



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1981

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STRONGER ACTION URGED AGAINST HUT RACKETEERS

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THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE HON R.H. LOBO, THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE MORE POSITIVE EFFORTS TO ARREST AND PROSECUTE THOSE WHO BUILD SQUATTER HUTS FOR SALE INSTEAD OF RELYING SO MUCH ON THE CORRECTIVE MEASURE OF DEMOLISHING THEM.

HE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT HE WAS NOT SUGGESTING THAT THE HELPLESS SQUATTER WHO IS GENUINELY BUILDING A HUT IN WHICH TO LIVE SHOULD BE PROSECUTED.

+BUT RATHER THAT WE SHOULD SEEK OUT AND PUNISH THOSE WHO BUILD AND SELL HUTS, THUS PROFITING FROM THE MISFORTUNES OF OTHERS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE,+ HE SAID.

MR LOBO NOTED THAT SINCE 1976, 90 PER CENT OF NEW SQUATTING HAS BEEN CONCENTRATED IN EAST KOWLOON.

AND IT IS THE AVAILABILITY OF ACCOMMODATION IN THIS DESIRABLE LOCATION, RATHER THAN THE FORCE OF DEMAND FOR HOMES, WHICH IS THE MAIN CAUSE OF CURRENT NEW SQUATTING IN THIS AREA.

THIS IS BORNE OUT BY THE RELUCTANCE OF THOSE RENDERED HOMELESS BY FIRE OR FLOOD TO ACCEPT PERFECTLY GOOD ACCOMMODATION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

MR LOBO SAID HE UNDERSTOOD 90 PER CENT OF THE NEW HUTS IN EAST KOWLOON ARE BEING BUILT BY RACKETEERS AND IT IS AGAINST THIS GROUP THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED.

INDEED, HE SAID, ROOF-OVER +IS THE GREATEST SINGLE CAUSE OF WORRY IN HONG KONG+.

+FOR MANY PEOPLE IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE A CASE OF 'JAM TOMORROW' AND FOR SOME IT LOOKS LIKE NO JAM AT ALL IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

+IF WE ARE TO REGARD THAT AS A PROBLEM OF MANAGEABLE PROPORTIONS I THINK THAT WE MUST DO MORE TO MAKE CONDITIONS TOLERABLE FOR THOSE WHO WAIT, PARTICULARLY IN THE SQUATTER AREAS,+ MR LOBO SAID.

HE REITERATED HIS EARLIER PLEA IN THE COUNCIL ON THE NEED TO PROVIDE BASIC FACILITIES, SUCH AS WATER, ELECTRICITY, FOOTPATHS, LATRINES, ETC. FOR THE MORE PERMANENT SQUATTER AREAS AND ASKED WHAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE IN THIS RESPECT.

HONG KONG, HE POINTED OUT, MUST NOW ACCEPT THAT SQUATTERS WILL BE A FEATURE OF OUR HOUSING SITUATION FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

THIS IS BECAUSE OUR OWN HOUSING PROGRAMMES DO NOT PROVIDE FOR THEIR ELIMINATION IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE AND THEY WILL CERTAINLY NOT GO AWAY BY THEMSELVES.

/+THAT BEING .....

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+THAT BEING SO, WE MUST CONSIDER WHAT SORT OF AN ELEMENT THEY CONSTITUTE IN OUR SOCIETY.

+IF IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OUR SOCIETY SHOULD BE COHESIVE, THEN TO DENY OR TO WITHHOLD FROM SQUATTER AREAS WHAT ARE REGARDED EVERYWHERE ELSE AS ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND AMENITIES, RISKS DISCONTENT, RESENTMENT AND DIVISION.

+IT IS ONE THING, AS A MATTER OF POLICY, TO MAKE NEW SQUATTING UNATTRACTIVE= IT IS ANOTHER TO PERPETUATE AMONG ESTABLISHED SQUATTERS A SENSE OF NEGLECT AND ALIENATION,+ MR LOBO SAID.

WHILE RECOGNISING THERE IS NO EASY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS THAT SOME PEOPLE HAVE A GREATER CLAIM ON RESOURCES THAN OTHERS AND THAT THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN LIFETIME OF WORK AND THEIR LOYALTY TO HONG KONG WILL RESENT WAITING EVEN LONGER IN THE QUEUE, HE CONSIDERED IT +NOT NECESSARY TO REVERSE OUR POLICIES AND OUR PRIORITIES+.

+INDEED NO GREAT EFFORT IS REQUIRED AT ALL TO PROVIDE BASIC SERVICES ON A REASONABLE ADEQUATE SCALE,+ HE SAID.

+IF ELECTRICITY CAN BE SUPPLIED ILLEGALLY, FOR EXAMPLE, IT CAN SURELY BE DONE LEGALLY.

+IT SOMETIMES LOOKS AS IF RED TAPE RATHER THAN A DETERMINED EFFORT TO IMPROVE IS THE MAJOR OBSTACLE.+

PUBLIC CLEANLINESS WAS ANOTHER TOPIC ON WHICH MR LOBO EXPRESSED HIS VIEWS.

HE SAID NEGLECT IS TOO PREVALENT A FEATURE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT.

CITING EXAMPLES OF OFFICIAL NEGLECT, HE SAID PAVEMENTS ARE RIPPED APART AND OBSTRUCTED BY UNTIDY AND INCONSIDERATE BUILDING WORK= UNDEVELOPED PLOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND HAVE DEGENERATED INTO UNCONTROLLED TIPS= ROAD SIGNS ARE UNPAINTED AND ILLEGIBLE= AND ROAD DIVIDERS ARE FESTOONED WITH RUBBISH AND SILTED UP WITH DIRT.

+IRONICALLY SOME OF THE MOST VISIBLE EYESORES FOR MANY YEARS HAVE BEEN THE TILTED CUBES ADVERTISING THE LAST CLEAN HONG KONG CAMPAIGN, WHICH LAY PEELING AND FADED UNTIL THEY WERE REPAINTED FOR THIS ONE.

+IT IS EQUALLY IRONIC THAT SOME OF THE WORSE DESPOILERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT ARE THOSE WHO WOULD REGARD THEMSELVES AS CARING AND RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE.+

MR LOBO SAID ART AND THEATRE GROUPS SLAP THEIR CULTURAL INVITATIONS UP WITHOUT THOUGHT AND NEVER THINK OF TAKING THEM DOWN, SUCH AS THE POSTERS GLUED ON PILLARS AND WALLS OR WRAPPED AROUND TREES.

/CIVIC-MINDED .....

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CIVIC-MINDED ORGANISATIONS HANG BANNERS FOR WORTHY CAUSES ON FLYOVERS AND PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES AND YEARS LATER THE REMNANTS HANG IN TATTERS AS ANOTHER CONTRIBUTION TO CIVIC SQUALOR.

+CLEANLINESS, LIKE CHARITY, BEGINS AT HOME,+ SAID MR LOBO.  
+AND I HOPE THAT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND PUBLIC ORGANISATIONS WILL SET AN EXAMPLE TO THE REST OF US.

+CLOSER ATTENTION TO THE IMPACT WHICH PUBLIC PROGRAMMES HAVE ON THE INDIVIDUALS AND MORE EVIDENT CONCERN FOR THE IMMEDIATE CIRCUMSTANCES OF DAILY LIFE COULD DO MUCH TO GIVE OUR SOCIETY THE SENSE OF PURPOSE AND DIRECTION WHICH WE MAY OTHERWISE BE LOSING.

+YOU SPOKE, SIR, OF THE QUALITIES OUR SOCIETY ASPIRES TO: TO BE TECHNICALLY ADVANCED, VALUED AND RESPECTED- I HUMBLLY ADD - THE QUALITY OF SELF-RESPECT?+

MR LOBO ALSO TOUCHED ON THE WORK OF THE UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS.

HE SAID THE 27 UNOFFICIALS GIVE ONLY A VERY SMALL PROPORTION OF THEIR PUBLIC SERVICE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND SPEND MUCH MORE TIME ON OTHER PUBLIC COMMITTEES IN STUDYING THE IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES, OR MEETING GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH PROBLEMS AND GRIEVANCES.

THEY ARE HOLDING OVER 300 SEATS ON A WIDE RANGE OF PUBLIC BOARDS AND COMMITTEES DEALING WITH EVERY ASPECT OF PUBLIC LIFE.

AT THE SAME TIME THEY ARE GIVING DETAILED ATTENTION TO SPECIFIC AREAS OF GOVERNMENT POLICY ON 17 STANDING GROUPS AND AN EVEN LARGER NUMBER OF IN-HOUSE COMMITTEES EXAMINING INDIVIDUAL PROPOSALS AND PROBLEMS.

+THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL NEED NOT DEFER TO ANYONE AS TO CONCERN FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AT EVERY LEVEL AND IN EVERY WALK OF LIFE.

+WE ARE WELL AWARE THAT BROAD PLANS AND POLICIES DO NOT SOLVE IMMEDIATE INDIVIDUAL PROBLEMS AND THAT THE QUALITY OF OUR SOCIETY IS JUDGED ULTIMATELY BY THE EXTENT TO WHICH, ON AN EVERY DAY BASIS, IT RESPECTS THE RIGHTS OF EVERY MEMBER, PROTECTS THE WEAK FROM THE STRONG AND IS IN EVERY WAY JUST AND FAIR.

+OUR FREE SOCIETY MUST ALWAYS BE FAIR,+ MR LOBO SAID.

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EXAMINATION OF MEDICAL POLICY URGED

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IN HONG KONG HAS REACHED A CROSS-ROAD, DR THE HON HARRY FANG TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

AND THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO EXAMINE THE BROAD PRINCIPLES OF ITS MEDICAL AND HEALTH POLICY, HE ADDED.

HE QUOTED A SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AS SAYING THAT +GOVERNMENT HAD BY IMPLICATIONS VEERED TOWARDS THE POLICY OF PROVIDING A MEDICAL SERVICE FOR ALL THAT NEEDED IT, BUT IN TRYING TO PROVIDE TOO MUCH FOR TOO MANY PEOPLE THE GOVERNMENT HAS ENDED UP BY NOT PROVIDING ENOUGH FOR ANYONE+.

+THERE IS A LOT OF TRUTH IN THIS STATEMENT,+ SAID DR FANG. +WITHOUT A CLEAR DEFINITION OF WHO ARE THE ONES IN NEED, THE GOVERNMENT HAS IN FACT BEEN PROVIDING A MINI NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE.

+IF A NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE FOR ALL IS OUR AIM, THEN FUNDS MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE TO RUN IT.+

STATISTICS SHOW THAT THE \$1 884 MILLION MEDICAL AND HEALTH BILL FOR 1981/82 FORMS ROUGHLY EIGHT PER CENT OF THE TOTAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET BUT SLIGHTLY MORE THAN ONE PER CENT OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT. MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ARE SPENDING BETWEEN FIVE AND EIGHT PER CENT OF THEIR GDP ON MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES.

+THIS SHARE - EIGHT PER CENT OF OUR BUDGET - CAN ONLY BE INCREASED AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER PROGRAMMES OR BY AN OVERALL INCREASE IN TAXATION OR THROUGH A SPECIAL TAX FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH CARE.

+THE LAST TWO WOULD MEAN MAJOR CHANGES IN OUR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICIES,+ HE ADDED.

HOWEVER, DR FANG NOTED THAT NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE SCHEMES ELSEWHERE HAVE NOT PROVED TO BE THE PANACEA THAT THEY PROMISED TO BE AND ALSO EXPRESSED DOUBT WHETHER HONG KONG CAN AFFORD IT.

BASED ON THE PER CAPITA COST (POUND STERLING 141) OF THE BRITISH NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE IN 1978, DR FANG SAID HONG KONG WOULD NEED TO SPEND OVER \$7 600 MILLION IN 1981/82 WHICH IS FOUR TIMES THE PRESENT MEDICAL AND HEALTH BUDGET AND IS OVER 40 PER CENT OF LAST YEAR'S TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

DR FANG AGREED WITH THE GOVERNOR THAT THE LIKELIHOOD OF ACHIEVING AN ADDITIONAL 15 000 HOSPITAL BEDS BY THE END OF THE DECADE IS +RATHER DOUBTFUL+.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS ALREADY DIRECTLY, OR INDIRECTLY THROUGH SUBVENTIONS, FUNDING 85 PER CENT OF THE HOSPITAL BEDS AND IF NO NEW BEDS ARE BUILT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE PROPORTION OF THE GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT WILL BE OVER 92 PER CENT BY THE END OF THE DECADE.

/BUT THE .....

BUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRIVATE HOSPITALS IN THE PAST TEN YEARS IS MOST DISAPPOINTING, HE SAID.

AND IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE DISAPPOINTING UNLESS POSITIVE STEPS ARE TO BE TAKEN.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, PLANS OF THE DR SUN YAT SEN HOSPITAL IN KOWLOON WERE ABORTED= THE WAH JEN HOSPITAL ON BRAEMAR HILL HAS BEEN DELAYED AND THE RECENTLY-APPROVED AW BOON HAW HOSPITAL IN WONG CHUK HANG HAS MADE LITTLE HEADWAY.

ONE OF THE DISINCENTIVES COULD WELL BE IN THE RESTRICTIVE LAND GRANT CONDITION WHICH REQUIRE 20 PER CENT OF THE HOSPITAL BEDS TO BE OPERATED AS +CHARITY BEDS+, HE ADDED.

+IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHANCE OF BREAKING EVEN IS VERY SLIM.

+I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO ARE WILLING TO SHOULDER THE CAPITAL COSTS OF CONSTRUCTING HOSPITALS, BUT WHO ARE PUT OFF BY THE PROHIBITIVE RECURRENT COSTS.

+IF THE REQUIREMENT FOR LAND GRANTS COULD BE MODIFIED TO EMPHASIZE SOLELY ON THE 'NON-PROFIT MAKING' ASPECT, I AM SURE THIS WOULD STIMULATE PRIVATE PARTICIPATION WITHOUT NEGATING THE SOCIAL OBJECTIVE OF ENSURING THAT THE SERVICE IS WITHIN THE MEANS OF THE COMMUNITY.+

HE SUGGESTED THAT A FIXED PERCENTAGE OF BEDS BE PROVIDED +AT COST+ WHILE PROFITS FROM THE REMAINING BEDS BE USED TO UPGRADE AND EXPAND THE SERVICES.

TURNING TO PRIMARY MEDICAL CARE, DR FANG NOTED THAT IT IS ONE OF THE WEAKEST AREAS IN THE GOVERNMENT MEDICAL SERVICE.

AT PRESENT, PRIMARY CARE IS CARRIED OUT IN THE GOVERNMENT OUT-PATIENT CLINICS. WORK AT THESE CLINICS IS HEAVY WITH LITTLE SCOPE FOR TRAINING AND DOCTORS ARE ASSIGNED THERE NOT BY CHOICE BUT BY CIRCUMSTANCE.

BECAUSE OF THE TREMENDOUS WORKLOAD, HE SAID, OFTEN LESS THAN TWO MINUTES ARE SPENT ON EACH PATIENT AND THE DOCTOR/PATIENT RELATIONSHIP IS NON-EXISTENT.

A RECENT SURVEY OF ATTENDANCE AT THE CLINICS SHOWS THAT THE MAJORITY WERE HOUSEWIVES, ELDERLY PEOPLE AND CHILDREN. FEW WORKING MEN OR WOMEN COULD AFFORD TO SPEND TIME QUEUING AT THESE CLINICS.

+I SUGGEST THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENCOURAGE MORE EMPLOYERS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEDICAL NEEDS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH INSURANCE SCHEMES AND ARRANGEMENTS WITH PRIVATE DOCTORS,+ HE SAID.

SUCH A SCHEME WOULD RELIEVE PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT FACILITIES AND MAKE THESE MORE READILY AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO CANNOT AFFORD MEDICAL CARE OTHERWISE, HE SAID.

THERE WOULD ALSO BE A BETTER UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE PUBLIC WOULD HAVE A GENUINE CHOICE IN SERVICE SELECTION AT COSTS THAT THEY CAN AFFORD.

ANOTHER KEY PROBLEM FACING THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH FIELD IN HONG KONG IS NOT ONE OF OVERALL SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS BUT OF AN UNBALANCED USE OF THE EXISTING RESOURCES.

QUOTING STATISTICS, HE SAID ABOUT 50 PER CENT OF SOME 3 200 DOCTORS WHO ARE AT PRESENT WORKING IN HONG KONG ARE IN THE GOVERNMENT AND ASSISTED SERVICES WHILE THE REMAINDER WORK IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

HOWEVER, OUT OF A TOTAL OF 20 800 BEDS, 85 PER CENT ARE IN THE GOVERNMENT AND ASSISTED HOSPITALS.

+THE WORKLOAD IS THEREFORE VERY UNEVENLY SPREAD,+ HE SAID.

+THE PRESENT HIGH WASTAGE RATE OF TRAINED STAFF FROM THE PUBLIC SECTOR, WHICH IS IN THE REGION OF OVER 12 PER CENT, IS A CAUSE FOR SOME CONCERN AND WE MUST CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO REDUCE THIS WASTAGE AND ENCOURAGE THE DOCTORS TO STAY.+

HE WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS RECENTLY SET UP A SPECIAL UNIT, HEADED BY A SENIOR CONSULTANT, TO LOOK INTO THE MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING WAYS AND MEANS OF INCREASING THE SUPPLY OF DOCTORS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

DR FANG ALSO MADE FOUR FURTHER SUGGESTIONS TO REDRESS THE IMBALANCE.

FIRST, HE SAID, MORE POSTS SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE ON CONTRACT TERMS FOR DOCTORS WHO WISH TO REJOIN THE SERVICE.

+I EXPECT THAT SOME PRIVATE DOCTORS WHO HAVE PASSED THE EARLY RETIREMENT AGE AND HAVE ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES FINANCIALLY MAY WELL CONSIDER A GOVERNMENT CONTRACT ATTRACTIVE.

+THEY BRING WITH THEM A RICH STORE OF EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE AND COULD PLAY A PARTICULARLY USEFUL ROLE IN TRAINING THE YOUNGER DOCTORS,+ HE SAID.

SECONDLY, HE THOUGHT THAT LIMITED PRIVATE PRACTICE FOR SENIOR RANKING GOVERNMENT MEDICAL OFFICERS ON PENSIONABLE ESTABLISHMENT WOULD ENCOURAGE GOOD AND EXPERIENCED DOCTORS TO REMAIN IN THE SERVICE.

+THEY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO KEEP SOME OF THE FEES CHARGED UP TO A PRESCRIBED CEILING,+ HE SAID. +THIS HAS WORKED WELL IN OTHER COUNTRIES NOT ONLY TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE DOCTORS THEMSELVES BUT ALSO TO THE PATIENTS IN GENERAL BECAUSE IT FOSTERS A CLOSER DOCTOR/PATIENT RELATIONSHIP+.

IN FACT, A SIMILAR BUT INADEQUATE SCHEME IS ALREADY OPERATING IN THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

THIRDLY, DR FANG QUESTIONED WHETHER THE EXISTING SCARCE PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES ARE BEING USED TO THEIR OPTIMUM OR IS THERE SCOPE TO RELIEVE THEM OF DUTIES THAT DO NOT REQUIRE THEIR PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE?

FOURTHLY, HE URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER A +DISTINCTION AWARD+ SCHEME FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE TO RECOGNISE GOOD WORK, PARTICULARLY IN LESS POPULAR POSTS.

TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENTS

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THE PAST YEAR SAW A NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENTS ON THE TRANSPORT FRONT IN HONG KONG, THE HON T.S. LO SAID.

SPEAKING DURING THE POLICY DEBATE, MR LO SAID THAT IN THE FIRST PLACE, A TRANSPORT SECRETARIAT WAS ESTABLISHED ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED BY THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

SECONDLY, HE NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS BEGINNING TO ACCEPT THAT IN MAKING A JUDGMENT ON THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES, TRANSPORT WAS NO LESS IMPORTANT THAN HOUSING. MOREOVER, HE CONTINUED, IT WAS ALSO BEGINNING TO ADMIT THAT ROAD BUILDING IN THE PAST HAD SUFFERED MUCH MORE FROM BUDGETARY TAILORING THAN WAS PRUDENT.

THIRDLY, THE GOVERNMENT WAS BEGINNING TO REALISE THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO DODGE ISSUES SUCH AS HOW TO SLOW DOWN THE GROWTH AND USE OF PRIVATE CARS.

+MOREOVER, THROUGH CONSISTENT T.A.C. PRODDING IT IS EVEN BEGINNING TO RESPOND (NOT ADMITTEDLY WITH A MARKED DEGREE OF ENTHUSIASM) TO SUGGESTIONS THAT IT SHOULD HAVE A GREATER INPUT INTO THE PROPER MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT UNDERTAKINGS,+ HE SAID.

FOURTHLY, MR LO POINTED OUT THE GOVERNMENT HAD IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS DESTROYED A FEW MYTHS THAT BADLY NEEDED EXPLODING. THESE INCLUDE THE MYTHS THAT THE TAXI TRADE IS A PROTECTED BUSINESS AND THE GOVERNMENT HAD A RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT IT REMAINED LUCRATIVE BY LIMITING TAXI LICENCES, THAT CONGESTION COULD BE RELIEVED BY NOT INCREASING OFF-STREET PARKING FACILITIES, AND THAT MOST PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE LESS THAN THREE FEET TALL.

+ALL OF THIS IS ENCOURAGING AND I DARE SAY IF IT HAD HAPPENED TEN YEARS AGO OUR TRANSPORT SITUATION WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE TOLERABLE THAN IT IS TODAY,+ HE SAID.

+I KNOW IT IS DEPRESSING TO SAY THIS BUT IT WILL TAKE TIME FOR THE TRANSPORT SECRETARIAT TO GET A GRIP ON THINGS.

+BUT I DO SEE A DIM LIGHT AT THE END OF THE LONG TUNNEL.+

TURNING TO THE UMELCO POLICE GROUP OF WHICH HE IS CHAIRMAN, MR LO SAID: +CRITICS OF THE SYSTEM SAY IN EFFECT THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE GROUP PROPERLY TO MONITOR THE WORK OF CAPO BECAUSE CAPO IS BUT A PART OF THE POLICE FORCE. THIS IS A TWO-PRONGED CRITICISM BOTH OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UMELCO GROUP IN MONITORING AND OF THE INTEGRITY OF CAPO IN DETECTING.

+IN A SENSE IT IS ALWAYS TRUE TO SAY THAT NO ONE CAN PERFECTLY MONITOR THE WORK OF ANOTHER UNLESS HE ACTUALLY SEES WHAT THE OTHER IS ACTUALLY DOING THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE OF THE TIME THAT HE IS DOING IT. THIS LINE OF REASONING IS CHILDISH AND NEED NOT BE PURSUED.+

/MR LO .....

MR LO NOTED THAT THE OTHER CRITICISM WAS DIRECTED AT THE SYSTEM OF USING MEMBERS OF THE SAME POLICE FORCE TO INVESTIGATE THE CONDUCT OF THEIR FELLOW POLICEMEN.

+WHERE DOES THIS ARGUMENT TAKE US?+ HE ASKED.

+IF, FOR EXAMPLE, A SPECIAL CORPS IS ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT SEPARATELY FROM THE POLICE FORCE, CAN IT NOT THEN BE CRITICISED BECAUSE MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ARE BEING EMPLOYED TO INVESTIGATE THE CONDUCT OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT?

+TO BE ABSURD, EVEN IF THE SPECIAL CORPS WERE ATTACHED TO A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT, THERE WOULD DOUBTLESS BE CRITICS WHO WOULD COMPLAIN THAT MEMBERS OF THE HUMAN RACE WERE INVESTIGATING FELLOW HUMANS.+

PSYCHOLOGICALLY, MR LO CONTINUED, HE ACCEPTED THAT IT WAS DESIRABLE TO DESTROY ANY SUGGESTION OF COLLUSION OR OF THE TURNING OF A BLIND EYE.

+THAT IS PRECISELY WHY THERE IS A UMEICO GROUP. WE CAN AND WE DO GO INTO ANY FILE WE CHOOSE AND IN DEPTH. WE CAN AND WE DO DUPLICATE SOME INVESTIGATIONS AND WE CAN AND WE DO INTERVIEW WITNESSES TO ENSURE THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO MISREPRESENTATION OF THEIR EVIDENCE BY CAPO.

+ALL OF THIS IS IN OUR ANNUAL REPORT. AS WE SAID IN EFFECT IN THE REPORT, WHILST THERE IS ALWAYS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT, WE ARE SATISFIED THAT CAPO IS RUN VERY MUCH ON THE RIGHT LINES,+ HE SAID.

MR LO ALSO SAID THAT FROM THE PRACTICAL POINT OF VIEW IT WAS CLEARLY FAR MORE ECONOMICAL AND SENSIBLE TO ESTABLISH AN ELITE UNIT WITHIN A LARGE POLICE FORCE THAN IT WAS TO ESTABLISH A SEPARATE FORCE ALTOGETHER.

THIS IS AN ELEMENTARY ADMINISTRATIVE POINT WHICH NEED NOT BE DWELT ON, HE ADDED.

+BUT EQUALLY IMPORTANT: A POLICEMAN KNOWS THE TRAINING, THE REACTION AND THE THINKING OF ANOTHER POLICEMAN. HE IS A TRAINED INVESTIGATOR AND AS A POLICEMAN HE CAN TELL WHETHER IN A MOMENT OF STRESS THE REACTION OF A POLICEMAN IS CONSISTENT WITH THAT OF A GOOD POLICEMAN.

+IT IS PERHAPS FOR SIMILAR REASONS THAT WHEN THE CONDUCT OF A MEMBER OF THE BAR IS CALLED INTO QUESTION, THE INVESTIGATION IS INVARIABLY DONE BY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BAR AND WHEN THE CONDUCT OF A SOLICITOR IS CALLED INTO QUESTION, THE INVESTIGATION IS INVARIABLY DONE BY OTHER SOLICITORS.

+WHAT IS PERHAPS NOTEWORTHY IS THAT NO ONE HAS EVER SUGGESTED THAT THIS SYSTEM IS INHERENTLY WRONG OR COLLUSIVE,+ MR LO SAID.

## SPEED UP MANPOWER TRAINING SCHEMES, GOVT URGED

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THE GOVERNMENT'S LACK OF PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE MANPOWER TRAINING SCHEMES RECOMMENDED BY THE HONG KONG TRAINING COUNCIL CAME UNDER ATTACK BY DR THE HON FRANCIS TIEN, THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON.

