



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1974

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

UNOFFICIAL LEGCO MEMBER EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER FUTURE OF SCHOOL DROP-OUTS	1
SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS SAYS PROPER PLACE OF CHILDREN AGED 12-14 IS AT SCHOOL	3
EXEMPTION LIMIT ON ESTATE DUTY TO BE RAISED	5
ONE BILL PASSED IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY	5
SELLING ITEMS UNDER FALSE OR MISLEADING MARKINGS IS AN OFFENCE	6
FOUR CATEGORIES OF CIVIL SERVANTS ARE NOT ELEGIBLE FOR PENSIONS	7
PUBLIC WILL BE CONSULTED ON PROPOSED CULTURAL COMPLEX	8
STIFFER FINES IN THE OFFING FOR SHIPS CAUSING SMOKE POLLUTION	8
USE OF PRISON LABOUR EXPLAINED	9
POSSIBILITY OF WATER RATIONING THIS SUMMER RULED OUT	9
UNSIGHTLY POSTERS ARE PROMPTLY REMOVED WHEN REPORTED	10
MORE THAN 3,600 ON WAITING LIST FOR POSTAL BOXES	10
CONTROLS ON AMUSEMENT DEVICES AND VEHICLES ADEQUATE	11
MORE LICENSED AREAS WILL BE BUILT THIS YEAR	11
39 CONSULTANTS CURRENTLY ENGAGED BY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT	12
SIX POTENTIAL SITES EARMARKED FOR INDUSTRIAL ESTATES	12
LATE TAXPAYERS WILL HAVE TO PAY HIGHER SURCHARGE UNDER NEW BILL	13
BAPTIST COLLEGE QUALIFICATION STATUS AMENDED	14
PRINCE EDWARD ROAD IS TO BE PARTIALLY CLOSED FOR SIX WEEKS	15
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE TO H.M. THE QUEEN ON HER BIRTHDAY	15

DAILY GUIDE TO WHOLESALE PRICES AND SUPPLY OF BASIC
FOOD COMMODITIES

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1974

- 1 -

UNOFFICIALS CONCERNED OVER FUTURE OF SCHOOL DROPOUTS
CRASH PROGRAMME FOR OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING URGED

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THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN TODAY CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE A CRASH PROGRAMME OF OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING AND TO PROVIDE MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNGSTERS FAILING TO RECEIVE SECONDARY EDUCATION.

LEADING AN ADJOURNMENT DEBATE AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON +PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVERS WHO CANNOT ENTER SECONDARY SCHOOLS,+ MR. CHEONG-LEEN EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE ISSUE WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS +A MAJOR SOCIAL PROBLEM HAVING TO DO WITH LAW AND ORDER AND THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF OUR PEOPLE.+

HE STRESSED THAT WITH THE UPSURGE IN VIOLENT CRIME AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE, COUPLED WITH INFLATION AND RISING PRICES, IT WOULD SEEM ONLY PRUDENT THAT +WE DEFINE OUR MAJOR PRIORITIES THIS YEAR TO INCLUDE THE CARING FOR EVERY ONE OF THESE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO CANNOT CONTINUE THEIR SECONDARY EDUCATION BUT WHO ARE SO HEARTLESSLY EXPOSED TO ILLEGAL INFLUENCES WHICH WILL TURN THEM INTO CRIMINALS WITHIN OUR SOCIETY.+

THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION WOULD BE THE PROVISION OF THREE YEARS OF UNIVERSAL SECONDARY EDUCATION. BUT HE SAID THIS POSSIBILITY WAS STILL MANY YEARS AWAY.

AS AN INTERIM MEASURE, HE PROPOSED A CRASH PROGRAMME IN THE SETTING UP OF OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING COURSES FOR THOSE PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVERS WHO WISHED TO CONTINUE SCHOOLING, BUT COULD NOT FIND A SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE.

