETION, EXAMINE TWO OTHER TYPES OF REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADUIT, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID.

+THE FIRST ARE THOSE ON ACCOUNTS OF STATUTORY AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS WHICH ARE REQUIRED TO BE LAID BEFORE THIS COUNCIL, SUCH AS REPORTS ON THE ACCOUNTS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION AND SO ON AND A VARIETY OF PROVIDENT FUNDS, CHARITABLE TRUSTS AND WELFARE AND SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS.

+THE SECOND ARE THOSE WHICH THE DIRECTOR OF ADUIT MAY MAKE, IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, UNDER SECTIONS 12 AND 13 OF THE AUDIT ORDINANCE. THESE REPORTS RELATE TO ANY SERIOUS IRREGULARITIES WHICH MAY COME TO THE NOTICE OF THE DIRECTOR, WHICH HE MAY WISH TO DEAL WITH OUTSIDE THE CONTEXT OF HIS REPORT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNUAL ACCOUNTS.

+REPORTS OF THIS TYPE ARE VERY RARE INDEED,+ MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID.

THE COMMITTEE WOULD CONSIST OF A CHAIRMAN AND SIX MEMBERS, ALL UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, AND THEY WILL BE NOMINATED BY THE GOVERNOR.

THE COMMITTEE'S PRINCIPAL TASK WOULD BE TO ESTABLISH THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE MATTERS REPORTED ON BY THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT AND CONSIDER WHAT REMEDIAL ACTION HAS BEEN OR SHOULD BE TAKEN, AND THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE CONCERNED PRIMARILY WITH PRINCIPLES AND SYSTEMS, NOT WITH DETAILS OR PERSONALITIES.

TO GIVE THE COMMITTEE A SUITABLE DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY IN THE CONDUCT OF ITS BUSINESS, MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID, THE PROPOSED STANDING ORDERS WOULD ENABLE THE COMMITTEE TO REGULATE ITS OWN PROCEEDINGS, WHICH HE ENVISAGED WOULD BE REASONABLY INFORMAL.

+IN OTHER WORDS, THE COMMITTEE WOULD NOT TAKE THE FORM OF A COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY TO JUDGE OR DISCIPLINE INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS WHO WERE AT FAULT, ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT WISH TO KNOW WHAT ACTION, INCLUDING DISCIPLINARY MEASURES HAD BEEN TAKEN TO PREVENT A REPETITION OF THE FAULTS INVOLVED,+ HE SAID.

/MR. HADDON-CAVE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1978

- 2 -

MR. HADDON-CAVE ALSO EXPLAINED HOW THE COMMITTEE WOULD FUNCTION IN DISCHARGING ITS PRINCIPAL TASK.

HE SAID: +AS SOON AS THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT ON THEM ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE, THE CHAIRMAN WOULD CONSULT WITH THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT, IN ORDER TO SELECT THE PARTICULAR FINDINGS RECORDED IN THE REPORT WHICH MERIT THE COMMITTEE EXAMINATION.

+TO ENABLE THE COMMITTEE TO TRANSACT ITS BUSINESS AS METHODICALLY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE, A PROGRAMME WOULD THEN BE DRAWN UP, AND THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER PERSONS TO BE CALLED UPON TO GIVE EVIDENCE IN RESPECT OF THESE FINDINGS WOULD BE NOTIFIED WHEN THEY SHOULD ATTEND.+

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND IN PERSON BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AND COULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF IF HE SO WISHED, BUT HE WOULD BE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EVIDENCE GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE.

+THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT, THE DEPUTY FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES WOULD BE IN ATTENDANCE TO ASSIST THE COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD BE SERVICED BY A DEPUTY CLERK OF COUNCILS,+ MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ON COMPLETION OF ITS EXAMINATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT'S REPORT AND OF THE EVIDENCE GIVEN BY HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS, THE COMMITTEE WOULD SUBMIT ITS REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THAT ITS REPORT WOULD BE TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AT THE SAME TIME AS THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT.

IN ADDITION, THE COMMITTEE WOULD LOOK TO THE FINANCE BRANCH, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS, TO CONSIDER ITS COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

HE SAID THE COMMENTS AND DECISIONS OF THE FINANCE BRANCH DEALING WITH THE POINTS RAISED AND STATING WHAT ACTION IT PROPOSED TO TAKE ON THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS, OR WHY IT PROPOSED TO TAKE NO ACTION, WOULD BE LAID BEFORE SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE.

MR. HADDON-CAVE SAID THE PROPOSED STANDING ORDER WAS ONE OF TWO MEASURES REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE, THE OTHER BEING MINOR CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE AUDIT ORDINANCE.

+THE NECESSARY BILL GIVING EFFECT TO THESE AMENDMENTS WOULD BE INTRODUCED IN THIS COUNCIL IN DUE COURSE,+ HE ADDED.

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/3

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1978

- 3 -

GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING INTRODUCTION OF TRAFFIC
ACCIDENT INSURANCE SCHEME

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THE GOVERNMENT IS GIVING FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO BOTH A NO-FAULT TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE SCHEME AND A MOTOR INSURERS BUREAU SCHEME WITH THE INTENTION TO INTRODUCE ONE OR THE OTHER, OR BOTH, OF THESE SCHEMES AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR. JONES SAID THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT ASSISTANCE SCHEME WOULD PROVIDE A LIMITED DEGREE OF ASSISTANCE, WITHOUT PROOF OF NEGLIGENCE AND WITHOUT RESORT TO COURT PROCEEDINGS, TO THOSE SUFFERING PERSONAL INJURIES AS A RESULT OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.

+PAYMENTS WOULD BE MADE FROM A GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED FUND FINANCED IN PART FROM GENERAL REVENUE AND IN PART FROM CHARGES ON VEHICLE OWNERS AND DRIVERS,+ HE SAID.

ON THE MOTOR INSURERS BUREAU SCHEME, MR. JONES SAID IT WOULD BE OPERATED BY THE ACCIDENT INSURANCE ASSOCIATION AND WOULD BE FINANCED BY A SURCHARGE ON MOTORISTS' INSURANCE POLICIES.

+IT WOULD, LIKE ITS UNITED KINGDOM COUNTERPART, PAY COMPENSATION AWARDED BY THE COURTS IN CASES WHERE COMPENSATION WOULD NOT NOW BE PAYABLE DUE TO DEFECTS IN THE INSURANCE,+ HE ADDED.

MR. JONES STRESSED THAT WHILE THE FORMER SCHEME WOULD PROVIDE MINIMUM ASSISTANCE WITHOUT PROOF OF NEGLIGENCE, THE LATTER WOULD PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF FULL DAMAGES, AS AWARDED BY A COURT, WHICH COULD BE MUCH HIGHER.

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/4

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1978

- 4 -

PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND JUVENILES (AMENDMENT) BILL PASSED
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THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND JUVENILES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, WHICH AIMS TO EXTEND THE STATUTORY PROTECTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE UP TO THE AGE OF 18, WAS PASSED INTO LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE BILL, THE HON. MRS. KWAN KO SIU-WAH SAID SHE WAS GLAD TO SEE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ACCEPTED HER SUGGESTIONS ON THE BILL.

THESE INCLUDE THAT THE POLICE SHOULD BE GIVEN AUTHORITY TO TAKE YOUNG PEOPLE UP TO THE AGE OF 18 INSTEAD OF 16 PROVIDED THEY ARE IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION TO A PLACE OF REFUGE= AND THE AUTHORITY SHOULD BE EMPOWERED TO DEAL WITH YOUNG PEOPLE UP TO THE AGE OF 18 WHO ARE LIKELY TO BE EXPOSED TO ANY MORAL OR PHYSICAL DANGER.

SHE SAID THESE SUGGESTIONS SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POSSIBLE:

- * A COURT AND A SUPERVISION ORDER COULD BE MADE UNDER THE AMENDED LEGISLATION PLACING A CHILD OR JUVENILE (A NEW DEFINITION WHICH MEANS A BOY OR A GIRL FROM 14 TO 18 YEARS OF AGE) WHO IS IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION, UNDER SUPERVISION=
- * AN ORDER COULD BE MADE RELATING TO THE CONTROL AND CUSTODY OF A CHILD OR JUVENILE WHO IS LIKELY TO BE EXPOSED TO ANY MORAL OR PHYSICAL DANGER AND TO AFFORD TEMPORARY PROTECTION TO THEM WHO ARE IN NEED OF SUCH CARE AND PROTECTION, AND=
- * ANY CHILD OR JUVENILE WHO IS IN NEED OF A REFUGE OR CARE AND PROTECTION COULD BE TAKEN TO A PLACE OF REFUGE UNDER THE AMENDED LEGISLATION.