HE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT ALL WHO WERE ENGAGED IN INDUSTRY OR HAD AN INTEREST IN ITS FUTURE WERE EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DELAY.

THE GOVERNOR SAID LAST OCTOBER THAT LEGISLATION WOULD BE INTRODUCED IN THE 1980/81 SESSION TO ESTABLISH A STATUTORY BODY TO IMPLEMENT THE TRAINING SCHEMES PROPOSED BY THE TRAINING COUNCIL.

AGAIN IN HIS SPEECH THIS YEAR, THE GOVERNOR REMARKED THAT +SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, LEGISLATION WILL SHORTLY BE INTRODUCED TO CREATE A STATUTORY VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL+, DR TIEN NOTED.

+BUT IN VIEW OF THE CONSIDERABLE TIME THAT HAS BEEN LOST SINCE THE TRAINING COUNCIL FIRST RECOMMENDED THE TRAINING SCHEMES,+ DR TIEN SAID, +I, IN COMPANY WITH MANY IN AND OUTSIDE THIS COUNCIL, WOULD BE HAPPIER IF RATHER THAN 'SHORTLY', GOVERNMENT CAN BE SPECIFIC ABOUT THE DATE BY WHICH A BILL WILL BE PLACED BEFORE THIS COUNCIL.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT, IRRESPECTIVE OF WHAT MAY HAPPEN, THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES WOULD REMAIN THE ENGINE OF OUR ECONOMY AND IMPORTANT TO HONG KONG BOTH AS A JOB PROVIDER AND A WEALTH GENERATOR.

AND TO REMAIN IN BUSINESS, HE STRESSED HONG KONG MUST DIVERSIFY, UPGRADE ITS PRODUCTS AND KEEP PRODUCT COSTS DOWN THROUGH INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY.

+BUT TO DO THIS DEMANDS BETTER TRAINING AT ALL LEVELS.

+THE FACILITIES FOR SUCH TRAINING DO NOT EXIST AT THE MOMENT AND WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF TIME,+ HE SAID.

DR TIEN NOTED THAT THE TRAINING COUNCIL HAD DONE ITS UTMOST TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON FACILITIES NEEDED TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF TRAINING, IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY, TO THAT REQUIRED BY HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIES.

DESPITE ENDORSEMENT BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION AND ACCEPTANCE BY THE GOVERNMENT, THE TRAINING COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATIONS HAD YET TO BE IMPLEMENTED, HE ADDED.

+LET US REMEMBER THE LATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY WHO SAID 'TIME IS A TOOL TO USE, NOT A BED ON WHICH TO LIE'.

+THERE IS ALSO A CHINESE SAYING 'AN INCH OF TIME IS AN INCH OF GOLD, BUT AN INCH OF GOLD CANNOT BUY AN INCH OF TIME',+ DR TIEN SAID.

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+REVIVE INDUSTRY'S PIONEER SPIRIT+  
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THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE STEP TO RESTORE THE MORALE AND STATUS - THE PIONEER SPIRIT - OF HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, THE HON ALEX WU SAID.

HE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT LOOKING BACK ONLY 30 YEARS TO THE BEGINNING OF OUR INDUSTRIAL MIRACLE, THERE WAS ALMOST FRONTIER VIRTUE ABOUT THE SPIRIT HONG KONG THEN DISPLAYED.

+TO BE AN INDUSTRIALIST IN THOSE DAYS WAS TO BE RECOGNISED AS A PILLAR OF SOCIETY, SOMEONE WHO MADE A TANGIBLE, VISIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROGRESS OF THE COMMUNITY, AND, ABOVE ALL, WHO CREATED JOBS.

+BUT WHAT ABOUT THE SPIRIT THAT WROUGHT OUR ECONOMIC MIRACLE AND BUILT A MODERN INDUSTRIAL ECONOMY OUT OF VIRTUALLY NOTHING?

+HAS IT LOST IT IMPETUS, OR JUST DIRECTION?+ HE ASKED.

THE LEGENDS WHICH CATCH POPULAR IMAGINATION TODAY, MR WU CONTINUED, ARE NOT ABOUT MEN WHO STARTED WITH A DOLLAR AND A BACKROOM WORKSHOP AND BUILT A MANUFACTURING ENTERPRISE EMPLOYING HUNDREDS AND SENDING HONG KONG GOODS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

+I DO NOT THINK THAT DOES MEAN OUR MANUFACTURING ENTREPRENEURS HAVE LOST THEIR TOUCH, OR THEIR BELIEF IN THE ESSENTIAL IMPORTANCE OF THE MANUFACTURING BASE OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY.

+I DO THINK THERE IS A LACK OF PURPOSE AND DIRECTION EVIDENT AT THIS TIME,+ HE SAID.

MR WU WAS COMMENTING ON THE FAILURE OF SELF-RESTRAINT IN THE PROVISION OF CREDIT AND IN THE SPECULATION IN REAL ESTATE WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO HIGH HOUSING COSTS IN HONG KONG.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IT DID NOT TAKE A VERY SOPHISTICATED ECONOMIST TO SEE THAT +WE WILL NOT EXPAND THE WEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY BY TAKING IN EACH OTHER'S WASHING+.

BUT THIS IS WHAT A GREAT MANY BIG FINANCIAL DEALS AMOUNT TO RECENTLY, HE SAID.

+IF WE DO NOT EXPAND OUR NATIONAL WEALTH,+ HE WARNED, +WE DO NOT KEEP UP WITH OUR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITMENTS, WE DO NOT ENJOY THE BETTER LIFE WE HAVE WORKED FOR, AND OUR STANDARDS OF LIVING WILL FALL.

+WE USED TO BE A SOCIETY THAT KNEW THOSE HOMETRUTHS BY INSTINCT.

/+I CAN .....

+I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT OUR SECOND GENERATION ENTREPRENEURS ARE NOT LOSING THE TOUCH THEIR FATHERS HAD,+ HE SAID.

ON THE SUBJECT OF DIVERSIFICATION, MR WU CONSIDERED IT NOT A BAD THING TO RECONVENE THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION, OR THOSE MEMBERS WHO ARE AVAILABLE AND REPORT PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS.

CONDITIONS HAVE CHANGED A GOOD DEAL SINCE THAT REPORT WAS PUBLISHED AND EVEN MORE SINCE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE WERE FRAMED IN 1977.

+THE REASONS WHY WE MUST DIVERSIFY AND MODERNISE ARE MORE COMPELLING TODAY.

+HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY REMAINS THE BACKBONE OF THE ECONOMY AND WE MUST NOT NEGLECT ANY OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE AND DEVELOP IT.+

TURNING TO THE PROPOSED ACADEMY OF THE PERFORMING ARTS, MR WU SAID HE WELCOMED THIS IMAGINATIVE PROJECT AND THE GOVERNMENT'S RECOGNITION OF ITS ROLE IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE ARTS.

HE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO SEE THAT THE NAME +ACADEMY+ WAS USED TO DESCRIBE THE ESTABLISHMENT - A NAME SUGGESTED BY MR WU DURING THE POLICY DEBATE IN 1977.

FOLLOWING ITS ANNOUNCEMENT, HE NOTED, THE PROJECT HAD ATTRACTED SOME CRITICISM WHICH REVEALED ONLY TOO CLEARLY THE CONFUSION BETWEEN THE TEACHING FUNCTION OF SUCH AN INSTITUTION AND THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR PERFORMANCE.

+THIS ILL-CONCEIVED CRITICISM CULMINATED IN QUERULOUS COMPLAINTS THAT WE WERE EMBARKING ON THE ACADEMY BEFORE WE HAD BEGUN WORK ON THE LONG-PLANNED TSIM SHA TSUI CULTURAL COMPLEX.

+WHILE A COMPLEX DESIGNED FOR PUBLIC PERFORMANCES MAY WELL BECOME INVOLVED IN EDUCATION AND CAN CERTAINLY PROVIDE VALUABLE FACILITIES THE DISTINCTION SHOULD BE RECOGNISED AS FUNDAMENTAL.

+AND WHEN IT IS RECOGNISED THERE WILL BE NO GROUNDS FOR CONFLICT OR MISUNDERSTANDING OF ANY KIND,+ HE SAID.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1981

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CHANGE NEEDED IN CORRECTIONAL CENTRES FOR JUVENILES  
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THE REV THE HON JOYCE BENNETT TODAY CALLED FOR A COMPLETE REORGANISATION OF THE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS IN HONG KONG.

IN MAKING HER PLEA, MISS BENNETT SUGGESTED THAT PROBATION WORK AND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS BE FULLY INTEGRATED WITH THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT SOCIAL WORKERS WHO SPENT A YEAR OR TWO OR MORE AS PROBATION OFFICERS AND THEN RETURNED FULLY TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE FIELD WOULD NEVER MAKE SATISFACTORY PROBATION OFFICERS.

PROBATION WORK IS A SPECIALISED CAREER AND THE EXPERTISE NEEDED IN IT IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT IN THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION, SHE STRESSED.

MISS BENNETT, WHO CHAIRS AN AD HOC GROUP FORMED BY UNOFFICIALS TO LOOK INTO THE RUNNING OF CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR JUVENILES IN HONG KONG, SAID: +THE GROUP HAS SEEN THAT YOUNG PEOPLE MAY COMMIT OFFENCES FOR MANY REASONS, NOT THE LEAST IMPORTANT CAN BE THEIR UNSATISFACTORY HOMES AND LACK OF PARENTAL CONTROL.

+HOWEVER, WE HAVE BEEN CONVINCED THAT THE YOUNG OFFENDERS MUST BE BROUGHT FACE TO FACE WITH THE FACT THAT OFFENCES HAVE BEEN COMMITTED.

+THIS FACT MUST NOT BE CONCEALED. WE CONSIDER THAT THE YOUNG OFFENDER NEEDS TO RECEIVE SOME CLEAR PUNISHMENT TO BRING HOME TO HIM THAT HIS UNSOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CANNOT BE TOLERATED.

+WE MUST NOT BE MISLED BY ANY STARRY-EYED IDEALISM FROM OVERSEAS THAT DISCIPLINE IS OLD-FASHIONED. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING CHANGES IN OUR CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS.+

INDEED, MISS BENNETT SAID, THE UNOFFICIALS WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE YOUNG OFFENDERS PUT UNDER THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT CORRECTION.

SHE NOTED THAT THEY WOULD SUPPORT A RECOMMENDATION PUT FORWARD A FEW YEARS AGO THAT THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE RENAMED THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS COMMITTED TO INSTITUTIONAL CARE AFTER BEING FOUND GUILTY BY THE COURTS SHOULD BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO REFORM THEMSELVES IN A PROPERLY DESIGNATED SECTION OF THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT, SHE ADDED.

/+THE PRISONS .....

+THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT IS DOING A FINE JOB WITH YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN.

+VISIT THEIR INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS AT TAI TAM GAP AFTER SEEING THE MA TAU WAI GIRLS' HOME AND YOU WILL BE IN NO DOUBT WHICH PLACE IS GIVING THE YOUNG OFFENDERS A SECOND CHANCE IN LIFE, A RESPECT FOR THEMSELVES AND SOUND TRAINING FOR THEIR FUTURE TO THE COMMUNITY.+

MISS BENNETT ALSO SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION BY A UK ADVISER, MR R.M. JARMAN, WHO URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO SEPARATE THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF CASES REFERRED TO THE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS RUN BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

TO DEVELOP THIS THEME EVEN MORE CLEARLY, SHE CONTINUED, THE UNOFFICIALS OF THE AD HOC GROUP CONSIDERED THAT GIRLS ON REMAND FOR INVESTIGATION INTO SOME OFFENCE OR AWAITING SENTENCE IN THE COURTS WOULD BENEFIT FROM A DIFFERENT EXPERTISE THAN THAT AVAILABLE IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

+THE SOCIAL WORKER IN THAT DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN TRAINED IN A CARING PROFESSION THAT IS ADMIRABLY SUITED TO THE HOME WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE COMMITTED FOR CARE AND PROTECTION.

+WE NEED TO REVIEW THE CARE AND PROTECTION ORDINANCE TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO CONFUSION BETWEEN CARING FOR THOSE CHILDREN, WHO COME FROM INADEQUATE HOMES, AND BRINGING DISCIPLINE INTO THE LIVES OF THOSE OTHER CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEGUN A LIFE OF CRIME.

+THESE OTHERS, DELINQUENTS, NEED DISCIPLINE BECAUSE THEIR OWN HOMES DO NOT PROVIDE THEM WITH SUFFICIENT CONTROL, SO THAT THEY HAVE NOT LEARNT THE ESSENCE OF SELF-DISCIPLINE,+ SHE SAID.

SHE HOPED THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND THOSE IN THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD WOULD NOT BE HURT BY HER DESIRE TO TAKE FROM THEM THE PROBATION WORK AND THE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

+I THINK OUR SOCIAL WORKERS ARE DOING TREMENDOUSLY VALUABLE WORK IN PREVENTION AND IN OUTREACH WORK AMONGST YOUNG PEOPLE.

+I AM ALARMED TO HEAR THAT THERE IS AN ATTEMPT TO CUT BACK ON THE LATTER. THEIR OUTREACH PROGRAMMES MUST SURELY BE DEVELOPED, AS ALSO THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK PROGRAMME,+ SHE NOTED.