THESE COURSES COULD BE ORGANISED IN EACH C.D.O. DISTRICT, IN UNDER-UTILISED CLASS-ROOMS AND WORK-SHOPS, IN COMMUNITY AND YOUTH CENTRES, IN KAIFONG ASSOCIATION PREMISES, AND OTHER SUITABLE PLACES.

+THE COURSES SHOULD BE FULL-TIME DURING THE DAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT WORKING SO AS TO KEEP THEM OFF THE STREETS, AND AT NIGHT FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DAY-TIME JOBS. THE CURRICULUM WILL HAVE TO BE A GOOD BALANCE BETWEEN GENERAL EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING, IN ORDER TO MINIMISE LOSS OF INTEREST HALF-WAY DURING THE COURSES. THE FEES TO ATTEND THESE COURSES SHOULD BE REASONABLE, BUT PROVISION OUGHT TO BE MADE FOR A FLEXIBLE SYSTEM OF FEE REMISSION FOR DESERVING CASES,+ HE SUGGESTED.

FOR YOUNGSTERS WHO WILL NOT BE CONTINUING THEIR SECONDARY EDUCATION AT ALL, MR. CHEONG-LEEN ENVISAGED THE FULL-SCALE MOBILISATION OF THE RECREATIONAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES WITHIN EACH C.D.O. DISTRICT, AIMING TO KEEP THEM INVOLVED IN MEANINGFUL ACTIVITY AND AWAY FROM THE INFLUENCE OF TRIAD GANGS AND OTHER CRIMINAL ELEMENTS.

/HE FELT

- 2 -

HE FELT THAT THIS WAS THE AREA WHICH CALLED FOR URGENT, CONCENTRATED AND INNOVATIVE PLANNING AND ACTION, PARTICULARLY BY THE HOME AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENTS, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY ORIENTED ACTIVITY FOR THE ESTIMATED 20,000 YOUNGSTERS WHO WILL NOT ENTER SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

HE SAID IT WAS ALSO AN AREA WHERE THE URBAN COUNCIL, THE KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS, THE AREA COMMITTEES, THE MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES COULD, ALL IN A WELL CO-ORDINATED EFFORT, PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE AND COMMUNITY-BUILDING ROLE.

TOUCHING ON THE FIGURE OF 20,000 SCHOOL LEAVERS, HE SAID THERE WAS AS YET NO REASONABLY ACCURATE ESTIMATE OF WHAT THE NUMBER WOULD BE THIS YEAR.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SHOULD ENLIST THE CO-OPERATION OF ALL PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS, REQUESTING THEM TO FURNISH THE DEPARTMENT BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER OR MID-OCTOBER WITH A LIST OF THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ALL PRIMARY SCHOOL-LEAVERS WHO CANNOT CONTINUE WITH THEIR EDUCATION.

BY WAY OF SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION, THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PRIMARY 5 AND 6 DROP-OUTS COULD ALSO BE SUPPLIED TO THE DEPARTMENT BY EACH PRIMARY SCHOOL ON A MONTHLY OR QUARTERLY BASIS.

HE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO GETTING THE INFORMATION IN TIME AND DEPLOYING THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY IN COMING TO GRIPS WITH THE PROBLEM.

+FOR MANY YEARS ALREADY WE HAVE SEEN THIS PROBLEM MOUNTING IN SERIOUSNESS AND INTENSITY. WE HOPE THIS YEAR IT WILL NOT REACH THE BOILING POINT WHERE THE LID CAN BE BLOWN OFF THE TOP, ASSUMING THAT QUICK AND AMPLE MEASURES ARE TAKEN TO TAKE SOME OF THE HEAT OUT OF THE PROBLEM.