SHE LATER MOVED THE APPROPRIATE AMENDMENTS AT COMMITTEE STAGE OF THE BILL TO GIVE EFFECT TO THESE SUGGESTIONS.

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/5

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1978

- 5 -

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL
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A BILL TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION TO WORKERS SUFFERING FROM SILICOSIS AND ASBESTOSIS -- DUST DISEASES OF THE LUNGS KNOWN AS PNEUMOCONIOSIS -- WAS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1978, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, THE HON. NEIL HENDERSON, SAID THE BILL PROPOSED TO ADD PNEUMOCONIOSIS TO THE SCHEDULE OF OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES UNDER THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE.

HE SAID THE BILL ALSO PROVIDED FOR THE SETTING UP OF A COMPENSATION SCHEME WHICH WOULD COVER PEOPLE ALREADY KNOWN TO BE SUFFERING FROM PNEUMOCONIOSIS -- WORKERS WHO WERE FOUND TO HAVE THE DISEASE AT THE TIME OF THE SCHEME'S INITIAL X-RAY EXAMINATION -- AND THOSE WHO SUBSEQUENTLY CONTRACTED THE DISEASE.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS TO THE FIRST GROUP, WHILE THE REST WOULD BE COMPENSATED THROUGH EMPLOYERS IN SPECIFIED INDUSTRIES PAYING A LEVY AND CONTRIBUTING TO A COMPULSORY INSURANCE FUND.

IT IS PROPOSED TO COMPENSATE WORKERS OR THEIR DEPENDANTS FOR PERMANENT TOTAL OR PARTIAL INCAPACITY OR DEATH RESULTING FROM PNEUMOCONIOSIS CONTRACTED IN ANY SPECIFIED TRADE, INDUSTRY OR PROCESS.

MR. HENDERSON EXPLAINED THAT PNEUMOCONIOSIS IS A COMPREHENSIVE TERM COVERING A GROUP OF DISEASES OF THE LUNGS CAUSED BY THE INHALATION OF A VARIETY OF INDUSTRIAL DUSTS SUCH AS FREE SILICA AND ASBESTOS DUSTS. ONCE THE DISEASE IS PRESENT, THE CONDITION OF THE PATIENT IS IRREVERSIBLE AND REMOVAL FROM EXPOSURE MAY ONLY SLOW DOWN PROGRESSION OF THE DISEASE.

SILICOSIS AND ASBESTOSIS ARE THE ONLY TWO PNEUMOCONIOTIC DISEASES OF KNOWN CONCERN IN HONG KONG, AND THE BILL COVERS ONLY THESE TWO. SILICOSIS IS MAINLY FOUND IN WORKERS IN QUARRIES, MINING, TUNNELLING, CONSTRUCTION AND MASONRY WORK, WHILE ASBESTOSIS IS NORMALLY FOUND IN WORKERS IN AN INDUSTRY OR PROCESS IN WHICH ASBESTOS IS WIDELY USED FOR INSULATION PURPOSES AND FIREPROOFING.

HE POINTED OUT THAT PNEUMOCONIOSIS HAS A LONG GESTATION PERIOD AND THERE IS VARIABLE TIMING OF DISCOVERY OF THE DISEASE, WITH THE RESULT THAT WORKERS MAY HAVE CHANGED JOBS AND EVEN INDUSTRIES MANY TIMES BEFORE DIAGNOSIS OF THE CONDITION. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO ASCERTAIN WHICH EMPLOYER WAS LIABLE.

THIS SITUATION HAD LED THE GOVERNMENT AND THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY TO PROPOSE A THREE-STAGE COMPENSATION SCHEME.

/MR. HENDERSON

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1978

- 6 -

MR. HENDERSON EXPLAINED: +THE FIRST STAGE COVERS THOSE WORKERS WHO ARE ALREADY KNOWN TO HAVE CONTRACTED PNEUMOCONIOSIS AND WHO MAY OR MAY NOT STILL BE EMPLOYED IN SPECIFIED INDUSTRIES. IT WILL ALSO COVER THOSE WORKERS WHO HAVE LEFT THE INDUSTRY BEFORE PNEUMOCONIOSIS IS INCLUDED AS AN OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE AND WHO ARE DIAGNOSED WITHIN A PERIOD OF 10 YEARS FROM THIS DATE. ALL THESE WORKERS WILL BE COMPENSATED ON AN EX-GRATIA NON-STATUTORY BASIS BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE BASIS OF AN UPDATED ASSESSMENT OF THE DISABILITY SUSTAINED.+

HE SAID THERE WERE SOME 700 SUCH CASES, AND PAYMENTS TO THESE PEOPLE WOULD TOTAL ABOUT \$25 MILLION.

THE SECOND STAGE OF THE SCHEME, WHICH WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED CONCURRENTLY WITH THE FIRST STAGE, WOULD COVER WORKERS EMPLOYED IN SPECIFIED INDUSTRIES WHO WERE DIAGNOSED AS SUFFERING FROM PNEUMOCONIOSIS IN THE SCHEME'S INITIAL X-RAY EXAMINATION.

+THESE WORKERS WILL BE PAID COMPENSATION BY THE GOVERNMENT INITIALLY,+ SAID MR. HENDERSON. +BUT SUCH PAYMENTS, TOGETHER WITH INTEREST, ARE TO BE RECOVERED SUBSEQUENTLY THROUGH A LEVY TO BE IMPOSED ON EMPLOYERS IN THE SPECIFIED INDUSTRIES.+

HE SAID THE INITIAL X-RAY EXAMINATION PERIOD WAS EXPECTED TO TAKE AT LEAST EIGHT MONTHS TO COMPLETE, AND ALL WORKERS IN THE SPECIFIED INDUSTRIES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO UNDERGO X-RAY.

ON THE FINAL STAGE OF THE SCHEME, MR. HENDERSON SAID: +IT WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON COMPLETION OF THE SECOND STAGE AND WILL COVER ALL WORKERS WHO ARE GIVEN A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH AT THE INITIAL X-RAY AND WHO ARE EMPLOYED IN SPECIFIED INDUSTRIES ON OR AFTER THE DATE THE BILL COMES INTO FORCE, OR WHO SUBSEQUENTLY LEAVE THE INDUSTRY AND ARE DIAGNOSED AS PNEUMOCONIOTIC WITHIN A PERIOD OF 10 YEARS. ANY COMPENSATION DUE IN RESPECT OF SUCH WORKERS WILL BE PAID FROM THE STATUTORY COMPENSATION FUND.+

MR. HENDERSON SAID THE FUND WOULD BE FINANCED BY PREMIA FROM EMPLOYERS IN THE SPECIFIED INDUSTRIES, WHO WOULD ALSO BE REQUIRED TO MEET THE COST OF THE INITIAL AND PERIODICAL MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS OF WORKERS.

HE SAID THE LEVY INVOLVED IN THE SECOND STAGE, THE X-RAY EXAMINATION AND THE INSURANCE PREMIUM WOULD BE ROUGHLY \$140 PER CAPITA PER ANNUM IN THE FIRST YEAR, BASED ON AN ESTIMATE OF 30,000 WORKERS NEEDING INSURANCE COVERAGE.

MR. HENDERSON ADDED: +SINCE THE LEVY WILL CEASE WHEN GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE UNDER STAGE II HAS BEEN RECOVERED, WHAT WILL INITIALLY BE ABOUT A ONE PER CENT ADDITION TO THE LABOUR COST WILL TEND TO DECLINE RELATIVELY IN TIME, ASSUMING THAT THERE IS NO MARKED CONTRACTION IN PRESENT ACTIVITY.+

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/7

PROGRESS OF WORK ON STABILISING SLOPES

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PREVENTIVE WORKS ON SOME 80 MAJOR FILL SLOPES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED OR ARE IN HAND, THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. S.L. CHEN ON THE PROGRESS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S SLOPE STABILISATION PROGRAMME.

MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT MINOR WORKS HAD ALSO BEEN CARRIED OUT ON MANY OTHER SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS.

BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT PRIORITY HAD BEEN GIVEN TO WORKS ON SLOPES AFFECTING HOUSING, HOSPITALS AND SCHOOLS.

+IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT FURTHER WORKS WILL BE NECESSARY FOLLOWING THE COMPREHENSIVE GEOTECHNICAL SURVEYS NOW BEING UNDERTAKEN, BUT IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY EXACTLY WHAT THESE WILL INVOLVE,+ HE ADDED.

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POLICE BEAT RADIO SCHEME TO BE EXTENDED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED \$10.3 MILLION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR TO EXTEND THE POLICE BEAT RADIO SCHEME TO SHA TIN, THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY AND THE AIRPORT.

THIS WAS REVEALED TODAY BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. MRS. KWAN KO SIU-WAH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

CONSIDERATION IS ALSO BEING GIVEN TO EXTENDING THE BEAT RADIO COVERAGE TO OTHER NEW TOWNS AND LATER TO THE WHOLE OF THE TERRITORY INCLUDING THE MARINE POLICE DISTRICT AT AN ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL CAPITAL COST OF \$84 MILLION, MR. DAVIES ADDED.

MR. DAVIES SAID THE SCHEME WHICH WAS INTRODUCED ON HONG KONG ISLAND IN DECEMBER 1976, TO KWAI CHUNG AND TSUEN WAN IN MARCH 1977, AND TO KOWLOON THREE MONTHS LATER, HAS ALREADY GREATLY IMPROVED THE ABILITY OF THE POLICE FORCE TO RESPOND QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY TO REPORTS OF CRIME, OR ANY OTHER INCIDENT WARRANTING POLICE ATTENTION IN AREAS COVERED BY BEAT PATROLS.

+IN KOWLOON, KWAI CHUNG AND TSUEN WAN, THE TIME LAPSE BETWEEN AN EMERGENCY CALL BEING RECEIVED AND POLICE APPEARING ON THE SCENE HAS BEEN REDUCED ON AN AVERAGE FROM SIX MINUTES TO FOUR MINUTES WHILE ON HONG KONG ISLAND THE RESPONSE TIME HAS IMPROVED FROM FIVE MINUTES TO THREE MINUTES,+ HE SAID.

/MR. DAVIES

MR. DAVIES ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE SCHEME IS USED EXTENSIVELY IN SUPPORT OF THE 999 SYSTEM IN WHICH CALLS ANSWERED BY POLICE IN VEHICLES HAS FALLEN FROM 50 TO 37 PER CENT SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BEAT RADIO.

HE SAID: +ABOUT 700 PATROLLING POLICE OFFICERS WITH RADIO SETS ARE AT ANY ONE TIME ABLE TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH THEIR DISTRICT CONTROL AND WITH ANY OTHER OFFICER IN THEIR DISTRICT, AND TO BE CONTACTED THEMSELVES WHILST ON PATROL BY DIRECT RADIO LINK.

+IN ADDITION, THE RADIOS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR DIVISIONAL AND DISTRICT CID OFFICERS AND FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES BY OTHER UNITS.+

HE ALSO NOTED THAT AS A RESULT OF THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SCHEME, A NUMBER OF ARRESTS WERE MADE AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME.

+BEAT RADIO ARE ALSO USED TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO PATROLLING OFFICERS AND TO REINFORCE THEM WITH OTHER OFFICERS IN EMERGENCY.+

+THE FULL POTENTIAL OF THE SYSTEM WILL BE DEVELOPED AS EXPERIENCE IS GAINED IN ITS OPERATION AND AS THE INFORMATION SYSTEM WHICH WAS PARTIALLY INTRODUCED ON FEBRUARY 1, 1978, IS DEVELOPED,+ MR. DAVIES SAID.

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ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY COMMENTS
ON PROPERTY SPECULATION

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER MEASURES OF CONTROL OVER SPECULATIVE ACTIVITIES IN PROPERTY DEALINGS IF SUCH SPECULATION CAN BE ESTABLISHED AS BEING DAMAGING TO THE ECONOMY OR TO THE SUPPLY OF RESIDENTIAL AND OTHER ACCOMMODATION AND IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. S.L. CHEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MR. JEAFFRESON ADDED THE GOVERNMENT IS MONITORING THE PROPERTY MARKET, BUT WARNED THAT TO FIND EFFECTIVE AND ACCEPTABLE MEASURES WOULD NOT BE EASY.

+FOR EXAMPLE,+ HE SAID, +THEY MUST NOT INHIBIT THE SUPPLY OF PROPERTY COMING ON TO THE MARKET.+

MR. JEAFFRESON ALSO NOTED THAT THERE WERE OTHER DIFFICULTIES IN DEALING WITH SPECULATIVE ACTIVITIES IN THE PROPERTY MARKET FOR THE PROTECTION OF GENUINE INVESTORS AND HOME-BUYERS.

HE SAID IT WAS HARD TO DEFINE +SPECULATIVE ACTIVITIES IN PROPERTY DEALINGS+ AND THAT THE +MISCHIEF MAKERS+ WERE NOT EASY TO BE DISTINGUISHED FROM +GENUINE INVESTORS+ AND +HOME BUYERS+.

/+AND IF WE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1978

- 9 -

+AND IF WE COULD ISOLATE THEM, CAN WE BE SURE THESE ACTIVITIES ARE AGAINST THE PUBLIC INTEREST?

+AND IF WE COULD BE SO SURE, HOW COULD WE DEAL WITH THEM WITHOUT ALSO HARMING THE INTERESTS OF GENUINE INVESTORS AND HOME BUYERS?+ MR. JEAFFRESON ASKED.

MR. JEAFFRESON SAID THAT IN CONSIDERING HOW TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS, WE MUST REALISE OUR LONG TERM GOAL, WHICH IS ENOUGH ACCOMMODATION, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND RESIDENTIAL, TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY.

TAKING RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION AS AN EXAMPLE, MR. JEAFFRESON SAID PEOPLE NOW PREFERED TO LIVE IN SUITABLE INDEPENDENT AND SELF-OWNED ACCOMMODATION.

+YET THE ACUTE SHORTAGE OF LAND IN HONG KONG MEANS THAT THIS LEGITIMATE OBJECTIVE CAN BE MET, IN PART AT LEAST, ONLY BY PROPERTY DEVELOPERS BEING STIMULATED TO DEVELOP MORE INTENSIVELY THE LAND THEY ALREADY POSSESS,+ MR. JEAFFRESON SAID.

MR. JEAFFRESON ALSO EXPLAINED THAT +SPECULATION+ COULD BE HELPING THIS PROCESS AND IT COULD FURTHER STIMULATE SUPPLY BY ADDING TO DEMAND.

+ALTHOUGH THE INEVITABLE TEMPORARY PENALTY IS THAT IT RAISES PRICES MORE SHARPLY THAN WOULD OTHERWISE BE THE CASE, WE MUST NOT FORGET THAT ULTIMATE PRICES ARE DETERMINED BY THE LEVEL OF DEMAND FROM THOSE SEEKING BETTER HOMES IN WHICH TO LIVE AND THE COST OF PROVIDING SUCH HOMES.+

REFERRING TO THE EXTENT OF SUPPLY OF NEW FLATS, MR. JEAFFRESON SAID IT WAS PREDICTED THAT ABOUT 30,000 NEW PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL UNITS WOULD BE COMPLETED IN 1978, FOLLOWED BY A SIMILAR AMOUNT IN 1979.

+THIS COMPARES WITH AN ANNUAL AVERAGE OF 19,000 OVER THE LAST FIVE YEAR,+ MR. JEAFFRESON SAID.

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/10

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1978

- 10 -

HOUSING BILL RECEIVES SUPPORT
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UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, TODAY URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO RAISE THE RESTRICTION PERIOD ON RESALE OF HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME FLATS FROM FIVE YEARS TO SEVEN YEARS +AS SOON AS IT IS PRACTICABLE TO DO SO+.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON HOUSING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1978, WHICH WAS LATER PASSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID THE EXTENSION WAS NECESSARY SINCE THE FLATS UNDER THE SCHEME ARE SOLD AT 20 PER CENT BELOW MARKET PRICES.

+THIS IS A VERY DESIRABLE RESTRICTION IN ORDER TO DISCOURAGE SPECULATION ON THE PART OF THE PURCHASER,+ MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID.