ON THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK SCHEME, MISS BENNETT CONSIDERED IT TO BE HIGHLY DANGEROUS TO ALLOW SCHOOLS TO HAVE FREEDOM AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THEY WISH TO USE IT.

WHILE APPRECIATING THAT THERE WAS AN INADEQUATE NUMBER OF SOCIAL WORKERS, SHE SAID: +WE MUST AIM TO ENSURE THAT NO CHILD IN NEED OF COUNSELLING AND THE CARE OF A SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER FALLS THROUGH THE NET WHICH OUR SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMME IS MEANT TO PROVIDE FOR THOSE LEAST ABLE TO CARE FOR THEMSELVES.

+IT MUST BE PART OF THE AIM OF OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM TO ENSURE THAT EACH SCHOOL IS SERVED ADEQUATELY BY SOCIAL WORKERS.

+THEY WILL HELP BY PREVENTIVE, AS WELL AS BY REMEDIAL WORK, TO CREATE THAT STABLE SOCIETY WHICH PROVIDES MUTUAL RESPECT AND RESTRAINT.+

CONTINUING HER LONG STRUGGLE TO IMPROVE THE EDUCATION SYSTEM, MISS BENNETT REITERATED HER EARLIER CALLS ON MARCH 25 AND APRIL 29 THIS YEAR FOR EXTRA POSTS FOR DEPUTY-PRINCIPALS, CAREERS COUNSELLORS AND FOR REMEDIAL WORK IN THE SENIOR CLASSES OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

+I HAVE HAD INSPECTORS FROM THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT COME FOR BRIEFING ON THE EVERYDAY PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN RUNNING CLASSES FOR SLOW LEARNERS.

+I HAVE YET TO RECEIVE ADVICE ON HOW TO STRENGTHEN MIDDLE-MANAGEMENT IN OUR SCHOOLS WITH DISCUSSIONS ON THE DUTIES OF VICE-PRINCIPALS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS.

+I SUSPECT THAT THERE IS NO ONE IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WHO REALLY UNDERSTANDS THE PROBLEMS OF RUNNING NEW AIDED SCHOOLS, ESPECIALLY THOSE SERVING THE CHILDREN ALLOCATED TO THE LOWEST BANDS (3, 4 AND 5) BY THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION,+ SHE SAID.

SCHOOLS NEED MORE STAFF, SO THAT THEY ARE AVAILABLE UP TO 4.30 PM FOR EXTRA CLASSES AND COUNSELLING TO THOSE IN NEED.

MORE SMALL GROUP TUTORIAL CLASSES SHOULD ALSO BE DEVELOPED FOR THE CHILDREN WHO DESERVE THE EXTRA HELP THAT THEIR CLASSMATES FROM WEALTHIER HOMES CAN AFFORD BY PRIVATE TUITION.

BUT SHE WAS DISHEARTENED AT THE GOVERNMENT'S RELUCTANCE TO IMPROVE FURTHER OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

+WHAT IS THE GOOD OF HAVING A FULL-SCALE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM WHEN KNOWN-NEEDS ARE NOT YET PROVIDED FOR?+ SHE ASKED.

SHE HOPED THAT FURTHER +REAL+ IMPROVEMENTS WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN OUR SCHOOLS AS A RESULT OF THE REPORT BY THE PANEL OF VISITORS WHO ARE NOW IN HONG KONG TO ASSESS THE EDUCATION SYSTEM.

TURNING TO THE POST-FORM V SYSTEM, MISS BENNETT SAID: +WHEN CAN WE PROVIDE A UNIFIED SYSTEM FOR ENTRY INTO INSTITUTIONS AT THE TERTIARY LEVEL? THIS MUST BE LINKED WITH OUR POST-FORM V SYSTEM.

/+HAS ANY .....

+HAS ANY STUDY BEEN MADE BY OUR GOVERNMENT OF THE UK UCCA SYSTEM?

+WE NEED SOMETHING SIMILAR - A SYSTEM THAT WILL LINK TOGETHER FOR ADMISSION THE TWO UNIVERSITIES, THE POLYTECHNIC, THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.+

THE BAPTIST COLLEGE SHOULD ALSO BE ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD LIKE TO JOIN SUCH A SCHEME WHICH, MISS BENNETT THOUGHT, WOULD BENEFIT NOT ONLY OUR STUDENTS, BUT ALSO OUR SCHOOLS AND TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS.

ON THE PROVISION OF MORE HOUSING FOR THE LESS WELL-OFF, MISS BENNETT SAID SHE WAS GLAD TO KNOW THAT SOME OF THE OLDER +H+ BLOCKS WOULD BE RE-USED BY THOSE IN NEED OF TEMPORARY HOUSING.

SHE WAS ALSO HAPPY TO LEARN THAT BY ENABLING TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS TO BE TWO-STOREYED, MORE PEOPLE COULD BE HOUSED.

+BUT WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?+ SHE QUERIED. +OUR RACKETEERS AND SQUATTERS HAVE CUT AWAY SO MUCH OF OUR HILLSIDES, CAN WE SAFELY UTILISE THIS LAND INTO VAST NEW TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS?+

SO MUCH OF OUR ANTI-ILLEGAL STRUCTURE POLICY SEEMS SO NEGATIVE AND CLEARLY WE ARE NOT SUCCEEDING IN DEMOLISHING ALL THE NEW HUTS, SHE SAID.

+DO WE NEED MORE MEN WORKING IN EAST KOWLOON TO DO THIS?

+DO WE CONCENTRATE TOO MUCH ON CHECKING, AND MEASURING AGAIN SO REGULARLY, THE TOLERATED STRUCTURES AND THE HOUSES ALREADY PASSED AT SOME EARLIER SURVEY?+

SHE NOTED THAT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAD TAKEN OVER ALL THIS SQUATTER CONTROL WORK BUT WONDERED WHETHER SOME MEN SHOULD BE BETTER EMPLOYED IN SUPERVISING PROPER FIRE PREVENTION MEASURES, IN PROMOTING SAFER LIGHTING AND COOKING METHODS AND IN ORGANISING THE SQUATTERS IN SANITATION AND CLEANLINESS TEAMS.

+LET US REALISTICALLY SUPERVISE THEM UNTIL WE CAN PRODUCE ENOUGH LAND THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE TERRITORY AND REHOUSE THEM NEAR SUFFICIENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES,+ MISS BENNETT SUGGESTED.

NEED FOR SINGLE AUTHORITY STRESSED

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UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE HON S.L. CHEN HAS CALLED FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A SINGLE OVERRIDING AUTHORITY FOR THE VARIOUS RESPONSIBILITY AREAS.

HE WAS COMMENTING ON THE MIS-MATCHES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TOWNS WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS +A MATTER OF PARTICULAR CONCERN+.

HE POINTED OUT THAT SUCH MIS-MATCHES NOT ONLY RESULTED IN HARDSHIP AND INCONVENIENCE, BUT COULD ALSO BE EXPENSIVE TO CORRECT.

+THE IMPORTANT QUESTION IS WHY SUCH MIS-MATCHES WERE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN IN THE FIRST PLACE?+ MR CHEN ASKED.

+MY GUESS IS THAT THEY HAVE ARISEN NOT MERELY BECAUSE OF LACK OF CO-ORDINATION BUT RATHER THE RESULT OF THE LACK OF A SINGLE OVERRIDING AUTHORITY FOR THE VARIOUS RESPONSIBILITY AREAS.+

QUOTING TRANSPORT PROBLEMS AS AN EXAMPLE, HE DESCRIBED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW TRANSPORT BRANCH AS BOTH +LOGICAL AND TIMELY+.

HOWEVER, FROM THE STRUCTURAL ORGANISATION OF THE TRANSPORT AND LANDS AND WORKS BRANCHES, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE NEW TRANSPORT BRANCH WOULD NOT BE GIVEN EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR TRANSPORT MATTERS, HE SAID.

+THE BRANCH'S ROLE APPEARS TO BE ONLY ONE OF PLANNING AND CO-ORDINATING.

+THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRANSPORT WORKS RESTS WITH THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH OVER WHICH THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT WILL HAVE NO JURISDICTION.+

WHILE APPRECIATING THAT THE TRANSFER OF SOME STAFF FROM THE PWD'S HIGHWAYS OFFICE TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT MIGHT STRENGTHEN THE DEPARTMENT, MR CHEN THOUGHT IT WOULD NOT VEST THE TRANSPORT BRANCH WITH THE TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROVISION OF AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE - THAT WAS, FROM INITIAL PLANNING AND DESIGN TO THE ULTIMATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORKS PROGRAMME.

HE CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO THE POSSIBILITY OF PUTTING THE ENTIRE HIGHWAYS OFFICE TO COME UNDER THE TRANSPORT BRANCH.

+THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT WILL THEN BECOME THE OVERRIDING AUTHORITY FOR ALL TRANSPORT MATTERS,+ HE ADDED.

BY THE SAME REASONING, MR CHEN CONTINUED, THE LANDS 'ARM' OF THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH SHOULD ALSO BE GIVEN THE TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL LAND MATTERS.

/HE POINTED .....

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE COMPLEXITY AND IMPORTANCE OF LAND MATTERS COULD WELL JUSTIFY A LANDS BRANCH ON ITS OWN.

+I AM THEREFORE OF THE OPINION, ALBEIT A LITTLE TOO LATE IN THE DAY, THAT THE LAND PRODUCTION RELATED ENGINEERING SECTIONS OF THE PWD SHOULD COME UNDER A 'LANDS BRANCH' WHICH WOULD HAVE TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR LAND MATTERS.+

MR CHEN SAID THE HOUSING BRANCH WAS AN EXAMPLE WHERE HAVING AN OVERRIDING AUTHORITY HAD RESULTED IN EFFICIENCY OF OPERATION AND THE ABILITY TO MEET PROGRAMME TARGETS.

TURNING TO THE ECONOMY, MR CHEN STRESSED THE NEED TO BOLSTER THE MORALE AND STRENGTH OF INDUSTRY WHICH REMAINED THE BACKBONE OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY.

IT PROVIDED THE BULK OF OUR EARNING WITHOUT WHICH OUR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES COULD NOT POSSIBLY BE SUSTAINED.

+MOREOVER IT ALSO PROVIDES MORE THAN 40 PER CENT OF OUR TOTAL EMPLOYMENT, A VITAL FACTOR IN MAINTAINING THE SOCIAL STABILITY OF OUR COMMUNITY,+ HE SAID.

ALTHOUGH THE PREFERENTIAL INTEREST RATES OFFERED TO INDUSTRIAL BORROWERS BY SEVERAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS APPEARED TO BE SOMETHING LESS THAN WHAT THE INDUSTRIALISTS HAD HOPED FOR, MR CHEN NOTED THAT IT WAS NEVERTHELESS A HELPFUL RESPONSE.

HE HOPED SUCH A STEP WOULD ALSO INSPIRE MORE SUBSTANTIAL AND MEANINGFUL ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

+SUCH ASSISTANCE COULD TAKE THE FORM OF LONG-TERM LOW-INTEREST CREDIT FACILITIES FOR THE PURCHASE OF CAPITAL PLANT WHICH I SUGGESTED IN THE LAST BUDGET DEBATE.+

HE NOTED THAT GOVERNMENTS OF MANY DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD ACCEPTED THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVIDING SIMILAR CREDIT FACILITIES TO ASSIST THEIR INDUSTRIES.

MR CHEN ALSO SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL TO REVISE THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME BY EXCLUDING LAND VALUE FROM THE SALES PRICE.

HE REPEATED HIS EARLIER PLEA THAT THOSE WELL-OFF TENANTS IN SUBSIDISED PUBLIC HOUSING WHO WERE OWNERS OF PROPERTIES SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO VACATE THEIR UNITS TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE NEEDY.

THEY SHOULD ALSO BE EXCLUDED FROM CONSIDERATION FOR HOUSING UNITS OFFERED IN THE REVISED SCHEME, HE SAID.

ON THE SUBJECT OF MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT, MR CHEN HOPED THAT NO EFFORT WOULD BE SPARED TO ENSURE THE EARLIEST ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATUTORY VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL.

WITHOUT THIS BODY, HE SAID, THE IMPORTANT TRAINING SCHEMES PROPOSED BY THE TRAINING COUNCIL AND ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT COULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED.

WARNING OVER GROWING RATE OF PUBLIC SPENDING  
\* \* \* \* \*

THERE IS EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS LOST, OR AT LEAST IS IN DANGER OF LOSING, CONTROL OVER THE GROWING RATE OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, THE HON LYDIA DUNN WARNED, IN A SPEECH ABOUT DOMESTICALLY GENERATED INFLATION.

TO SUPPORT HER VIEW, SHE REFERRED TO THE REVISED FORECAST GROWTH RATES OF EXPENDITURE ON THE VARIOUS COMPONENTS OF THE G.D.P. IN 1981 RELEASED LAST MONTH.

SHE SAID: +THE GROWTH RATE OF GOVERNMENT CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE IN REAL TERMS IS NOW FORECAST TO BE 22 PER CENT AS OPPOSED TO AN ORIGINAL FORECAST OF 15 PER CENT.

+AND THE GROWTH RATE OF GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION IS NOW FORECAST TO BE 13 PER CENT AS OPPOSED TO AN ORIGINAL FORECAST OF EIGHT PER CENT.