+WARNINGS FROM DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAVE BEEN INCREASING LATELY ON THE GROWING INVOLVEMENT BY YOUNG PEOPLE IN VARIOUS FORMS OF CRIME, SUCH AS ROBBERY, RAPE, TRIAD ACTIVITY, GANG FIGHTS, CHOPPER ATTACKS AND MURDER.+

MR. CHEONG-LEEN SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE EDUCATION AND HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENTS WERE AWARE OF THE PUBLIC CONCERN, AND WERE CONSIDERING VARIOUS PLANS TO MEET THE SITUATION. +THE QUESTION IS: WILL THESE PLANS BE TOO EXPERIMENTAL OR LIMITED IN SCOPE THIS YEAR SO THAT THEY CANNOT FULLY GET TO GRIPS WITH THE PROBLEM IN ALL ITS MAGNITUDE?+

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15

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1974

- 3 -

PROPER PLACE FOR CHILDREN AGED 12-14 IS AT SCHOOL
NO REAL SUBSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION SAYS MR. BRAY
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A NUMBER OF SCHEMES, WHICH COULD BE ADAPTED TO THE PROBLEM OF SCHOOL DROPOUTS, IS BEING EXAMINED BUT +THE ONLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM IN THE LONGER TERM IS TO PROVIDE SCHOOL PLACES FOR ALL THE CHILDREN CONCERNED,+ THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON. DENIS BRAY, SAID TODAY.

+THE PROPER PLACE FOR THESE CHILDREN IS AT SCHOOL,+ HE STRESSED IN HIS REPLY TO COMMENTS MADE BY THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON 'PRIMARY SCHOOL LEAVERS WHO CANNOT ENTER SECONDARY SCHOOLS.'

MR. BRAY VIEWED THE PROBLEM AS A RESIDUAL ONE -- THAT IS ONE OF DEALING WITH WHAT IS LEFT AFTER DECISIONS ARE TAKEN ON SECONDARY EDUCATION.

+BUT WHATEVER IS DONE ABOUT SECONDARY EDUCATION EXPANSION,+ HE SAID, +WE SHALL HAVE SOME CHILDREN AGED 12-14 WHO ARE NOT AT SCHOOL.+

MR. BRAY SAID AT FIRST HE BELIEVED THAT SOME TYPE OF SERVICE COULD BE DEVISED AND PROVIDED QUICKLY AS A SORT OF SUBSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION.

+WE HAVE LOOKED AT SEVERAL IDEAS BUT WE CAN NOW SEE THAT THERE IS REALLY NO SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. CHILDREN SHOULD BE AT SCHOOL,+ HE STRESSED.

WHILE THE SCHEMES BEING CONSIDERED WERE GOOD IN THEMSELVES AND WERE WORTH DOING, +LET US NOT PRETEND THERE IS AN ESCAPE FROM THE BASIC FACT THAT THERE IS NO REAL ALTERNATIVE TO SCHOOLING FOR CHILDREN OF THIS AGE,+ HE SAID.

+IF WE COULD SET UP A CRASH PROGRAMME OF FULL TIME OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING COURSES WE COULD PROVIDE SCHOOL PLACES,+ HE SAID. +IF WE DO NOT PROVIDE SCHOOL PLACES THEN THESE CHILDREN WILL HAVE TO FACE LIFE AS BEST THEY CAN ON AN EDUCATION THAT STOPS DEAD AT THE AGE OF TWELVE.+

MR. BRAY NOTED THAT IF THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH SCHOOL PLACES THEN RESOURCES OF BUILDINGS OR STAFF OR MONEY ARE INSUFFICIENT. YET ANY OTHER SIMILAR SERVICE FOR THESE CHILDREN REQUIRED BUILDINGS AND STAFF AND MONEY OF VERY MUCH THE SAME SORT.