SUPPORTING THE BILL, MR. CHEONG-LEEN NOTED THAT THE REPAYMENT TERM UNDER THE SCHEME IS OVER A MAXIMUM PERIOD OF 15 YEARS, PARTIALLY GUARANTEED BY THE GOVERNMENT AT AN ATTRACTIVE INTEREST RATE OF BETWEEN 7-1/2 PER CENT TO NINE PER CENT, WITH AN INITIAL DOWN PAYMENT OF ONLY TEN PER CENT.

+FURTHERMORE, THE MANAGEMENT STANDARDS WILL BE HIGH COMPARED TO WHAT IS AVAILABLE GENERALLY IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR. RESIDENTS CAN BE ASSURED TOO OF A WELL-BALANCED RANGE OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES, AND SHOPS AND CAR PARKING SPACES AT REASONABLE COMMERCIAL RATES,+ MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID.

+FINALLY, IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TO MAINTAIN MANAGEMENT COSTS AT AN ECONOMICAL MONTHLY RATE, IN KEEPING WITH THE INCOME LEVEL OF RESIDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME,+ HE ADDED.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON. ALAN SCOTT, THANKED MR. CHEONG-LEEN FOR HIS +ELOQUENT+ SUPPORT FOR THE BILL AND SAID THAT THE SUGGESTION ABOUT THE RESALE RESTRICTION PERIOD WOULD BE KEPT IN MIND.

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/11

- 11 -

FOOD STALL SITES PROVIDED AT INDUSTRIAL ESTATES

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THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF INDUSTRIAL ESTATES, PLANS TO PROVIDE AMENITY AREAS IN THE ESTATES TO INCLUDE PLACES WHERE WORKERS WILL BE ABLE TO BUY CHEAP HOT MEALS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, SAID TODAY.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. ALEX WU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. JONES SAID LAND WAS ALSO BEING SPECIFICALLY ALLOCATED IN OTHER NEW INDUSTRIAL AREAS FOR COOKED-FOOD STALLS TO PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF WORKERS.

AS REGARDS THE OLDER INDUSTRIAL AREAS, HE SAID, UNFORTUNATELY, THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH LAND AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE COOKED-FOOD STALLS ON THE SAME SCALE AS IN THE NEW AREAS.

+SOME FACTORIES DO PROVIDE CANTEENS ON THEIR PREMISES BUT MANY WORKERS HAVE TO RELY ON CATERING FACILITIES IN NEARBY COMMERCIAL AREAS,+ MR. JONES SAID.

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PLANS TO REBUILD 73 OLD TYPE ESTATE BLOCKS

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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IS PLANNING TO REBUILD 73 MARK I AND II ESTATE BLOCKS DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS TO IMPROVE EXISTING COMMUNAL FACILITIES.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. LEUNG TAT-SHING AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON. ALAN SCOTT SAID: +THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IS WELL AWARE THAT COMMUNAL BATHROOM AND TOILET FACILITIES IN THE MARK I AND MARK II ESTATES BUILT 24 YEARS AGO ARE NOT UP TO THE STANDARDS OF LATER ESTATES.+

BUT MR. SCOTT POINTED OUT THAT BECAUSE OF THE WAY IN WHICH THESE BLOCKS WERE DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTED, THERE WAS LITTLE THE AUTHORITY COULD DO TO IMPROVE EXISTING FACILITIES FURTHER.

+THE FACT IS,+ MR. SCOTT SAID, +THAT MODERN FACILITIES CAN BE PROVIDED ONLY BY CONVERSION OR REDEVELOPMENT.+

+OF THE 240 MARK I/II BLOCKS, 21 HAVE SO FAR BEEN EITHER CONVERTED OR REDEVELOPED.

+IT IS PLANNED TO REBUILD 27 MORE BLOCKS DURING THE NEXT TWO YEARS, AND 73 BLOCKS DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS,+ MR. SCOTT SAID.

MR. SCOTT POINTED OUT THAT A MAJOR PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE DOORS AND SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN THESE COMMUNAL AREAS AT A COST OF \$3.7 MILLION WAS COMPLETED IN 1974.

+CLEANSING CONTRACTORS ARE EMPLOYED TO WASH THE AREAS DAILY,+ MR. SCOTT SAID. +SINCE 1973, THERE HAS BEEN A CONTINUING PROGRAMME TO REDUCE OVERCROWDING IN THESE ESTATES, AND ONE EFFECT OF THIS PROGRAMME IS TO REDUCE THE PRESSURE ON COMMUNAL FACILITIES,+ HE ADDED.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1978

- 12 -

WORK ON NT CARRIAGEWAY TO START NEXT YEAR

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WORK ON A DUAL TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY FROM YUEN LONG TO AU TAU, WHICH FORMS PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES TRUNK ROAD LINKING YUEN LONG WITH FAN LING, IS EXPECTED TO START EARLY NEXT YEAR.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED BY THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. CHARLES YEUNG AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY.

MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT THIS ITEM WAS INCLUDED IN CATEGORY A OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME AT THE FIRST REVIEW OF 1977.

PROGRESS ON THE ITEM WAS DELAYED BY AN OBJECTION RAISED TO THE ALIGNMENT OF THE ROADWAY.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT THE ROAD LAYOUT WAS MODIFIED AND THE OBJECTION RESOLVED AND IT WAS EXPECTED THAT WORK WOULD START EARLY NEXT YEAR AND WOULD BE COMPLETED TOWARDS THE END OF 1980.

REFERRING TO THE ROAD NETWORK FROM AU TAU TO FAN LING VIA MAI PO AND SAN TIN, MR. MCDONALD SAID IT WAS UNDER DETAILED PLANNING.

+TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION PROJECT PRIORITIES AND THE NEED TO AVOID UNDUE DISRUPTION TO TRAFFIC DURING CONSTRUCTION THE WORKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN STAGES,+ HE SAID.

+THE SECTION BETWEEN AU TAU AND MAI PO IS PRESENTLY SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN EARLY 1982 BUT THIS WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE TRAFFIC BUILD-UP DEVELOPING AS PRESENTLY FORECAST.+

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION FROM MR. YEUNG, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, MR. DEREK JONES SAID, ~~A TWO-WAY TRAFFIC WAS~~ RE-INTRODUCED ALONG THE ROAD BETWEEN YUEN LONG AND AU TAU ON MAY 1, BY INCORPORATING INTO THE ROAD A SECTION OF THE BORDERING FOOTPATH, TO EASE TRAFFIC CONGESTION CAUSED BY THE LAYING OF WATER MAINS.

MR. JONES SAID PEDESTRIANS ARE STILL ABLE TO USE THE FOOTPATH ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE ROAD AND IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT WORK ON THE WATER MAINS SHOULD BE COMPLETED AND THE ROAD PUT BACK TO NORMAL BY THE BEGINNING OF JUNE.

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/13

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1978

- 13 -

PROVISION OF PARKING FACILITIES
IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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THE PROVISION OF PARKING FACILITIES IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IS ONLY COMPULSORY WHERE THERE ARE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS IN LEASE CONDITIONS, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, SAID TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. ROGER LOBO AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

+THE RATIO OF CAR PARKING SPACE TO ACCOMMODATION FOR DENSITY ZONE 2, IN WHICH THE MAJORITY OF THE MID-LEVELS LIES, HAS VARIED OVER THE YEARS,+ MR. MCDONALD SAID.

IN 1965 WHEN DENSITY ZONING WAS INTRODUCED THE RATIO WAS ONE CAR PARKING SPACE PER FLAT. THIS, WAS INCREASED TO 1-1/4 SPACES PER FLAT IN 1971 AND TO 1-1/2 SPACES PER FLAT IN 1972, HE SAID.

IN 1975, THE RATIO WAS AMENDED TO ONE TO 1-1/2 SPACES PER FLAT OR PER 1,200 SQUARE FEET OF GROSS FLOOR AREA WHICHEVER PROVIDED THE LESSER RATION.

MR. MCDONALD SAID: +THE PARKING REQUIREMENT THEREFORE DEPENDS ON THE DATE OF THE LEASE. HOWEVER, WHERE THE REQUIREMENT IS IN EXCESS OF THE CURRENT RATIO A MODIFICATION COULD BE PERMITTED FOR REDUCTION TO THAT RATIO.+

IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION BY MR. LOBO, MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT SEVEN APPLICATIONS FOR NEW BUILDINGS HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE BETWEEN MAY 1 WHEN BUILDING RESTRICTIONS IN THE MID-LEVELS AREA WERE LIFTED AND 9 A.M. YESTERDAY (TUESDAY).