+DESPITE THE ACCELERATING GROWTH RATES NOW APPARENT, THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT SEEM TO BE WORRIED BY THEM OR EVEN ANXIOUS TO DEFEND THEM.+

MISS DUNN RECALLED THAT IN RESPONSE TO HER COMMENTS ON THE SUBJECT DURING THIS YEAR'S BUDGET DEBATE, THE GOVERNMENT GAVE EXPLICIT ASSURANCES THAT THE APPROVED ESTIMATES ON EXPENDITURE WOULD BE OBSERVED +FOR IT WAS ADMITTED THAT THE HIGH LEVELS OF EXPENDITURE ACHIEVED LAST YEAR, AND PROPOSED FOR THIS YEAR, COULD ONLY BE TOLERATED IN THE CONTEXT OF SUBSTANTIAL PUBLIC SECTOR SURPLUSES+.

THE GOVERNMENT VOLUNTEERED THAT THE SCOPE FOR FURTHER ENLARGEMENT OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR WAS VERY LIMITED AND, INDEED, NON-EXISTENT IN THE SHORT TERM, AND ALSO PROMISED THAT EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO AVOID OVER-EXTENDING OURSELVES.

BUT IS THIS PROMISE BEING FULFILLED? SHE ASKED.

SHE SAID IT NOW TRANSPIRES THAT, ENCOURAGED BY THE POSSIBILITY OF THE BUDGETTED FOR SURPLUS FOR 1981/82 OF NEARLY \$8 BILLION BEING EXCEEDED, TOTAL EXPENDITURE WILL EXCEED THE APPROVED ESTIMATES BY AT LEAST TEN PER CENT.

AND THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HIMSELF RECENTLY ADMITTED THAT THE RELATIVE SIZE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR WOULD SOAR THIS YEAR TO 24 PER CENT, EVEN THOUGH THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE OF THE G.D.P. HAS ALSO BEEN REVISED UPWARDS.

+SO IT IS FAIR TO ASK: HAS THE GOVERNMENT LOST CONTROL OF THE GROWTH RATE OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE? IF SO, WHY HAS THIS HAPPENED?+ SHE ASKED.

+PERHAPS THE GOVERNMENT WAS SEEKING TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAMME PLANS MORE QUICKLY THAN INTENDED.

/+PERHAPS THERE .....

+PERHAPS THERE IS SOME FAILURE TO RESIST SPECIAL PLEAS DESPITE THE LESSON LEARNED SO PAINFULLY BY GOVERNMENTS ELSEWHERE THAT, ONCE SUCH PLEAS ARE ACCEDED TO IN SUCH A WAY AS TO LEAD TO A SURGE OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO RE-ESTABLISH CONTROL.+

INDEED, MISS DUNN CONTINUED, IT IS APPARENT THAT THERE ARE OBVIOUS GROUNDS FOR CONCERN WHEN ONE LOOKS AT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON BOTH RECURRENT AND CAPITAL AMOUNT.

AS REGARDS RECURRENT EXPENDITURE, SHE WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE INFLATIONARY IMPACT OF THE RECENT \$1.4 BILLION SALARIES AWARD TO THE CIVIL SERVICE AND SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS - A SUM WHICH SHE SAID CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO BE COVERED BY SAVINGS TO ANYTHING LIKE THE SAME EXTENT AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

+AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE PRINCIPLE UNDERLYING THE GOVERNMENT'S PAY POLICY IS THAT ADJUSTMENTS TO CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES SHOULD, OVER TIME, REFLECT OBSERVED TRENDS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR,+ SHE SAID.

+I DO NOT QUARREL WITH THIS PRINCIPLE AND BELIEVE THAT OUR CIVIL SERVANTS, OF ALL RANKS, SHOULD BE WELL PAID.

+BUT I FEEL OBLIGED AND I AM NOT ALONE IN THIS TO QUESTION THE APPLICATION OF THIS PRINCIPLE IN PRACTICE.+

SHE POINTED OUT THAT UNOFFICIALS HAVE ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS EXPRESSED UNEASE ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL PAY INVESTIGATION UNIT EXERCISE WHICH HAS LET THEM TO BE SCEPTICAL OF THE METHODOLOGY USED.

AT ABOUT 140 000 THE CIVIL SERVICE NOW EMPLOYS SIX PER CENT OF THE LABOUR FORCE WHICH IS AS LARGE A PROPORTION AS THE FINANCIAL SECTOR AND NEARLY ONE THIRD MORE THAN THE NUMBER EMPLOYED IN THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

IF THE EMPLOYEES OF SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS ARE ADDED IN, THEN THE INFLUENCE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR AS A WHOLE BECOMES EVEN MORE APPARENT. BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE CIVIL SERVICE OR THE PUBLIC SECTOR AS A WHOLE NEED BE, LET ALONE SHOULD BE, THE MARKET LEADER IN THE DETERMINATION OF WAGES AND SALARIES.

AND IT IS NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S DECLARED POLICY THAT THIS SHOULD BE SO, SHE ADDED.

SHE HOPED THAT THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES WILL TAKE A LONG HARD LOOK AT THE GOVERNMENT'S PAY POLICY BEFORE THE NEXT PIU EXERCISE IS PUT IN HAND.

THERE ARE TWO CONSEQUENCES OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR BEING THE MARKET LEADER WHEN THE ECONOMY IS ENJOYING STRONG GROWTH, MISS DUNN SAID.

THE FIRST IS TO FUEL INFLATION AND TO DAMAGE OUR EXTERNAL COMPETITIVENESS= AND THE SECOND IS TO CONFER ON THE CIVIL SERVICE A DOUBLE BENEFIT.

+IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN ACCEPTED, IN VIEW OF THE ASSUMED TENDENCY OF CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES TO LAG BEHIND THOSE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR DURING MORE PROSPEROUS TIMES, THAT THE CIVIL SERVICE WILL TEND TO GAIN ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN TIMES OF SLUGGISH GROWTH AND RECESSION.

+BUT NOW IT SEEMS TO ME WE HAVE DRIFTED INTO A SITUATION IN WHICH THE CIVIL SERVICE, OR SO IT COULD BE ARGUED, IS ENJOYING IMPROVEMENTS IN REAL INCOMES BETTER THAN THOSE EXPERIENCED IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN BOTH BAD TIMES AND GOOD,+ SHE SAID.

ON CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, MISS DUNN NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S DECLARED POSITION EARLIER THIS YEAR WAS THAT THE LEVEL OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROVIDED FOR IN THE 1981-82 ESTIMATES OF \$9.5 BILLION, A RECORD 38 PER CENT OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE, WAS THE MAXIMUM THAT COULD BE CONTEMPLATED.

SINCE THEN, SHE CONTINUED, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ARGUMENTS FOR INCREASES IN OUR CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMMES SEEM TO HAVE CARRIED MORE WEIGHT THAN THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH INCREASES ON THE RATE OF INFLATION AND HENCE ON THE EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR.

+I SUSPECT THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS SEIZED WITH THE RELATIVE EASE WITH WHICH HIGH LEVELS OF EXPENDITURE CAN BE FINANCED, GIVEN THE BUOYANCE OF OUR REVENUES AND THE COMFORTABLE STATE OF OUR FISCAL RESERVES.

+FURTHERMORE, I AM QUITE CONVINCED THAT THIS PREOCCUPATION WITH INCREASING THE VOLUME OF EXPENDITURE IS NOT ONLY INFLATIONARY BUT ALSO PUTS THE VALUES FOR MONEY CRITERION AT RISK,+ MISS DUNN SAID.

FOR MANY YEARS THE GOVERNMENT HAS EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE VALUE FOR MONEY CRITERION.

IT IS SURPRISING, SHE SAID, THAT A REVISION OF CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES IS NOT AUTOMATICALLY ASSOCIATED WITH A CRITICAL LOOK AT DEPARTMENTAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

WHILE REALISING THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT SUB-COMMITTEE HAS AN ON-GOING PROGRAMME OF IN-DEPTH REVIEWS OF DEPARTMENTAL ESTABLISHMENTS, SHE SAID IT IS NOT THEIR EXPLICIT OBJECTIVE TO ACHIEVE SAVINGS IN RESPONSE TO A LARGER WAGE BILL.

+BUT, WHEREAS THE PURPOSE OF REQUIRING SAVINGS TO BE IDENTIFIED MIGHT WELL BE LEGITIMATELY TO OFFSET PART OF THE COST OF A SALARIES REVISION, THE CONSEQUENCES, OR EVEN SECONDARY PURPOSE, OF REQUIRING SAVINGS TO BE IDENTIFIED COULD BE TO IMPROVE COST EFFICIENCY,+ SHE SAID.

MISS DUNN FURTHER MADE A PLEA FOR IMPROVED AND SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURES IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE TO IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY.

SHE DISAGREED WITH THE ASSERTION THAT THE BUILDING INDUSTRY IS UNDERCAPITALISED AND INDIFFERENT TO MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND URGED THAT SOME CONCLUSION MUST BE DRAWN FROM THE MANY COMPLAINTS VOICED ABOUT THE TIME IT TAKES FOR BUILDING PLANS TO BE APPROVED AND OCCUPATION PERMITS ISSUED.

/+IT FOLLOWS .....

+IT FOLLOWS THAT PRIVATE DEVELOPERS WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO OFFER MORE FLATS FOR SALE OR RENTING IN ANY GIVEN TIME PERIOD THEREBY INFLUENCING ASKING PRICES AND RENTS, IF THE SPEED WITH WHICH BUILDING CONTRACTORS AND ARCHITECTS ARE SERVICED WAS IMPROVED,+ SHE SAID.

TURNING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW LANDS DEPARTMENT, MISS DUNN EXPRESSED REGRET THAT IT HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL APRIL NEXT YEAR.

THE NEW DEPARTMENT IS TO TAKE OVER RESPONSIBILITY FOR LAND ADMINISTRATION FROM THE NTA AND THE LANDS, SURVEY AND TOWN PLANNING DEPARTMENT OF THE OLD PWD.

SHE HOPED THAT THE SAME RELATIVELY BOLD APPROACH THAT HAS BEEN ADOPTED IN RESPECT OF THE NEW LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH AND THE NEW TRANSPORT BRANCH AS WELL AS THE DE-FEDERALISATION OF THE PWD - THAT IS TO SAY, DECIDE THE MAIN ISSUES FIRST AND DO THE DETAILED THINKING AFTERWARDS - WILL BE APPARENT WHEN IT COMES TO THE CREATION OF THE LANDS DEPARTMENT.

+IN OTHER WORDS I HOPE THAT A TIME LIMIT WILL BE PLACED ON THE PRE-PLANNING PHASE AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE BROUGHT INTO EXISTENCE AT THE VERY BEGINNING OF THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR,+ SHE SAID.

MISS DUNN ALSO SUGGESTED THAT, CONCURRENTLY WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW LANDS DEPARTMENT AND THE RATIONALISATION OF THE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE IN THE AREAS OF LAND PLANNING, PRODUCTION AND DISPOSAL, URGENT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO HOW BEST TO MOBILISE THE GOVERNMENT'S AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR'S RESOURCES IN A CO-OPERATIVE WAY TO SPEED UP, ON A COST-EFFICIENT BASIS, THE PRODUCTION OF LAND.

THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF LAND SUPPLY OF WHICH MISS DUNN IS CHAIRMAN, HAS RECENTLY FORMED A WORKING PARTY TO STUDY VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES, SHE SAID.

+MY OWN PERSONAL VIEW IS THAT THERE IS A ROLE FOR A STATUTORY CORPORATION CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PARTICULAR AREAS OF NEW LAND WHICH WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO THE CORPORATION AT F.M.V., THE PREMIA BEING RECOVERED FROM THE CORPORATION BY WAY OF THE ASSIGNMENT BACK TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PREPARED SITES AGAIN AT F.M.V. BUT LESS AN INTEREST FACTOR, FOR G.I.C. USES.

+FINANCE FOR THE ACTUAL DEVELOPMENT WORKS COULD BE RAISED ON THE OPEN MARKET, PERHAPS WITH A LIMITED CALL ON THE DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND,+ SHE ADDED.

CONCERN OVER JUVENILE CRIME  
\* \* \* \*

THE CONTINUED INCREASE IN JUVENILE CRIME MUST BE ARRESTED BEFORE IT GETS OUT OF HAND, SAID DR THE HON HENRY HU.

SPEAKING AT THE POLICY DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, DR HU NOTED THAT POSITIVE ACTIONS WERE BEING TAKEN.

THESE INCLUDED MEASURES TO IMPROVE REMEDIAL TEACHING, COUNSELLING AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES IN SCHOOLS, TO ADAPT THE CURRICULA TO LESS ACADEMICALLY MINDED PUPILS, AND TO ENABLE THE POLICE TO MAKE A GREATER DIRECT CONTRIBUTION THROUGH THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL.

+THESE ARE VERY WORTHWHILE EFFORTS,+ HE SAID. +BUT THEY WILL NOT BE TRULY EFFECTIVE WITHOUT THE WHOLE-HEARTED CO-OPERATION OF THE PARENTS WHO MUST SHOULDER THE FINAL RESPONSIBILITY IN SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE TO THEIR CHILDREN AND IN INSTILLING IN THEM THE RIGHT VALUES AS RESPONSIBLE MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY.