+IF WE CAN PRODUCE MORE RESOURCES WE CAN PRODUCE MORE SCHOOL PLACES,+ HE ADDED. +IF WE CANNOT PRODUCE MORE SCHOOL PLACES WE CANNOT PRODUCE SCHOOL TYPE SERVICES.+

/MR. BRAY

MR. BRAY AGREED WITH MR. CHEONG-LEEN THAT MORE STATISTICAL INFORMATION WAS REQUIRED ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE PROBLEM THOUGH EVEN THIS WAS NOT EASY TO PIN DOWN IN BETWEEN CENSUS YEARS. THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, WOULD CONSIDER AGAIN WHETHER IT WAS LIKELY TO GET THE INFORMATION FROM PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

ONE IDEA MR. BRAY LIKED WAS TO OFFER CHILDREN NOT AT SCHOOL A CHANCE TO GO TO A CAMP DURING TERM TIME WHEN THE CAMPS ARE SLACK. +IF SUCH A SCHEME DID NOTHING ELSE IT WOULD GIVE THESE CHILDREN SOME FUN WHICH THEY WOULD NOT OTHERWISE GET,+ HE SAID.

ANOTHER APPROACH HE FAVOURED WAS A REACHING-OUT SCHEME. THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WAS ALREADY CONDUCTING A PILOT PROJECT ALONG THESE LINES IN CHAI WAN AND DOOR TO DOOR VISITS WERE PAID TO SELECTED HOUSEHOLDS TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE, THEIR PROBLEMS, NEEDS AND THE SERVICES THAT SHOULD BE PROVIDED.

OVER 5,000 HOMES HAVE SO FAR BEEN VISITED IN THE COURSE OF THE SURVEY WHICH STARTED TWO MONTHS AGO. THE ANALYSIS WILL TAKE ABOUT A YEAR TO COMPLETE.

HAVING IDENTIFIED THE CHILDREN, MR. BRAY SAID, THE NEXT STEP WOULD BE TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH THEM IN THE PERIOD UNTIL SCHOOL PLACES COULD BE PROVIDED.

ONE OF THE PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION, HE WENT ON, WAS THE PROVISION OF HANDICRAFT CLASSES IN WELFARE CENTRES AND THE LIKE. THE AIM WAS NOT TO PROVIDE APPRENTICESHIP OR PRE-VOCATIONAL TRAINING BECAUSE THE CHILDREN ARE STILL VERY YOUNG, BUT TO GIVE THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO WORK UNDER GUIDANCE WITH THE SORT OF TOOLS AND MATERIALS THAT MAY BE USEFUL TO THEM IN EARNING A LIVING LATER IN LIFE, HE EXPLAINED.

THE ASSOCIATION OF BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS WAS ALREADY RUNNING SEVEN HANDICRAFT PROGRAMMES FOR CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN EIGHT AND 14, AND HE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE PRACTICAL TO PROVIDE SIMILAR FACILITIES AT 10 MORE CENTRES AND THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FIND RESOURCES FOR THIS.

ON THE WIDER ASPECT OF CARING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, MR. BRAY SAID, THE COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT HAD ENDORSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY RECREATION AND SPORTS SCHEME. THE SCHEME IS NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY THE SECRETARIAT.

- 5 -

HIGHER EXEMPTION LIMIT FOR ESTATE DUTY
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THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DAVID JORDAN, TODAY TABLED A NEW BILL AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SEEKING TO RAISE THE EXEMPTION LIMIT FOR ESTATE DUTY FROM \$200,000 TO \$300,000.

KNOWN AS THE ESTATE DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, IT SEEKS TO IMPLEMENT ONE OF THE TAX RELIEF PROPOSALS MADE BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH LAST FEBRUARY.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, MR. JORDAN SAID THE INTENTION WAS TO PROVIDE THAT NO ESTATE DUTY WOULD BE LEVIED ON ESTATES WORTH UP TO \$300,000 IN RESPECT OF ESTATES OF PERSONS DYING AFTER APRIL 1, THIS YEAR.

THIS WOULD BE DONE BY ADDING A NEW SCHEDULE TO THE ORDINANCE, IN WHICH THE PRESENT FIRST PLATFORM PROVIDING FOR DUTY AT FIVE PER CENT ON ESTATES VALUED BETWEEN \$200,000 AND \$300,000 WOULD BE OMITTED. THE RATES OF DUTY WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED FOR ESTATES VALUED OVER \$300,000.