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/14

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1978

- 14 -

METERED WATER SUPPLIES TO SQUATTER AREAS
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THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, SAID TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING THE FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING METERED WATER SUPPLIES TO SQUATTER AREAS ON A WIDER BASIS.

HE WAS ANSWERING A QUESTION BY THE HON. WONG LAM IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR. WONG HAD ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER PROVIDING INDIVIDUAL METERED WATER SUPPLY TO SQUATTER HOUSEHOLDS SO AS TO IMPROVE THEIR SANITARY CONDITIONS.

MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT INDIVIDUAL METERING HAD ALREADY BEEN INSTALLED AT MA HANG VILLAGE AND WAS PRESENTLY BEING INSTALLED AT A DIAMOND HILL VILLAGE.

+THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, IS NOW CONSIDERING THE FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING METERED SUPPLIES TO SQUATTER AREAS ON A WIDER BASIS,+ HE SAID.

+THE ADEQUACY OF DISTRICT SUPPLY SYSTEMS AND THE PRACTICABILITY OF EXTENDING THEM IN THE CONGESTED AND HAPHAZARD CONDITIONS WHICH EXIST IN SQUATTER AREAS IS BEING ASSESSED.+

MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT A PRELIMINARY SURVEY HAD INDICATED THAT THE INSTALLATION OF ABOUT 40,000 METERS WOULD BE REQUIRED WHICH APPROXIMATED TO THE TOTAL ANNUAL METER INSTALLATION PROGRAMME.

HE SAID THAT IT WOULD, THEREFORE, BE NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAMME OF IMPLEMENTATION WITH AN ORDER OF PRIORITY AND TO ENGAGE THE SERVICES OF OUTSIDE PLUMBING AGENCIES TO SUPPLEMENT THE RESOURCES OF THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT SO THAT A SCHEME MIGHT BE INTRODUCED WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME.

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/15

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1978

- 15 -

MEASURES TO COMBAT DUST POLLUTION IN TUEN MUN

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THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, TODAY OUTLINED THE STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ALLEVIATE DUST POLLUTION CAUSED BY PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS IN TUEN MUN.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. MRS. KWAN KO SIU-WAH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, MR. JONES SAID THE FIRST STEP WAS THE REMOVAL OF THE SOIL STOCKPILE NEAR THE TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA IN TUEN MUN AND THAT ANY FURTHER STOCKPILING WOULD BE AWAY FROM THE AREA.

+SECONDLY, CONTRACTORS ARE BEING REQUIRED TO STATION LABOURERS AT THE HAUL ROUTE ENTRANCE TO REMOVE SOIL AND OTHER MATERIAL DROPPED ON THE ROAD BY THEIR LORRIES AND TO SPRAY THE ROAD WITH WATER,+ MR. JONES SAID.

+THE USD IS ALSO PROVIDING A STREET WASHING VEHICLE ON PUI TO ROAD ON FINE DAYS,+ HE ADDED.

+THIRDLY, LORRY DRIVERS FOUND DEPOSITING EARTH ON PUBLIC ROADS ARE BEING PROSECUTED AND A TOTAL OF 25 SUCH SUMMONSES WERE ISSUED DURING THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR.

+FOURTHLY, A SECTION OF THE HAUL ROUTE NEAR PUI TO ROAD HAS BEEN PAVED WITH BITUMEN TO KEEP DOWN MUD AND DUST,+ MR. JONES SAID.

IN ADDITION, MR. JONES POINTED OUT THAT THE TUEN MUN NEW TOWN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE IS KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON THIS PROBLEM AND MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO CUT DOWN THE NUISANCE.

HOWEVER, MR. JONES SAID, THE PROBLEM OF DUST ASSOCIATED WITH MASSIVE CIVIL ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT WAS AN ENDEMIC ONE AND IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO ELIMINATE IT COMPLETELY.

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/16

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1978

- 16 -

GOVERNMENT AWARE OF MP'S REMARKS ON HK-EEC TEXTILE AGREEMENT
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THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, THE HON. DAVID JORDAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF THE REMARKS MADE BY A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ABOUT HONG KONG IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEW EEC MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT.

MR. JORDAN WAS REPLYING TO THE HON. LYDIA DUNN WHO ASKED IS THE GOVERNMENT AWARE OF THE ADMISSION, NOT DENIED BY A BRITISH GOVERNMENT MINISTER, MADE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATE ON EEC TEXTILE POLICY ON APRIL 11 THAT IT WAS +RIGHT AND ADVANTAGEOUS+ FOR THE HK/EEC AGREEMENT TO BE NEGOTIATED IN SUCH A WAY AS +EFFECTIVELY TO SQUEEZE+ THE SHARE OF THE MARKET AVAILABLE TO HONG KONG IN FAVOUR OF OTHER SUPPLIERS.

MR. JORDAN SAID THAT ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL REPORT, THE ACTUAL WORDS OF THAT MP WERE: +I BELIEVE THAT ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WAS RIGHT AND ADVANTAGEOUS IN THE NEW MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT WAS THE WAY IN WHICH THE THREE BIGGEST SUPPLIERS-- HONG KONG, TAIWAN AND SOUTH KOREA -- WERE EFFECTIVELY SQUEEZED IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A LARGER SHARE FOR THE SUPPLIES IN POORER THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES.+

UNFORTUNATELY, MR. JORDAN SAID HE COULD NOT QUOTE FROM THE SPEECH OF THE MINISTER WHO CONCLUDED THE DEBATE BECAUSE THE PRINTING OF THE OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE LATTER PART OF THE DEBATE HAS BEEN DELAYED BY INDUSTRIAL ACTION.

+HOWEVER, I UNDERSTAND FROM OUR LONDON OFFICE THAT MISS DUNN IS CORRECT: THE MINISTER CONCERNED DID NOT INDEED MAKE ANY SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE REMARK THAT MISS DUNN HAS QUOTED,+ MR. JORDAN SAID.

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APPEAL FOR REVIEW OF SENTENCE BEING CONSIDERED
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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON. JOHN HOBLEY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT HE WAS CONSIDERING WHETHER TO APPLY TO THE COURT OF APPEAL FOR A REVIEW OF THE SENTENCES CONCERNING A RECENT DISTRICT COURT CASE.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. MRS. KWAN KO SIU-WAH WHO ASKED: +WILL THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONSIDER APPLYING TO THE COURT OF APPEAL FOR A REVIEW OF THE SENTENCES RECENTLY IMPOSED BY A DISTRICT COURT JUDGE ON THE COUPLE WHO OPERATED A CALL-GIRL RACKET?+

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/17

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1978

- 17 -

UNOFFICIALS EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT
NOISE-BAN EXEMPTIONS
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AN AD HOC GROUP OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL UNOFFICIALS FORMED TO STUDY THE SUMMARY OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE POWERS OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO GRANT EXEMPTIONS FROM THE RESTRICTIONS ON CONSTRUCTION NOISE.

SPEAKING AT THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, CONVENOR OF THE AD HOC GROUP, THE HON. T.S. LO SAID THEY WERE CONCERNED THAT THE POWERS SHOULD ONLY BE EXERCISED IN CASES OF REAL NECESSITY.

+WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT SUCH EXEMPTIONS WILL ONLY BE GRANTED FOR EMERGENCY WORK, WHERE IT IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO ENSURE EARLY COMPLETION AND WHERE, FOR TECHNICAL REASONS, CONTINUAL OR NIGHT OPERATION IS UNAVOIDABLE,+ HE SAID.

THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION IS ALSO EXEMPTED FROM THIS ASPECT OF THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE. +A COMBINATION OF THE DIN PRODUCED BY THE MTRC AND THAT PERMITTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS HAS GIVEN RISE TO THE CHARGE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS BECOME A SELF-APPOINTED OPERATOR OF THE NOISE POLLUTION MONOPOLY,+ MR. LO SAID.

HE ASKED BOTH THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MTRC +TO WEIGH CAREFULLY THE COMPARATIVE MERITS OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT REQUIRES A PROJECT TO BE COMPLETED EARLY AND THAT WHICH REQUIRES THAT A MAN AND HIS FAMILY HAVE A GOOD NIGHT'S REST.+

ON THE BILL ITSELF, THE AD HOC GROUP HAS HAD SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HIS STAFF, AND ONE MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF EPCOM.