+THE PARENTS SHOULD TEACH THEIR CHILDREN, AMONG OTHER THINGS, SELF-RESPECT AND DISCIPLINE.

+MENTION OF THE WORD 'DISCIPLINE' PERHAPS CONJURES UP IN THE MIND SOMETHING TO BE AFRAID OF, BUT ALL IT REALLY MEANS IS COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND ORDERS - WHICH PROTECT OUR PERSONS, OUR HOMES AND OUR SURROUNDINGS, AND IF THEY ARE OBEYED, WE ALL BENEFIT FROM THEM.+

HOWEVER, DR HU THOUGHT THAT JUVENILE DELINQUENTS SHOULD NOT BE +MIXED+ WITH THE NON-DELINQUENTS IN THE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

THERE SHOULD BE SEPARATE INSTITUTIONS FOR THOSE YOUNG OFFENDERS PLACED ON PROBATION ORDERS, THOSE ON REMAND CASES AND THOSE NON-DELINQUENTS WHO WERE IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION, HE SAID.

HE SUPPORTED THE SUGGESTIONS PUT FORWARD BY THE HON JOYCE M BENNETT AND HER AD HOC GROUP ON THE OPERATION OF CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR JUVENILES.

DR HU ALSO SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE TEN-YEAR ASSIGNMENT RESTRICTION ON THE +NEW DEAL+ HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME UNITS IN WHICH THE LAND VALUE WOULD BE DISCOUNTED FROM THE PRICE OF SUCH UNITS.

+IT WOULD NOT ONLY FOSTER AND STRENGTHEN A SENSE OF BELONGING AMONG THE LOWER INCOME OWNERS, THUS FUNCTIONING AS A STRONG SOCIAL STABILISER, BUT ALSO ACT AS AN INDIRECT AND GRADUAL ECONOMIC STABILISING FORCE,+ HE SAID.

+THIS WOULD BE SO BECAUSE AS MORE AND MORE SUCH H.O.S. FLATS COME ONTO STREAM, THE HYPER-PROFITS NOW REAPED BY THE PROPERTY DEVELOPERS AND SPECULATORS WOULD DROP, ACCOMPANIED BY A STEADY EASING OF DOMESTIC RENTS FOR THIS INCOME BRACKET.

+THIS WOULD RESULT IN THE RE-CHANNELLING - AT LEAST IN PART - OF TALENTS AND CAPITAL BACK TO THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR, THUS REDUCING THE MAIN IMBALANCE IN OUR ECONOMY,+ HE SAID.

DELAY IN LAW OF PROPERTY BILL RAPPED  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT'S DELAY IN PRODUCING AN IMPORTANT LAW HIGHLIGHTED A DEFECT IN ITS CONSULTATIVE PROCESS, THE HON PETER C. WONG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

HE SAID NO ONE WOULD DISPUTE THE VALUE AND NECESSITY OF CONSULTATION ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE.

BUT FOR SUCH A SYSTEM TO WORK WELL, HE SAID, IT MUST BE FLEXIBLE AND CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING MAXIMUM RESULTS IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME.

MR WONG WAS REFERRING TO THE LAW OF PROPERTY BILL WHICH HE HAD URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE DURING THE LAST POLICY DEBATE.

+I POINTED OUT THAT OUR LEGISLATION RELATING TO LAND WAS NOT ONLY FRAGMENTARY BUT LEFT SEVERAL IMPORTANT AREAS VAGUE AND OFTEN CONFUSING.

+ALTHOUGH PROPOSALS FOR SUCH AN ORDINANCE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, SADLY WE ARE STILL WITHOUT ONE TODAY.+

THE COUNCILLOR RECALLED THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, IN RESPONSE TO HIS PLEA, ADMITTED THAT THIS MATTER HAD BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR SOME CONSIDERABLE TIME AND THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO CONSULT INTERESTED PARTIES.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IN THE COURSE OF PREPARATION, THE BILL WAS IN THE LAW DRAFTING SECTION ONLY FOR SOME SEVEN MONTHS OUT OF A TOTAL OF 32 MONTHS. FOR THE OTHER 25 MONTHS, THE MATTER HAD IN FACT BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION ELSEWHERE.

+I HAVE MADE SOME DISCREET ENQUIRIES AND UNDERSTAND THAT AT THE MOMENT THE BILL IS STILL IN THE COURSE OF A LEISURELY 'TOUR', AT TIMES GATHERING DUST ON THE SHELF.

+WHEN IT WILL RETURN TO THE LAW DRAFTING SECTION OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT IS ANYBODY'S GUESS,+ HE SAID.

MR WONG STRESSED THAT FAILURE TO RESPOND PROMPTLY TO A REQUEST FOR COMMENTS IS CERTAINLY MOST UNFORTUNATE AND PROTRACTED CONSULTATION IS DEFINITELY NOT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

+SURELY DELAY IN PRODUCING IMPORTANT LEGISLATION IS INDEED A VERY SERIOUS MATTER.

+IT IS IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST TO ENSURE THAT THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS, WHETHER DUE TO LACK OF DIRECTION OR CO-OPERATION, DOES NOT BECOME COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE AND WORK AGAINST PUBLIC INTEREST.+

MR WONG ALSO COMMENTED ON THE SOCIETIES ORDINANCE.

HE WELCOMED THE NEWS THAT AMENDMENTS WOULD BE INTRODUCED TO THE ORDINANCE WHICH WAS AMENDED NO LESS THAN TEN TIMES SINCE ITS ENACTMENT IN 1949.

THE EXISTING LEGISLATION, WHICH HE SAID NEEDS TO BE FURTHER REVISED IN THE LIGHT OF CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES, PROVIDES FOR THE REGISTRATION OF SOCIETIES AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

+IN A SENSE,+ SAID MR WONG, +IT IS A NEGATIVE MEASURE, DESIGNED MERELY TO COMBAT THE EVILS OF UNLAWFUL SOCIETIES.

+MAY I SUGGEST THAT THE OPPORTUNITY BE ALSO TAKEN TO REINFORCE THE ORDINANCE IN A POSITIVE WAY BY CONFERRING BENEFITS ON SOCIETIES REQUIRED TO REGISTER UNDER ITS PROVISIONS.+

TAKING THE MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS (OWNERS INCORPORATION) ORDINANCE AS AN EXAMPLE, MR WONG NOTED IT CONFERS CORPORATE STATUS ON THE OWNERS UPON INCORPORATION UNDER THE ORDINANCE.

SIMILAR PROVISIONS CONFERRING CORPORATE STATUS MAY BE FOUND IN THE TRADE UNIONS ORDINANCE, CREDIT UNIONS ORDINANCE, CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES ORDINANCE AND THE REGISTERED TRUSTEES INCORPORATION ORDINANCE.

+THE ADVANTAGES ARE OBVIOUS,+ SAID MR WONG.

+FOR EXAMPLE, A BODY CORPORATE MAY HOLD LAND IN ITS CORPORATE NAME WHEREAS AN UNINCORPORATED BODY MAY NOT.+

AT PRESENT, SOCIETIES WISHING TO ACQUIRE CORPORATE STATUS WILL HAVE TO BE INCORPORATED UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

THE PROCEDURE IS BOTH CUMBERSOME AND COSTLY AND THE REQUIREMENTS ARE NUMEROUS AND COMPLICATED, MR WONG NOTED.

+THERE ARE AT THE MOMENT OVER 3 000 REGISTERED SOCIETIES, MOST OF WHICH ARE SMALL ORGANISATIONS WITHOUT THE NECESSARY FINANCIAL RESOURCES OR MANPOWER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE BENEFITS CONFERRED BY THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

+THE INTRODUCTION OF CORPORATE STATUS UNDER THE SOCIETIES ORDINANCE WILL NO DOUBT BE A BENEFICIAL MOVE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION,+ HE SAID.

ON THE SUBJECT OF RENT CONTROL, MR WONG CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE HEED OF THE RECOMMENDATION ON CORPORATE LETTINGS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE OF REVIEW.

HE SAID HE AGREED WITH THE COMMITTEE THAT CORPORATE TENANTS SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM PROTECTION AND QUOTED TWO PASSAGES FROM THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT TO SUPPORT HIS VIEWS:

- \* THERE IS A STRONG BODY OF OPINION OPPOSED TO PROTECTING CORPORATE TENANTS ON THE GROUND THAT BOTH THE LANDLORD AND THE TENANT ARE IN BUSINESS- AND
- \* SOME COMPANIES THAT ARE TENANTS OF RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION HAVE BEEN STRIPPED OF OTHER ASSETS AND ARE BEING SOLD AT SUBSTANTIAL PRICES THEREBY EFFECTING A CHANGE IN THE PERSON IN PHYSICAL OCCUPATION EVEN THOUGH AS A MATTER OF TECHNICAL LAW, THE ACTUAL TENANT DOES NOT CHANGE.

MR WONG URGED THAT THIS +UNDESIRABLE ANOMALY AND INEQUITY+ BE REMOVED AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

HIGH RENTS BLAMED FOR LOWER QUALITY OF LIFE

\* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CALLED UPON TO TAKE ACTION TO CURB THE CURRENT RISE IN DOMESTIC RENTS, IMPROVE THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AT PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LEVEL AND PROVIDE MORE GENUINE CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

SPEAKING AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ANNUAL POLICY DEBATE, DR THE HON RAYSON HUANG SAID THAT IN REAL TERMS, THE AVERAGE HONG KONG WORKER OF TODAY WAS LESS WELL OFF AS REGARDS THE QUALITY OF LIFE THAN HE WAS A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO.

HE CONSIDERED THE INCREASE IN DOMESTIC RENTS AS PROBABLY THE BIGGEST SINGLE FACTOR IN THIS DETERIORATION, SINCE THE RISE HAD NOT BEEN PARALLELED BY CORRESPONDING INCREASES IN WAGES GENERALLY.

HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE CONTROLS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAD BROUGHT IN A LITTLE WHILE AGO WERE ALREADY BEING RELAXED, +LONG BEFORE THE DEMAND FOR HOUSING IS IN SIGHT OF BEING MATCHED BY THE SUPPLY AND AT A TIME WHEN RESTRAINT ON THE PART OF LANDLORDS IS STILL SADLY LACKING+.

IN ADDITION, DR HUANG POINTED OUT, THE SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF HONG KONG HAVE CHANGED DRASTICALLY OVER THE PAST 20 OR 30 YEARS, ESPECIALLY IN THE STRUCTURE OF THE FAMILY AND THE PATTERN OF FAMILY LIFE.

+ONE EARNER CANNOT MAKE ENDS MEET, SO BOTH PARENTS WORK AND THE CHILDREN ARE LESS WELL CARED FOR.

+THEIR WELL-BEING IS LEFT TO THE SCHOOLS WHERE CLASSES ARE LARGE, MUCH TOO LARGE, FOR TEACHERS TO BE ABLE TO PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS OR TO FILL THE GAPS LEFT BY INSUFFICIENT CARE AT HOME.+

HE NOTED THAT THE TRADITIONAL VIRTUES OF OLD CHINA WERE STEADILY BEING ERODED. WITH THE GAP BETWEEN AFFLUENT AND ORDINARY CONTINUING TO WIDEN, PARENTS WERE CAUGHT UP IN THE RAT RACE FOR MATERIAL ADVANCEMENT AND THEIR CHILDREN IN THE RAT RACE FOR THE RUNGS OF THE EDUCATIONAL LADDER.

DR HUANG WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF THIS ON THE YOUNG. +THEY ARE CORKED UP IN TINY CUBICLES CALLED HOME, WITH HEALTHY RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FEW AND FAR AWAY, ACCESSIBLE ONLY BY CROWDED, UNCOMFORTABLE PUBLIC TRANSPORT THROUGH CONGESTED ROADS.

+THE EFFECTS OF SUCH SURROUNDINGS SOONER OR LATER MAKE THEIR MARK, FOR IT WOULD TAKE A WILL OF IRON TO RISE ABOVE THE DELETERIOUS EFFECT OF SUCH AN ENVIRONMENT,+ HE SAID.

/HE NOTED .....

HE NOTED THAT OFFERING TO OUR YOUNG THE PROSPECT OF A DECENT FUTURE SHOULD NOT BE BEYOND EITHER OUR MEANS OR OUR INGENUITY.

+YOU, SIR, POINT IN YOUR ADDRESS TO POSSIBLE LINES OF HOPEFUL APPROACH, BUT INDICATE THAT NO POSITIVE DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE ON THEIR IMPLEMENTATION BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS.

+I AM HOPEFUL THAT THESE CONSIDERATIONS WILL NOT UNDULY DETER US FROM TAKING THE POSITIVE STEPS WHICH SO NEED TO BE TAKEN, SINCE I AM ENCOURAGED BY YOUR EARLIER REMARKS THAT OUR BUDGETED SURPLUS OF \$7 800 MILLION WILL BE SURPASSED AND THAT, I QUOTE, 'BUDGETARY RESTRAINTS ARE NOT A PROBLEM'.+

TURNING TO THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AT PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LEVEL, DR HUANG STRESSED THAT IT NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS.

THIS COULD BE DONE, AS SUGGESTED BY THE GOVERNOR, BY STRENGTHENING CAREER COUNSELLING AND REMEDIAL TEACHING, BY WIDENING THE CURRICULUM TO PROVIDE FOR THE NON-ACADEMIC AND BY ENCOURAGING MORE LEISURE AND COMMUNITY-ORIENTED PROJECTS.