FOR ESTATES WORTH ONLY marginally MORE THAN THE \$300,000, THE EXISTING PROVISION FOR MARGINAL RELIEF IN SECTION 32 OF THE ORDINANCE WOULD CONTINUE TO APPLY, HE ADDED.

DEBATE ON THE MOTION WAS ADJOURNED.

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BILL PASSED IN LEGCO
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ONE BILL, THE STREETS (ALTERATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

FOUR OTHER BILLS HAD THEIR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. THEY WERE THE URBAN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974= THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1974= THE ESTATE DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974 AND THE REVISED EDITION OF THE LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974.

AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER'S BILL, THE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974, ALSO RECEIVED ITS FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

ALSO TABLED IN THE COUNCIL WERE THE ANNUAL SUMMARY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION FOR THE YEAR 1972/73 AND THE ANNUAL REPORT BY THE COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS FOR THE YEAR 1972/73.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1974

- 6 -

WEIGHT MARKING OF WRAPPED BREAD
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THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE THAT THE CORRECT WEIGHT IS SHOWN ON A WRAPPED LOAF OF BREAD IS TO REQUIRE THIS TO BE DONE BY LEGISLATION, THE DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. JAMES MCGREGOR, SAID TODAY.

IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE, HE ADDED, TO APPLY SUCH A RULE TO UNWRAPPED BREAD, THE SALE OF WHICH IS DONE BY VERBAL CONTRACT.

MR. MCGREGOR WAS REPLYING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO A QUESTION FROM MR. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN WHO ASKED WHAT STEPS COULD BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT LOAVES OF BREAD WHEN SOLD TO THE PUBLIC CLEARLY INDICATE ON THE PACKAGE THE WEIGHT OF THE CONTENTS.

+THERE IS NO LEGISLATION AT PRESENT WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE MANDATORY MARKING OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ON FOODSTUFFS OR OTHER CONSUMER GOODS,+ SAID MR. MCGREGOR.

+ANY SUCH LEGISLATION WOULD, OF COURSE, MEAN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW RANGE OF INTERNAL CONTROLS WHICH WOULD PROBABLY REQUIRE A FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL BACK-UP SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION, CHECKING AND LEGAL ACTION. CLEARLY, THIS COULD BE AN EXPENSIVE PROPOSITION.+

MR. MCGREGOR SAID THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO EXPRESS A VIEW AT THIS STAGE ON THE QUESTION OF CONSUMER PROTECTION BY MEANS OF PRODUCT MARKING.

+IT IS A MATTER WHICH DOES NOT SIMPLY INVOLVE THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, NOR INDEED IN ITS WIDEST CONTEXT ONLY THE GOVERNMENT. IT IS A MATTER OF VERY CONSIDERABLE INTEREST TO THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE AND TO THE CONSUMER IN PARTICULAR,+ HE SAID.

+THIS BEING SO, I SHOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE THAT THIS MATTER, THAT IS THE COMPULSORY MARKING OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS, MIGHT BE CONSIDERED BY THE NEW CONSUMER COUNCIL IN THE FIRST INSTANCE.

+IN THE MEANTIME, I CONFIRM THAT IT IS AN OFFENCE IN LAW FOR ANY ITEM TO BE OFFERED OR SOLD UNDER FALSE OR MISLEADING MARKING. THAT APPLIES EQUALLY TO WRAPPED BREAD MARKED TO SHOW A WEIGHT WHICH IS NOT ACCURATE.+

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1974.