THE BILL IS CONCERNED WITH TWO TYPES OF NOISE NUISANCE, THAT CREATED BY PROPRIETORS OF RECORD SHOPS AND HAWKERS WHO PLAY RECORDS AND TAPE CASSETTES AT AN UNREASONABLY HIGH VOLUME TO ATTRACT CUSTOMERS, AND THAT CREATED BY CONSTRUCTION.

MR. LO SAID WHILST THE DESIRABILITY OF CONTROLLING THE FIRST TYPE OF NOISE POLLUTION WAS NOT IN DISPUTE, HE AND HIS UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO SATISFY THEMSELVES THAT THERE WAS NOT ALREADY THE NECESSARY LAW TO ACHIEVE THIS NOR THAT THE CLAUSE IN THE BILL AS DRAFTED WOULD BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE APPROACH, IF ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION WERE REQUIRED.

FOR THESE REASONS THEY HAD NOT FELT ABLE TO SUPPORT THE ENACTMENT OF THIS CLAUSE.

/AS TO

AS TO CONSTRUCTION NOISE, HE SAID: +AS INDEED WITH ALL FORMS OF NOISE POLLUTION, WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO HAVE SEEN SPECIFIC LEVELS OF NOISE RATHER THAN SPECIFIC NOISE PRODUCERS AT SPECIFIC TIMES .+

HOWEVER, SINCE THEY HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT THE EXPERTISE FOR ENFORCING LAW BASED ON DECIBEL COUNTS WAS NOT YET AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG, THEY HAD AGREED THAT THAT THIS PART OF THE BILL SHOULD PROCEED, ON THE UNDERSTANDING GIVEN THEM THAT THIS WOULD ONLY BE AN INTERIM HOLDING MEASURE UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT PRODUCES COMPREHENSIVE NOISE LEGISLATION BASED ON MORE SCIENTIFIC AND UNIFORM APPROACH.

IN REPLY, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES SAID HE ACCEPTED THE AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY MR. LO AND WOULD INTRODUCE IT IN THE COMMITTEE STAGE.

MR. JONES ALSO REVEALED THAT A COMPREHENSIVE NOISE POLLUTION BILL WILL BE PREPARED AND BE PRESENTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HOPEFULLY IN ITS NEXT SESSION.

THE SUMMARY OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL WAS PASSED INTO LAW TODAY.

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URBAN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 PASSED
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THE REV. THE HON. JOYCE M. BENNETT HAS ASKED FOR A STUDY ON WHETHER ALL HOLDERS OF THE PRESENT HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION, AND NOT ONLY THOSE WITH AT LEAST FIVE SUBJECTS AT GRADE E, COULD BE CONSIDERED AS HAVING OBTAINED A +GOOD GENERAL EDUCATION+ TO QUALIFY TO VOTE IN URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

SPEAKING AT THE RESUMED DEBATE ON THE URBAN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY, MISS BENNETT NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECENTLY SAID IT HAD NO PLANS TO ENLARGE THE FRANCHISE OF THE URBAN COUNCIL OR TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ITS ELECTED MEMBERS.

SHE SAID THAT IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE BILL WAS NOT TO EXTEND THE FRANCHISE BUT TO UPDATE THE LIST OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOTERS SO AS TO INCLUDE ONCE MORE THE KIND OF PERSON THOUGHT SUITABLE TO VOTE IN THE MID-SIXTIES WHEN THE FRANCHISE WAS LAST REVIEWED.

SHE WAS SURPRISED TO DISCOVER THAT ONLY THOSE WITH CERTAIN GRADES IN THEIR CERTIFICATE WERE INCLUDED IN THE BILL.

+THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION HAS CLEARLY STATED IN THIS CHAMBER AND ELSEWHERE THAT THE PRESENT HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION, UNLIKE THE OLD CERTIFICATE, HAS NO PASSING GRADES= THE CERTIFICATE IS OF A GENERAL NATURE TO SHOW THAT THE HOLDER HAS ACHIEVED A GENERAL STANDARD OF EDUCATION.+

/HISTORICALLY,

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1978

- 19 -

HISTORICALLY, SHE ADDED, ACCORDING TO THE 1965 WORKING PARTY, THIS EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION FOR VOTERS WAS TO PROVIDE ONE CATEGORY OF VOTERS TO BE THOSE WITH A +GOOD GENERAL EDUCATION+.

MISS BENNETT SAID THE UNOFFICIALS FORMED AN HOC GROUP WITH HER AS CONVENOR TO STUDY THE BILL. THE GROUP THOUGHT IT WISE NOT TO ENTER INTO AN OBVIOUSLY LENGTHY DEBATE, BEFORE THE PASSING OF THE BILL, ON WHETHER ALL HOLDERS OF THE PRESENT CERTIFICATE HAVE HAD A +GOOD GENERAL EDUCATION+, TO AVOID DISFRANCHISING THOSE WITH THE FIVE SUBJECTS QUALIFICATION FOR THE FORTHCOMING URBAN COUNCIL ELECTION.

SHE POINTED OUT HOWEVER THAT SO MUCH IMPROVEMENT HAD BEEN AND WAS BEING MADE IN OUR SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM THAT THE WORDING OF THE BILL ON THIS PARTICULAR ASPECT CERTAINLY SEEMED OUT-OF-DATE.

+WE SHALL BE HONOURING THOSE IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WHO ARE ENDEAVOURING TO PROVIDE A MORE FLEXIBLE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, LESS BOUND TO A SYSTEM OF MARKS AND GRADES. WE SHALL BE ENSURING THAT THOSE WITH A 'GOOD GENERAL EDUCATION' HAVE THE VOTE,+ SHE SAID.

MISS BENNETT ALSO SUGGESTED EXAMINING +THE WHOLE STRUCTURE OF THE URBAN COUNCIL TO WHICH SOME MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY CAN VOTE FOR 12 ELECTED MEMBERS OUT OF A TOTAL OF 24 MEMBERS.+

THE URBAN COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES CONCERN CLOSELY MANY ASPECTS OF THE CITIZEN'S DAILY LIFE, SUCH AS PUBLIC SANITATION AND MARKETS, HAWKERS AND PLACES OF PUBLIC RECREATION AND LEISURE, MATTERS WHICH CLOSELY AFFECT THE DAILY LIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND KOWLOON.

+PEOPLE AT THE GRASS ROOTS LEVEL OF OUR COMMUNITY ARE SHOWING A GROWING CONCERN FOR THE PROBLEMS THEY FACE. WE WOULD DO WELL TO CONSIDER HOW THEY CAN MOST EFFECTIVELY EXPRESS THAT CONCERN FOR OTHERS THROUGH THE URBAN COUNCIL. BY THEIR SO DOING THE COMMUNITY OF HONG KONG WILL BE STRENGTHENED,+ SHE SAID.

THE URBAN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 WAS PASSED INTO LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

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/20

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1978

- 20 -

CENSUS AND STATISTICS BILL

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UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR THE HON. PETER C. WONG TODAY EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE WIDE POWERS GIVEN TO A CENSUS OFFICER UNDER THE PROPOSED CENSUS AND STATISTICS BILL 1978.

SPEAKING DURING ITS RESUMED DEBATE, MR. WONG SAID THE BILL IMPOSED A STATUTORY DUTY ON AN OCCUPIER TO GRANT A CENSUS OFFICER ACCESS TO HIS PREMISES WHETHER OR NOT THE OCCUPIER HAS DULY COMPLETED AND RETURNED THE FORM DELIVERED TO HIM.

HE SAID THERE WAS NO PARALLEL PROVISION IN EITHER THE ENGLISH CENSUS ACT 1920 OR THE CENSUS REGULATIONS 1970.

HE PROPOSED THAT GOVERNMENT INTRODUCE APPROPRIATE AMENDMENTS AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE TO ENSURE THAT A CENSUS OFFICER MAY SEEK SUCH ACCESS ONLY WHEN THE OCCUPIER HAS FAILED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THE FORM IN THE MANNER AND WITHIN THE TIME SPECIFIED.

+SUCH AMENDMENTS, WHILE PROTECTING THE PRIVACY OF AN INDIVIDUAL, WOULD NOT HINDER THE COMMISSIONER IN CARRYING OUT HIS STATUTORY FUNCTIONS,+ MR. WONG SAID.