+WE MUST MAKE THESE IMPROVEMENTS,+ HE SAID. +WE MUST ALSO PROVIDE, AGAIN AS YOU SUGGEST, MORE EFFECTIVELY AND MORE CONSTRUCTIVELY FOR DISABLED AND HANDICAPPED CHILDREN. THIS WILL OBVIOUSLY REQUIRE MORE TEACHERS, MORE FACILITIES, AND WE MUST PROVIDE THEM.

+THE SURPLUS IS THERE AND, WHILE I RECOGNISE THAT WE CANNOT HAVE OUR CAKE AND EAT IT, DO EARNESTLY SUBMIT THAT IN THIS CASE WE SHOULD TAKE A GOOD BITE OF IT.+

DR HUANG ALSO TOOK THE GOVERNMENT TO TASK FOR BEING AMBIVALENT IN ITS OWN ATTITUDE ON LEISURE AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

GAMBLING IS A CASE IN POINT.

+THE ARGUMENT HAS REGULARLY BEEN PROFFERED THAT LEGAL GAMBLING OUTLETS MUST BE READILY AVAILABLE IF ILLEGAL GAMBLING IS TO BE COMBATED.

+FOLLOWING THE SUPPOSED LOGIC OF THIS ARGUMENT WOULD WE, AS I ASKED IN THIS COUNCIL SOME YEARS AGO, PUT UP LEGAL OPIUM LOUNGES TO KEEP PEOPLE AWAY FROM TAKING THE MORE DANGEROUS HEROIN?

+WOULD WE ENCOURAGE OUR YOUNGSTERS TO SMOKE POT SO THAT THEY WOULD HAVE A HABIT TO LEAN ON WHICH IS LESS DANGEROUS THAN DEPENDENCE ON OTHER DRUGS?+ ASKED DR HUANG.

HE NOTED THAT GAMBLING, WHETHER LEGAL OR ILLEGAL, ALL TOO OFTEN LEADS TO DISTRACTION FROM WORK, DISHONESTY AND LOSS OF CAREER, POVERTY, UNHAPPINESS, AND FAMILY STRIFE.

HE STRESSED THAT HE DID NOT OBJECT TO GAMES OF CHANCE OR SKILL AS RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, OR TO HORSE-RACING AS SUCH.

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+WHAT I AM WORRIED ABOUT IS THE PROPAGATION OF GAMBLING, AS IF BY EDICT, THROUGH OFF-COURSE BETTING CENTRES WHICH ARE SPREADING SYSTEMATICALLY THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.

+WE HAVE HAD THE RIDICULOUS SITUATION OF GOVERNMENT CONDONING THE PROLIFERATION OF OFF-COURSE BETTING CENTRES AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND AGAINST THEIR FORMAL PETITIONS,+ HE SAID.

HE WAS ALSO WORRIED ABOUT THE EFFECT OF THESE CENTRES ON THE YOUNG.

+WE SHOULD NOT BE BRINGING UP YOUNG PEOPLE TO REGARD GAMBLING AS A PART OF THE NORMAL LIFE-STYLE.

+NOR CAN IT BE ARGUED THAT THE TINY PERCENTAGE OF THE PROFITS WHICH GO TO CHARITY MAKE UP FOR EVEN A PART OF THE TOTAL DAMAGE DONE.+

DR HUANG SUGGESTED THAT WE MUST BE MUCH MORE POSITIVE AND GENEROUS IN THE PROVISION OF MORE YOUTH CLUBS, SPORTS AND CULTURAL CENTRES WHICH, IN THE SHORT TERM, WOULD OFFSET SOME OF THE WORSE ASPECTS OF THE HOUSING SITUATION AND THE PRESSURES OF THE NOISY, CROWDED AND MERCILESSLY COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH MOST PEOPLE LIVE.

IN THE LONG TERM, HE CONTINUED, THE HOUSING SITUATION ITSELF MUST BE REMEDIED.

+WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO YET, BEARING IN MIND THE MANY THOUSANDS WHO LIVE IN DINGY, MAKE-SHIFT SHACKS OR IN DILAPIDATED, UNSANITARY CRAFTS FLOATING OR HALF SINKING IN WATER BLACK WITH POLLUTION,+ HE SAID.

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IMPLICATIONS OF UK NATIONALITY BILL  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE BRITISH NATIONALITY BILL WHICH HAS RECENTLY RUN ITS COURSE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS AND IS COMPLETING ITS PASSAGE THROUGH THE COMMONS CAME IN FOR SPECIAL COMMENT TODAY FROM AN UNOFFICIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, THE HON JOHN SWAINE.

SPEAKING AT THE POLICY DEBATE, MR SWAINE SAID: +I THINK IT IS TRUE TO SAY THAT HONG KONG'S INTEREST STEMS NOT FROM THE PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE BILL FOR TODAY'S HONG KONG CITIZENS, BUT ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS TERRITORY.

+IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE BILL SHOULD HAVE HAD THIS EFFECT.+

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE UNDERLYING POLICY OF THE BILL IS THAT ONLY THOSE PERSONS WHO HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL CONNECTION WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM SHOULD BE CITIZENS OF THAT COUNTRY AND BE ENTITLED TO THE STATUS +BRITISH CITIZEN+.

HOWEVER, HE CONTINUED, THE UNITED KINGDOM CANNOT LEGISLATE FOR THE CITIZENSHIP OF ITS PEOPLE AND THOSE OF ITS DEPENDENT TERRITORIES OVERSEAS WITHOUT RAISING FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS ABOUT ITS CONTINUED RELATIONSHIP WITH THOSE OVERSEAS TERRITORIES.

+IN HONG KONG,+ SAID MR SWAINE, +BECAUSE OF OUR UNIQUE POLITICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING, THOSE QUESTIONS HAVE A PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE.

+WE IN HONG KONG HAVE RECEIVED REPEATED ASSURANCES FROM HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT THAT THE BILL IS NOT INTENDED TO DISTANCE HONG KONG FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THAT THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO BE SAFEGUARDED.

+ACCEPTING THESE ASSURANCES AS WE MUST, AND IT WOULD BE FOLLY TO DO OTHERWISE, WE MUST HOWEVER ASSERT THE HOMELY TRUTH THAT A PERSON, AS WELL AS A GOVERNMENT, IS JUDGED BY HIS ACTIONS.

+WE MUST THEREFORE URGE HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG IN THE YEARS AHEAD ITS DECLARED POLICY THAT THE LINKS WILL REMAIN AND THAT THE INTERESTS OF THIS TERRITORY WILL BE PRESERVED.+

THE RECENT DEFEAT IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BILL WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE TO DECLARE THE BRITISH NATIONAL STATUS OF HONG KONG CITIZENS DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THE DEPRIVATION OF SUCH STATUS, MR SWAINE CONTENDED.

HE SAID HONG KONG CITIZENS WHO ARE BORN OR NATURALISED HERE ENJOY THEIR NATIONAL STATUS THROUGH ALLEGIANCE TO THE BRITISH CROWN, AND THIS INVOLVES, AS A MATTER OF RECIPROCAL OBLIGATION, THE DUTY OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT TO AFFORD PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO HER MAJESTY'S SUBJECTS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

+ASSURANCES HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL THAT THESE OBLIGATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE HONoured.

+THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG DESERVE NOTHING LESS,+ HE STRESSED.

FURTHERMORE, A HONG KONG CITIZEN MAY ACQUIRE THE STATUS OF A BRITISH CITIZEN BY THE PROCESS OF REGISTRATION UNDER THE PROVISION IN CLAUSE 4 OF THE BILL, SAID MR SWAINE.

ONCE THAT STATUS IS ACQUIRED, HE HAS THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN THE SAME WAY AS ANY OTHER BRITISH CITIZEN.

THE BASIC REQUIREMENT FOR REGISTRATION, HE SAID, IS THAT THE HONG KONG CITIZEN HAS LIVED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS, WITH THE FURTHER REQUIREMENT THAT DURING THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS OF HIS STAY HE IS NOT SUBJECT TO ANY IMMIGRATION RESTRICTIONS.

HE EMPHASISED THAT THIS PROVISION APPLIES TO ALL HONG KONG CITIZENS - BORN OR NATURALISED HERE - AND NOT TO JUST A SELECT OR FAVOURED MINORITY.

MR SWAINE DESCRIBED THE SECURING OF THIS CONCESSION BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AS +A VERY NOTABLE SUCCESS+.

+BUT IT HAS NOT RECEIVED THE RECOGNITION IT DESERVES,+ HE NOTED.

+THIS CONCESSION WAS OBTAINED AFTER INTENSE LOBBYING IN LONDON EARLIER THIS YEAR, AND THE MOST ENERGETIC INTERVENTION BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL.+

MR SWAINE ENDED WITH A PLEA FOR MORE FAITH AND CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

+WE MUST NEVER ASSUME HONG KONG'S FRAGILITY BECAUSE OF 1997, BUT MUST ASSUME HONG KONG WILL REMAIN STRONG AND VIABLE BEYOND THAT DATE,+ HE URGED.

HE ALSO SUGGESTED THREE PRACTICAL WAYS IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF HONG KONG SHOULD THINK POSITIVELY ABOUT THE FUTURE AND TREAT 1997 NOT AS A TERMINAL DATE BUT A MILESTONE.

THESE ARE:

- \* THE GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE THE LEAD, AND ENSURE FOR THE PURPOSES OF LAND RESUMPTION COMPENSATION, THAT LAND NORTH OF BOUNDARY STREET IS TREATED IN THE SAME WAY AS LAND TO THE SOUTH.
- \* ACCOUNTANTS AND THE COMPANIES THEY ADVISE MUST GET AWAY FROM THE NOTION THAT LAND AND PLANT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES MUST BE WRITTEN DOWN IN THE BOOKS OF THE COMPANY TO 1997 AS THE TERMINAL DATE, AND THEY MUST BE PREPARED TO TREAT THEM IN THE SAME WAY AS IN THE URBAN AREAS.
- \* BANKS AND FINANCE HOUSES WHICH LEND MONEY TO PROPERTY-BUYERS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES MUST NOT TIE DOWN THEIR REPAYMENT SCHEDULES TO A PERIOD ENDING IN 1997, BUT SHOULD TREAT SUCH PROPERTY-PURCHASERS IN THE SAME WAY AS THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE URBAN AREAS.

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BUS LANE CUTS JOURNEY TIMES BY 80 PER CENT  
\* \* \* \*

BUS JOURNEY TIMES ALONG THE BISNEY ROAD TO POKFIELD ROAD SECTION OF POK FU LAM ROAD WERE CUT BY 80 PER CENT WHEN THE POK FU LAM ROAD BUS-ONLY LANE WAS INTRODUCED BETWEEN 7 AM AND 9 AM TODAY.

THE TIME SAVED ALONG THE 1.2-KILOMETRE SECTION TOOK 10 TO 15 MINUTES OFF OVERALL BUS JOURNEY TIMES.

QUOTING THE RESULTS OF BEFORE-AND-AFTER TRAFFIC SURVEYS, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S CHIEF TRANSPORT OFFICER, TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT DIVISION, MR ALAN LUI SAID : +BEFORE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BUS LANE, BUSES TOOK 18 MINUTES TO TRAVEL BETWEEN BISNEY ROAD AND POKFIELD ROAD.

+NOW IT TAKE A MERE 3-1/2 MINUTES - ONE FIFTH OF THE TIME.+

MR LUI SAID THAT A CONTROL POINT SET UP AT THE JUNCTION OF POKFIELD ROAD BETWEEN 7 AM AND 9 AM TODAY RECORDED THE MOVEMENT OF 190 BUSES CARRYING MORE THAN 20 000 PEOPLE.

+IN COMPARISON, 2 000 OTHER VEHICLES OCCUPYING TWICE AS MUCH ROAD SPACE AS THE BUSES CARRIED ONLY ABOUT 4 000 PEOPLE DURING THE SAME PERIOD,+ HE SAID.

MR LUI ADDED THAT OTHER ROAD-USERS WERE NOT UNDULY AFFECTED BY THE OPENING OF THE BUS-ONLY LANE, THANKS TO THE PROVISION OF SPACE FOR TWO QUEUES OF VEHICLES ALONGSIDE THE BUS LANE.

CHINA MOTOR BUS TRAFFIC MANAGER MR LYNDON REES SAID HE WAS +DELIGHTED WITH THE SIGNIFICANT DROP IN OVERALL BUS JOURNEY TIMES+.

+AS A RESULT OF THE SCHEME, OUR BUSES WERE ABLE TO CLEAR PASSENGER QUEUES AT THE WAH FU BUS TERMINUS BY 7.40 AM, 40 MINUTES EARLIER THAN USUAL,+ HE SAID.

MR LEN RICHBELL, TECHNICAL ADVISER TO A FIRM OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SCHEME, SAID HE WAS +VERY PLEASED+ WITH THE SUCCESS OF THE SCHEME.

+A NUMBER OF REFINEMENTS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS BUT, ONCE MOTORISTS GET USED TO THE SCHEME, ITS BENEFIT TO THE MAJORITY OF COMMUTERS WILL QUICKLY BECOME APPARENT,+ MR RICHBELL SAID.

THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OF WAH HING HOUSE AT WAH FU ESTATE, MR LAM WAN, SAID HE WAS HAPPY TO SEE AN IMPROVEMENT IN BUS JOURNEY TIMES WITHOUT INCONVENIENCING OTHER ROAD-USERS.

THE BUS-ONLY LANE, EXTENDING FROM BISNEY ROAD TO POKFIELD ROAD, OPERATES FROM 7 AM TO 9 AM MONDAY TO SATURDAY.

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### THIRD TSUEN WAN SPORTS FESTIVAL ANNOUNCED

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PLANS ARE WELL ADVANCED TO PROVIDE TWO TEMPORARY SPORT CENTRES IN TSUEN WAN TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE POPULATION, THE TOWN MANAGER, DR JAMES HAYES SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE TWO CENTRES, IN CHEUNG HONG ESTATE ON TSING YI ISLAND AND AT MEI WAN STREET IN THE HEART OF TSUEN WAN, WILL BE READY BY MARCH NEXT YEAR.

IN ADDITION, HE SAID, TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD HAS ALLOCATED \$200 000 THIS FINANCIAL YEAR TO PROMOTE RECREATION AND SPORT IN HOUSING ESTATES. A WORKING COMMITTEE HAS BEEN FORMED TO CO-ORDINATE AND HELP ORGANISE SUCH ACTIVITIES.

DR HAYES WAS SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE THIRD TSUEN WAN SPORTS FESTIVAL WHICH WILL BE HELD BETWEEN NOVEMBER 7 AND 29.

+IT IS NO USE ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO JOIN IN THE FESTIVAL IF, FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR, FOR VARIOUS REASONS CONNECTED WITH TRAINING, EQUIPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION, THEY ARE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY PREVENTED OR DETERRED FROM USING THE FACILITIES TO THEIR FULL EXTENT,+ HE SAID.

+OUR AIM IS TO MAXIMISE THE USE OF AMENITIES, NOT JUST FOR THESE THREE WEEKS BUT THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE YEAR,+ HE STRESSED.

+THE ANNUAL SPORTS FESTIVAL, WITH ITS CONCENTRATION ON SPORTING ACTIVITIES, IS AN EXCELLENT WAY OF SPURRING US ON AND REMINDING US OF OUR OBJECTIVES,+ HE ADDED.

FOR THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL, MORE THAN 70 ACTIVITIES, FRIENDLY MATCHES AND GROUP PERFORMANCES ARE BEING ORGANISED. A GO-KART RACE AND EVENTS FOR THE HANDICAPPED, INTRODUCED LAST YEAR, WILL BE REPEATED.

THE FESTIVAL CHAIRMAN, MR CHAU HOW-CHEN, SAID ABOUT \$300 000 WOULD BE SPENT, OF WHICH \$250 000 WOULD COME FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE REST FROM PRIVATE DONATIONS.

ADMISSION TO ALL FESTIVAL EVENTS WILL BE FREE. TICKETS AND PROGRAMME BROCHURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY CENTRES AND OFFICES OF THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE AND THE FEDERATION OF TSUEN WAN DISTRICT SPORTS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION.

AN OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 7 AT 3 PM AT THE OSMAN RAMJU SADICK MEMORIAL GAMES HALL IN KWAI CHUNG. THE SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION, MR ALAN SCOTT, WHO IS PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, WILL OFFICIATE.

THE FESTIVAL IS BEING JOINTLY ORGANISED BY TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD, THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT AND THE FEDERATION OF TSUEN WAN DISTRICT SPORTS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1981

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EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD INAUGURATED

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THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD, THE FIRST TO BE SET UP ON HONG KONG ISLAND, WAS INAUGURATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN CANTONESE AT THE INAUGURAL MEETING, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR DENIS BRAY CALLED FOR WHOLE-HEARTED SUPPORT FOR THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS IN SPRING NEXT YEAR.

IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT CANDIDATES WHO ARE PREPARED TO STAND FOR ELECTION BE IDENTIFIED AND PERSUADED TO +TAKE THE PLUNGE,+ HE SAID.

THE DISTRICT BOARD HAS 12 MONTHS TO LAY THE FOUNDATIONS OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION WHICH WILL PROVIDE CONTINUITY FOR THE NEXT BOARD DUE TO ASSEMBLE AFTER THE DISTRICT ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER 1982.

MR BRAY SAID THE EASTERN DISTRICT HAD RECENTLY BEEN FACED WITH THE COMPLICATIONS OF LARGE SCALE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE SHAPE OF THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY ISLAND LINE, AS WELL AS THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF QUARRY BAY AND CHAI WAN.

+THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS WILL PRESENT A CHALLENGE TO THE DISTRICT BOARD WHICH MUST SEEK TO ENSURE THAT THE TRADITIONAL IS NOT SWEEPED AWAY BY THE NEW AND THE NEW IS NOT UNDULY DELAYED BY SHORTSIGHTED DEMANDS TO MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO,+ HE SAID.

TOPICS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING INCLUDED THE FUNCTIONS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE DISTRICT BOARD, ITS FINANCIAL POSITION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THREE COMMITTEES TO DEAL WITH ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT, AS WELL AS COMMUNITY, TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT MATTERS.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING WERE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR HILTON CHEONG-LEEN- THE DIRECTOR OF HOME AFFAIRS, MR GRAHAM BARNES- AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MR ALBERT LAM.

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MORE PARKING SPACES RE-OPENED IN HUNG HOM

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A FURTHER 180 PARKING SPACES ON THE FIFTH AND SIXTH FLOORS OF THE HUNG HOM MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK WILL BE RE-OPENED FOR PUBLIC USE FROM 8 AM ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 31).

THIS BRINGS TO 748 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PARKING SPACES AVAILABLE IN THE CAR PARK.

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ELECTION OF EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES

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THE ANNUAL ELECTION OF EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES TO THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD WILL BE HELD BY SECRET BALLOT ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 30) AT 10.30 AM AT THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE SCHOOL HALL, CAUSEWAY BAY.

THE BOARD IS A NON-STATUTORY BODY WHICH ADVISES THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR ON MATTERS REFERRED TO IT BY HIM, INCLUDING LEGISLATION AND INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. IT COMPRISES SIX EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVES AND SIX EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES, WITH THE COMMISSIONER AS CHAIRMAN.

THREE OF THE EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES ARE ELECTED BY REGISTERED EMPLOYEES' UNIONS AND THE OTHER THREE ARE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT EIGHT CANDIDATES HAD BEEN NOMINATED FOR ELECTION AND THEIR NAMES HAD BEEN SENT TO ALL REGISTERED EMPLOYEES' UNIONS FOR CONSIDERATION.

A REGISTERED EMPLOYEES' TRADE UNION WISHING TO VOTE SHOULD SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ELECTION. THE REPRESENTATIVE MUST BRING A LETTER OF AUTHORISATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNION AND A COPY OF THE CIRCULAR LETTER DATED OCTOBER 9, 1981 FROM THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON THE SUBJECT, HE SAID.

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HEALTH TALKS IN TUEN MUN

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THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD, IN AN ATTEMPT TO PROMOTE BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF CHILD CARE AMONG LOCAL RESIDENTS, HAS ORGANISED A SERIES OF HEALTH TALKS WITH THE BACKING OF A FRENCH PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY.

THE SUBJECT OF THE FIRST TALK, TO BE HELD AT CASTLE PEAK CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL TOMORROW (THURSDAY) EVENING, IS +COMMON ILLNESSES OF WOMEN+.

OTHER TALKS WILL BE GIVEN AT TAI HING, ON TING AND SAM SHING ESTATES ON NOVEMBER 5, 12 AND 19.

TOPICS WILL INCLUDE +COMMON ILLNESSES OF CHILDREN+, +INFANT CARE+ AND +TREATMENT OF FEVER+.

THE TALKS, BY MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN THE DISTRICT, WILL BE ILLUSTRATED WITH FILM AND SLIDE SHOWS.

ALL THE TALKS WILL START AT 8 PM AND LAST ONE HOUR.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1981

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OPEN DAY AT KOWLOON REHABILITATION CENTRE

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MANY PHYSICALLY DISABLED PERSONS HAVE BEEN INTEGRATED BACK TO SOCIETY THROUGH A WIDE RANGE OF REHABILITATIVE SERVICES OFFERED BY THE KOWLOON REHABILITATION CENTRE OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

THE CENTRE, LOCATED INSIDE THE COMPOUND OF KOWLOON HOSPITAL, WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 30) FOR THEM TO SEE HOW DISABLED PERSONS CAN BECOME PRODUCTIVE AGAIN.

THE OPEN DAY IS PART OF ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE EVENT IS TO PROMOTE EFFECTIVE MEASURES FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE HANDICAPPED AND FOR THE PREVENTION OF DISABILITY.

GUIDED TOURS WILL BE ARRANGED FOR SMALL GROUPS OF VISITORS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

PRESS REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO VISIT THE KOWLOON REHABILITATION CENTRE DURING THE OPEN DAY ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 30) FROM 9.30 AM TO 4.30 PM.

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LABOUR RELATIONS WORKSHOPS

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THE FIFTH AND FINAL IN A SERIES OF LABOUR RELATIONS WORKSHOPS ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT CONCLUDED AT QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING.

SEVENTY-FIVE PARTICIPANTS FROM COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS, EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS AND TRADE UNIONS RECEIVED CERTIFICATES OF ATTENDANCE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION'S REGIONAL ADVISER ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, DR C.D. CALDERON.

BEFORE THAT, A LECTURER FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, MR NG SEK-HONG, SPOKE ON THE +ROLE OF TRADE UNIONS, EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATIONS AND OTHER LABOUR GROUPS IN LABOUR RELATIONS+.

THE SERIES OF WORKSHOP, WHICH DREW 360 PARTICIPANTS OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, FORMED PART OF A YEAR-LONG LABOUR AND STAFF RELATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP) WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1981

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PRINCE EDWARD ROAD AND WATERLOO ROAD CLOSED  
FOR BRIDGE DEMOLITION  
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PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, BETWEEN EMBANKMENT ROAD AND YUEN PO STREET, WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 1 AM AND 5 AM FOR FIVE MORNINGS FROM OCTOBER 30 TO NOVEMBER 3 BECAUSE OF THE DEMOLITION OF A KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY BRIDGE.

DURING THE CLOSURE PERIODS, TRAFFIC HEADING EAST ALONG PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED TO SAI YEE STREET AND BOUNDARY STREET. WESTBOUND TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED TO EMBANKMENT ROAD AND BOUNDARY STREET.

WATERLOO ROAD, BETWEEN YIM PO FONG STREET AND PEACE AVENUE, WILL ALSO BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 1 AM AND 5 AM FOR FOUR MORNINGS FROM NOVEMBER 4 TO 7 TO ALLOW FOR THE DEMOLITION OF ANOTHER RAILWAY BRIDGE.

DURING THE CLOSURE PERIODS, EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ON WATERLOO ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED TO DUNDAS STREET, KWONG WAH STREET, YIM PO FONG STREET AND ARGYLE STREET. WESTBOUND TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED TO HO MAN TIN STREET, HO MAN TIN HILL ROAD, WYLIE ROAD AND WATERLOO ROAD.

YIM PO FONG STREET AND WYLIE ROAD WILL REMAIN OPEN TO BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH-BOUND TRAFFIC.

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INDUSTRIAL SAFETY GALA NIGHT  
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AN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY GALA NIGHT, FEATURING WELL-KNOWN LOCAL AND OVERSEAS SINGERS AND TELEVISION PERSONALITIES WILL BE HELD AT 8 PM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 30) AT THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HALL IN WATERLOO ROAD.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND REDIFFUSION TELEVISION AND SPONSORED BY SUN HUNG KAI PROPERTIES, THE SHOW WILL HIGHLIGHT THE GRAND FINALE OF THE CURRENT INDUSTRIAL SAFETY QUIZ COMPETITION.

FIVE WORKERS - FOUR MEN AND A WOMAN - WILL TAKE PART IN TELEMATCH GAMES TO COMPETE FOR THE PRIZES, INCLUDING THE GRAND PRIZE OF A \$30 000 DAIHATSU CHARADE CAR DONATED BY TAI FAT HONG LTD.

THE SHOW WILL BE RECORDED AND SCREENED ON RTV'S CHINESE CHANNEL ON SUNDAY EVENING (NOVEMBER 1).

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1981

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RETIREMENT MEMENTO

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PRINCIPAL FIREMAN YU LUNG-YIN, RESPONSIBLE FOR RECEIVING THOUSANDS OF DISTRESS FIRE CALLS IN THE PAST 22 YEARS, IS RETIRING AFTER 32 YEARS OF SERVICE.

TO MARK HIS RETIREMENT, THE ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR BRIAN FENDER PRESENTED A MEMENTO TO HIM AT A CEREMONY HELD AT THE FIRE SERVICES CONTROL CENTRE TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR YU JOINED THE DEPARTMENT IN SEPTEMBER 1949 AS A FIREMAN. TEN YEARS LATER HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE FIRE SERVICES CONTROL CENTRE UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT.

HE WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR FIREMAN (CONTROL) IN 1968 AND TO THE PRESENT RANK IN JUNE 1975.

HE WAS AWARDED THE COLONIAL FIRE BRIGADES LONG SERVICE MEDAL IN 1967 AND THE FIRST CLASP TO THE MEDAL IN 1974.

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