- 7 -

NOT ALL CIVIL SERVANTS ELIGIBLE FOR PENSION

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. MICHAEL CLINTON, TODAY OUTLINED THE FOUR CATEGORIES OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A PENSION FOR ALLOWANCE IN LIEU OF A PENSION.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. ANN TSE-KAI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR. CLINTON SAID THE FIRST CATEGORY COMPRISED OFFICERS SERVING ON GRATUITY-BEARING AGREEMENT TERMS. +THEY RECEIVE A GRATUITY NORMALLY CALCULATED AT 25 PER CENT OF GROSS SALARY DRAWN DURING THE PERIOD OF SERVICE PLUS EARNED LEAVE.+

THE SECOND CATEGORY IS MADE UP OF OFFICERS ON THE PENSIONABLE OR NON-PENSIONABLE ESTABLISHMENT WHO RETIRE WITH LESS THAN TEN COMPLETED YEARS OF SERVICE. THEY ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A SHORT SERVICE GRATUITY OF AN AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING FIVE TIMES THE ANNUAL PENSION OR ALLOWANCE FOR WHICH THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN ELIGIBLE HAD THERE BEEN NO QUALIFYING PERIOD, MR. CLINTON EXPLAINED.

THE THIRD CATEGORY CONSISTS OF FEMALE OFFICERS WHO WERE APPOINTED TO PENSIONABLE OFFICES BEFORE THE NOVEMBER 17, 1972, THE DATE ON WHICH THE MARRIAGE BAR IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE WAS REMOVED, AND WHO RETIRE ON MARRIAGE AFTER FIVE OR MORE COMPLETED YEARS OF SERVICE.

+THEY MAY, IF THEY WISH, ELECT TO CEASE TO SERVE ON PENSIONABLE TERMS,+ HE SAID. IF THEY DO, THEY RECEIVE A GRATUITY OF AN AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING ONE YEAR'S PENSIONABLE EMOLUMENTS, OR FOUR AND ONE-SIXTH TIMES THE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF THE PENSION WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN GRANTED TO THEM, WHICHEVER IS THE LESS, IN RESPECT OF THEIR SERVICE AS SINGLE OFFICERS.+

THE FOURTH CATEGORY COMPRISES DAILY-PAID EMPLOYEES. THOSE WHO RETIRE WITH FIVE OR MORE YEARS UNBROKEN SERVICE ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A GRATUITY AT THE RATE OF 15 TIMES THEIR DAILY PAY AT THE TIME OF THEIR RETIREMENT FOR EVERY 12 MONTHS OF COMPLETED SERVICE.

THOSE RETIRING WITH LESS THAN FIVE YEARS SERVICE ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THIS BENEFIT, MR. CLINTON SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1974

- 8 -

PUBLIC WILL BE CONSULTED ON PROPOSED CULTURAL COMPLEX

THE PUBLIC WILL BE GIVEN AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON PLANS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CULTURAL COMPLEX IN TSIM SHA TSUI WHEN THESE ARE READY.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD TODAY TOLD LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THERE WAS AS YET NO ITEM IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME PROVIDING FOR SUCH A COMPLEX, ALTHOUGH THERE IS A CATEGORY C ITEM FOR A MUSEUM WHICH WOULD ULTIMATELY FORM PART OF THE PROPOSED COMPLEX.

+WHEN THE TOTAL SCHEDULE OF ACCOMMODATION FOR THE PROJECT HAS BEEN APPROVED AND SKETCH PLANS PREPARED THERE WILL BE A PRESS RELEASE DESCRIBING THE PROPOSALS AND ILLUSTRATING THE INTENTIONS WHICH WILL GIVE THE GENERAL PUBLIC AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE COMMENT,+ HE ADDED.

MR. MCDONALD WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WILSON WANG AS TO WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DISPLAY PLANS FOR THE NEW CULTURAL COMPLEX FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

RECENTLY, MR. MCDONALD SAID, HIS DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN ASSISTING THE URBAN COUNCIL IN THE FORM OF FEASIBILITY STUDIES SO THAT THE COUNCILLORS COULD FORMULATE THEIR IDEAS ON THE ACCOMMODATION AND ON THE DISPOSITION OF THE FACILITIES PROPOSED FOR INCLUSION IN THE SCHEME.

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SHIPS MAY FACE STIFFER FINES FOR SMOKE POLLUTION

CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO INCREASE THE PRESENT MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR SMOKE NUISANCE CAUSED BY SHIPS FROM \$1,000 TO \$5,000.

THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THAT THE RELEVANT AMENDMENTS TO THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ORDINANCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE INCREASE IS IN THE DRAFTING STAGE.

HE ADDED THAT THE AMENDMENT IS BEING CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF A WIDER EXERCISE AIMED AT REVISING A NUMBER OF PENALTIES FOR OFFENCES UNDER THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE.

+IT IS HOPED THAT THESE AMENDMENTS CAN BE PUT TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SHORTLY,+ HE SAID.

MR. ROBSON WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. ANN TSE-KAI WHO WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD INCREASE THE PRESENT +LOW MAXIMUM PENALTY+ OF \$1,000 FOR SMOKE POLLUTION CAUSED BY SHIPS.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1974

- 9 -

USE OF PRISON LABOUR EXPLAINED

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEWIS DAVIES, TODAY RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF USING PRISON LABOUR FOR RAISING CROPS AND FOR LIVESTOCK HUSBANDRY.

SUCH A PROGRAMME DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE FEASIBLE AT THIS TIME, HE TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. WILSON WANG. +THE RAISING OF CROPS AND LIVESTOCK WOULD REQUIRE LARGE TRACTS OF ARABLE LAND, ADJACENT TO THE EXISTING AND PROPOSED MINIMUM SECURITY INSTITUTIONS. SUCH LAND IS NOT GENERALLY AVAILABLE,+ HE EXPLAINED. +AT CURRENT STAFFING LEVELS THE PROVISION OF THE NECESSARY TECHNICAL STAFF WOULD ALSO PRESENT DIFFICULTIES.+

MR. DAVIES SAID THAT PRISON LABOUR IS USED WITHIN THE PROGRAMME OF THE FORESTRY DIVISION, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, AND FOR PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

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NO WATER RATIONING THIS SUMMER

HONG KONG'S PRESENT WATER STORAGE IS SATISFACTORY AND RESTRICTED SUPPLY IS NOT ANTICIPATED FOR THIS SUMMER, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, SAID TODAY.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH RAINFALL FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WAS WELL BELOW AVERAGE, THE STORAGE POSITION ON APRIL 15 WAS 39,820 MILLION GALLONS, OR 59 PER CENT OF THE FULL CAPACITY.

THE ABNORMALLY HIGH RAINFALL LAST YEAR LEFT THE RESERVOIRS WITH A TOTAL STORAGE OF 65,513 MILLION GALLONS OR 97.3 PER CENT FULL AT THE START OF THE WINTER SEASON.

MR. MCDONALD REPLYING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO THE HON. WOO PAK-CHUEN WHO ASKED ABOUT THE WATER SUPPLY SITUATION AND THE POSSIBILITY OF RATIONING THIS SUMMER.

+THE PRESENT POSITION IS SATISFACTORY,+ MR. MCDONALD SAID, +AND UNLESS AN EXCEPTIONALLY LOW RAINFALL PATTERN IS EXPERIENCED NO WATER SUPPLY RESTRICTIONS ARE ANTICIPATED THIS SUMMER ON ACCOUNT OF A SHORTAGE OF WATER RESOURCES.+

AS ALWAYS, HE ADDED, THE SITUATION WOULD BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1974.

- 10 -

**UNSIGHTLY POSTERS ARE PROMPTLY REMOVED WHEN REPORTED
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UNSIGHTLY ADVERTISEMENTS ARE REMOVED FROM CROWN LAND AND PROPERTY BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ON RECEIPT OF EITHER REPORTS FROM ITS STAFF OR COMPLAINTS FROM THE PUBLIC. THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY.

ANSWERING A QUESTION ON THE SUBJECT BY THE HON. HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, MR. ROBSON SAID AN AVERAGE OF EIGHT TO TEN COMPLAINTS WERE MADE TO THE P.W.D. BY THE PUBLIC EACH MONTH.