IN REPLY, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DAVID JEAFFRESON, SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED MR. WONG'S PROPOSAL WITH THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS AND IT WAS ABSOLUTELY ACCEPTABLE IN PRINCIPLE SUBJECT TO ANY DIFFICULTIES WHICH MIGHT BE ENCOUNTERED IN THE DRAFTING PROCESS.

MR. JEAFFRESON ALSO PROPOSED TO MOVE AN APPROPRIATE AMENDMENT AT THE BILL'S COMMITTEE STAGE.

AS REGARDS THE POWER TO ENTER PREMISES BY A CENSUS OFFICER, MR. JEAFFRESON SAID SUCH POWER WOULD BE EXERCISED IF SO REQUIRED BY THE COMMISSIONER AND HE WOULD BE EXERCISING THIS POWER PERSONALLY.

MR. JEAFFRESON ALSO ASSURED THAT THE COMMISSIONER WOULD USE THE POWER ONLY IN EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES.

+IN OTHER WORDS, HE WOULD USE THIS POWER WITH HIS GREATEST DISCRETION,+ HE SAID.

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/21

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1978

- 21 -

RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL
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A BILL TO CHANGE THE TITLE OF THE RAILWAYS ORDINANCE TO THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY ORDINANCE AND TO BRING IN SOME AMENDMENTS TO THE EXISTING PROVISIONS WAS INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. DEREK JONES, SAID THE CHANGE OF TITLE WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY CONFUSION.

+AS IT STANDS AT PRESENT IT CAN THEORETICALLY COVER THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF ANY RAILWAY IN HONG KONG, ALTHOUGH IN PRACTICE IT GOVERNS ONLY THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY (BRITISH SECTION),+ MR. JONES SAID.

+THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY IS GOVERNED BY ITS OWN SEPARATE ORDINANCE.+

CONCERNING OTHER AMENDMENTS, MR. JONES SAID ONE PROVIDES THAT ALL REFERENCES TO ADMINISTRATOR OR CHIEF RESIDENT ENGINEER, WHICH ARE DEFUNCT POSTS, ARE TO BE REPLACED BY GENERAL MANAGER.

THE BILL ALSO SEEKS TO PROVIDE A DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER IN CASE SUCH A POST IS CREATED, HE ADDED.

ANOTHER AMENDMENT SEEKS TO ENABLE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO MAKE RAILWAY RULES IN PLACE OF STANDING ORDERS AND, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR, TO PROVIDE IN THE RULES FOR THE DISCIPLINARY MEASURES FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES, MR. JONES SAID.

+SENIOR RANKS WILL STILL BE SUBJECT TO CIVIL SERVICE REGULATIONS,+ HE ADDED.

THE DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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AUXILIARY FORCES PAY AND ALLOWANCES (AMENDMENT) BILL
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MEMBERS OF THE AUXILIARY POLICE WOULD NO LONGER BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE RATION ALLOWANCE UNDER A PROPOSED BILL INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE AUXILIARY FORCES PAY AND ALLOWANCES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, SAID THE NECESSITY FOR THE BILL AROSE FROM THE RECENT PAY AWARD TO THE AUXILIARY POLICE, +ONE ELEMENT OF WHICH WAS THAT MEMBERS SHOULD NO LONGER BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE RATION ALLOWANCE.+

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1978

- 22 -

USE OF TEAR-SMOKE AT
CLEARANCE OPERATION EXPLAINED

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TEAR-SMOKE GRENADES WERE USED DURING A CLEARANCE OPERATION IN CHOI YUEN TSUEN, SHEUNG SHUI RECENTLY AFTER STAFF OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE MADE REPEATED REQUESTS AND APPEALS TO FIVE PEOPLE TO LEAVE THEIR PREMISES, BUT TO NO AVAIL.

THE DISTRICT POLICE COMMANDER, NEW TERRITORIES ALSO CONCLUDED THAT THE USE OF TEAR-SMOKE DURING THAT OPERATION WAS JUSTIFIED AFTER THE POLICE OFFICER IN CHARGE SUBMITTED A REPORT ON THE INCIDENT.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES SAID THIS TODAY WHEN REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. PETER C. WONG AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR. DAVIES SAID OF THE FOUR MEN AND ONE WOMAN WHO BARRICADED THEMSELVES WITHIN A DOMESTIC/WORKSHOP STRUCTURE ON APRIL 25, WHEN THE CLEARANCE OPERATION WAS CARRIED OUT, ONE MAN WAS SEEN TO BE ARMED WITH A CLEAVER AND ANOTHER WITH A WOODEN CLUB.

+AFTER REPEATED REQUESTS TO THEM TO VACATE THE BUILDING, THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT SUPERVISOR IN CHARGE OF THE CLEARANCE WORK CONCLUDED THAT ANY MOVE TO OUST THE OCCUPANTS WOULD RESULT IN VIOLENCE. HE THEREFORE REQUESTED THE POLICE WHO WERE IN ATTENDANCE AT THE SCENE TO REMOVE THESE PERSONS.+

MR. DAVIES SAID THE POLICE MADE FURTHER APPEALS TO THE OCCUPANTS, BUT TO NO AVAIL.

+THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE POLICE CONTINGENT THEREFORE DECIDED THAT THE USE OF TEAR-SMOKE WAS THE MINIMUM FORCE LIKELY TO BE EFFECTIVE IN CLEARING THE PREMISES WITHOUT RISK OF SERIOUS INJURY.

THE TEAR-SMOKE GRENADES WERE LOBBED INTO THE BARRICADED SECTION OF THE BUILDING.

+THE POLICE THEN FORCED ENTRY TO THE PREMISES AND REMOVED THE OCCUPANTS WHO CONSISTED OF THE FORMER TENANT, HIS WIFE, TWO NEPHEWS, AND A FIFTH PERSON,+ MR. DAVIES SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE OCCUPANTS WERE IMMEDIATELY TAKEN TO THE JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC AT SHEUNG SHUI FOR TREATMENT FOR THE EFFECTS OF TEAR-SMOKE.

+NO-ONE WAS DETAINED NOR SUFFERED ANY PHYSICAL INJURY.+

ONE MAN, THE FIFTH PERSON IN THE BUILDING, WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CHARGED WITH OBSTRUCTING A PUBLIC OFFICER UNDER THE CROWN LANDS ORDINANCE. HE HAD BEEN PLACED ON REMAND PENDING A REPORT ON HIS MENTAL HEALTH, MR. DAVIES SAID.

/MR. DAVIES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1978

- 23 -

MR. DAVIES SAID THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT COMMENCED CLEARANCE OPERATION OF CROWN LAND IN CHOI YUEN TSUEN AT 9.30 A.M. ON APRIL 25 TO MAKE WAY FOR PUBLIC HOUSING.

THE OPERATION OF WHICH ADVANCE PUBLICITY WAS GIVEN INVOLVED THE REMOVAL OF 215 STRUCTURES ORIGINALLY OCCUPIED BY 578 PEOPLE.

MR. DAVIES SAID IT WAS ASSESSED THAT THE OPERATION MIGHT NOT BE ANY EASY ONE AND BECAUSE SOME OPPOSITION WAS EXPECTED, A POLICE CONTINGENT WAS REQUESTED TO STAND BY.

HE ADDED THAT THE DIFFICULT OPERATION WENT WELL UNTIL 11.45 A.M. WHEN CLEARANCE STAFF WERE CONFRONTED BY THE FOUR MEN AND ONE WOMAN WHO REFUSED TO LEAVE THEIR PREMISES.

AFTER REPEATED REQUESTS AND APPEALS MADE TO THESE PEOPLE, POLICE DECIDED TO USE TEAR-SMOKE TO REMOVE THE OCCUPANTS.

FOLLOWING THIS INCIDENT THE CLEARANCE OPERATION PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY UNTIL ABOUT 2.30 P.M. WHEN HEAVY RAIN FORCED THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE OPERATION. ABOUT 20 STRUCTURES REMAINED TO BE CLEARED AT THAT TIME.

MR. DAVIES SAID THE OPERATION RESUMED ON MAY 2 AND WAS COMPLETED WITHOUT FURTHER INCIDENT.

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SEVEN BILLS PASSED
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SEVEN BILLS WERE PASSED INTO LAW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

THEY ARE URBAN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND JUVENILES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, HOUSING (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1978, LAND REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978, SUMMARY OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977, DISCIPLINED SERVICES (WELFARE FUNDS) BILL 1978 AND THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978.

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/24

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1978

- 24 -

APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH SCHEME
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YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WISH TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY BY UNDERTAKING PROJECTS CAN NOW APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH SCHEME.

THE SCHEME, NOW IN ITS EIGHTH YEAR, HAS SPONSORED A TOTAL OF 334 PROJECTS INVOLVING 14,000 VOLUNTEERS WHOSE SERVICES HAVE BENEFITTED 600,000 PEOPLE.

ADMINISTERED BY THE COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICERS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE SCHEME AIMS TO PROMOTE PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS OF YOUNG PEOPLE BY ENCOURAGING THEM TO UTILISE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS IN PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS WHICH WILL SATISFY THE NEEDS IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

EXPLAINING THE SCHEME, MR. LAM KWOK-WAN, PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER, GROUP AND COMMUNITY WORK DIVISION, SAID TODAY THAT CASH GRANTS, RANGING FROM \$190 TO \$2,000, WOULD BE GIVEN FOR EACH APPROVED PROJECT, AND WOULD ACT AS AN IMPETUS FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE TO ACQUIRE ACTUAL EXPERIENCE IN RESEARCH, ORGANISATION, MANAGEMENT, AND EVALUATION OF A PARTICULAR TYPE OF SERVICE.

+PROJECTS SUPPORTED DURING THE PAST YEARS COVERED A WIDE SPECTRUM OF SOCIAL SERVICES WHICH CAN BE BROADLY CLASSIFIED AS RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, SERVICES FOR THE UNDERPRIVILEGED, COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMMES, CONSTRUCTION WORKS, FILM PRODUCTION AND PUBLICATIONS,+ HE SAID.

THE TARGET OF THESE 300 PROJECTS INCLUDED THE HANDICAPPED, THE ELDERLY, YOUTH, CHILDREN, INDUSTRIAL AND OFFICE WORKERS, THE MARINE POPULATION AND THE RURAL COMMUNITY.

MR. LAM SAID THE SCHEME WAS OPEN TO YOUTH GROUPS COMPRISING MORE THAN 10 MEMBERS AGED BETWEEN 15 AND 25.

HE ADDED THAT THESE GROUPS HAD TO BE RECOGNISED BY INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS SCHOOLS, YOUTH AGENCIES, OR APPROVED BY THE RESPECTIVE COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICER PRIOR TO APPLICATION.

+ASSESSMENT OF THE MERITS OF THE PROJECT PROPOSALS WILL BE BASED ON THE EXTENT OF YOUTH INVOLVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNITY BENEFITS, PRIORITY OF NEEDS, INNOVATIVE QUALITY, FEASIBILITY AND THE OPTIMUM USE OF RESOURCES,+ HE SAID.

+CONSIDERATION WILL ALSO BE GIVEN TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF EXISTING SERVICES AND PROGRAMMES,+ HE ADDED.

/APPLICATION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1978

- 25 -

APPLICATION FORMS AND LEAFLETS CONTAINING INFORMATION ON THE SCHEME ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE DEPARTMENT'S 15 COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICES.

+TO FACILITATE SELECTION, A DETAILED PLAN SHOULD BE SUBMITTED ALONG WITH THE APPLICATION FORMS TO THE COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OFFICER ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 1978,+ MR. LAM SAID.

HE SAID THAT SUCCESSFUL GROUPS WOULD BE INFORMED OF THE RESULTS BEFORE JULY 10, 1978, AND THEY WOULD BE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE THEIR PROJECTS BY JANUARY 31, 1979.

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SURVEY ON PROVISION OF SOCIAL FACILITIES AT HOUSING ESTATES
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THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT HAS COMMISSIONED THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC TO CARRY OUT AN OPINION SURVEY ON THE PROVISION OF SOCIAL FACILITIES AT TWO PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN KWUN TONG.

THE SURVEY WILL BE CONDUCTED IN SAU MAU PING AND LAM TIN ESTATES STARTING FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY). IT IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN MID-JUNE.

THE SURVEY IS AIMED AT FINDING OUT THE OPINIONS OF RESIDENTS ON THE PROVISION OF SOCIAL FACILITIES SUCH AS COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, MEDICAL SERVICE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AT THESE ESTATES. ALL INFORMATION GATHERED WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT.

STUDENTS FROM THE POLYTECHNIC, WHO WILL BE CARRYING THEIR STUDENT IDENTITY CARDS ISSUED BY THE COLLEGE, WILL INTERVIEW ABOUT 1,000 FAMILIES IN THE TWO ESTATES.

RESIDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO GIVE THEIR FULLEST SUPPORT TO THE SURVEY AND ANY ENQUIRY ON IT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO KWUN TONG CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, TELEPHONE NUMBER 3-892332.

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/26

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1978

- 26 -

SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP ON NEW FORMS 4 AND 5 BIOLOGY SYLLABUS
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A SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP ON THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE'S BIOLOGY SYLLABUS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL BIOLOGY TEACHERS WILL TAKE PLACE AT NORTHCOTE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, ON SATURDAY (MAY 13) MORNING.

THEY ARE ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE SCIENCE SUBJECTS SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION.

THE SEMINAR WILL BE CHAIRED BY MR. JOHN TAAM, PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR (SCIENCE) AND WILL BE OFFICIATED BY MRS. LOUISE MOK, DEPUTY CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS. THERE WILL BE A WORKSHOP ON THE MAKING OF A MODEL SHOWING THE MUSCLE MOVEMENT OF THE FOREARM.

THE AIM OF THE SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP IS TO ACQUAINT THE IN-SERVICE BIOLOGY TEACHERS WITH THE NEW CURRICULUM AND MODERN APPROACH TO BIOLOGY TEACHING SPECIALLY IN TOPICS OF ECOLOGY AND MICRO-ORGANISMS.

ABOUT 200 SECONDARY SCHOOL BIOLOGY TEACHERS WILL ATTEND THE SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF A SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP ON BIOLOGY SYLLABUS AT 9.30 A.M. ON SATURDAY (MAY 13) AT THE HALL OF NORTHCOTE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ANNEXE, 9A, BONHAM ROAD, HONG KONG.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

STUDY ROOM FOR LAM TIN ESTATE STUDENTS
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THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, WILL OFFICIATE AT A CEREMONY TO OPEN THE PLAYLEADERSHIP CENTRE-CUM-STUDY ROOM AT LAM TIN ESTATE BLOCK 21 TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT 6 P.M.

THE DUAL-PURPOSE CENTRE, OPERATED BY THE HONG KONG PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS, HAS BEEN RENOVATED AND FURNISHED WITH GRANTS FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CEREMONY.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1978

- 27 -

TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN CENTRAL AND WAN CHAI

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF QUEENSWAY BETWEEN COTTON TREE DRIVE AND GARDEN ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC BETWEEN 1 A.M. AND 6 A.M. DAILY FROM SATURDAY (MAY 13) TO MAY 16 TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE QUEENSWAY FLYOVER.

DURING THE ROAD CLOSURE PERIODS, TRAFFIC FROM WAN CHAI TO CENTRAL WILL BE DIVERTED VIA COTTON TREE DRIVE, GARDEN ROAD AND BACK IN QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

CROSS HARBOUR BUS ROUTE NO. 121 WILL BE DIVERTED TO OPERATE VIA HENNESSY ROAD, FENWICK STREET, GLOUCESTER ROAD, HARCOURT ROAD AND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL ON ITS HONG KONG BOUND JOURNEY.

MEANWHILE, THE DEPARTMENT ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT FROM 10 A.M. ON FRIDAY (MAY 12) THE EXISTING PROHIBITION ON PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES IN MORRISON HILL ROAD WILL BE EXTENDED NORTHWARDS TO WAN CHAI ROAD JUNCTION FOR ABOUT ONE MONTH IN CONNECTION WITH THE CLOSURE OF MORRISON HILL ROAD AND SHARP STREET WEST.

PUBLIC LIGHT BUS DRIVERS ARE ADVISED TO OPERATE VIA HENNESSY ROAD AND MARSH ROAD ON JOURNEYS TO THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP IN THESE AREAS TO INDICATE THE RESTRICTIONS AND ASSIST MOTORISTS.

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