+ALL ARE DEALT WITH AS PROMPTLY AS AVAILABLE RESOURCES PERMIT WHERE POSSIBLE P.W.D. RECOVERS THE COST OF REMOVAL FROM THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADVERTISEMENT.

+P.W.D. IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR REMOVING UNSIGHTLY ADVERTISEMENTS FROM LAMP POSTS. ALTHOUGH THEY ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE POWER COMPANIES, LAMP POSTS ARE DEPLOYED IN ACCORDANCE WITH P.W.D. PLANS AND COME UNDER CROWN AEGIS, + HE SAID.

MR. ROBSON ALSO WARNED THAT ACTION CAN BE TAKEN, UNDER THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE, AGAINST IMPROPER FIXING OF POSTERS AND MARKING OF ROCKS AND ROAD-SIDES. THE OFFENCES CARRY A FINE OF \$500 OR THREE MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

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**POSTAL BOXES
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A TOTAL OF 3,695 APPLICATIONS ARE ON THE WAITING LIST FOR POST OFFICE BOXES.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 20,735 BOXES AT THE 30 POST OFFICES THROUGHOUT HONG KONG -- 317 OF THEM VACANT, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DAVID JORDAN, SAID.

IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. DR. CHUNG SZE-YUEN FOR VARIOUS STATISTICS ON POSTAL BOXES, MR. JORDAN TABLED A LIST SHOWING THE NUMBER OF BOXES AVAILABLE, THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES, IF ANY, AND THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS, IF ANY, ON THE WAITING LIST AT EACH OF THE 30 POST OFFICES.

THE TABLE SHOWS THAT MOST OF THE BOXES ARE AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE IN CENTRAL (6,750), THE KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE (4,620) AND AT THE TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE (2,350).

THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR BOXES AT THESE POST OFFICES IS 1,498= 248= AND 671 RESPECTIVELY. THERE ARE NO VACANT BOXES AT THESE THREE POST OFFICES.

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CONTROLS ON AMUSEMENT VEHICLES ADEQUATE

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THE PRESENT CONTROLS OVER MECHANICAL DEVICES AND VEHICLES USED FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES IN AMUSEMENT PARKS ARE CONSIDERED ADEQUATE, AND +IT IS NOT INTENDED IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE TO INTRODUCE FURTHER MEASURES TO PREVENT POSSIBLE ACCIDENTS,+ THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON. LEVIS DAVIES, SAID TODAY.

HE WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. JOYCE SYMONS WHO ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

MR. DAVIES POINTED OUT THAT THE EXISTING CONTROLS REQUIRE A PLACE OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE TO BE ISSUED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL ON THE ADVICE OF THE BUILDING AUTHORITY AND THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND AN ANNUAL PERMIT FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

+NO PERMIT IS IN FACT ISSUED UNLESS A LICENCE HAD FIRST BEEN ISSUED,+ HE SAID.

+A CONDITION OF THE PERMIT,+ HE EXPLAINED, +IS THAT THE HOLDER REGULARLY AT INTERVALS OF NOT LESS THAN ONE WEEK INSPECTS, OVERHAULS AND CARRIES OUT SUCH WORK AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE GOOD WORKING ORDER OF ALL MECHANICAL DEVICES.+

THE HOLDER, MR. DAVIES ADDED, SHOULD ALSO RECORD THESE INSPECTIONS IN A REGISTER WHICH SHOULD BE PRODUCED FOR INSPECTION BY POLICE OFFICERS.

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MORE LICENSED AREAS TO BE BUILT

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THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT PLANS TO BUILD LICENSED AREAS FOR A FURTHER 39,000 PEOPLE DURING THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING, THE HON. IAN LIGHTBODY, TLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY THE DECISION STEMMED FROM AN ASSESSED REQUIREMENT FOR 35,000 MORE SPACES, PLUS 4,000 SPACES FOR UNFORESEEN CONTINGENCIES.

ASKED BY THE HON. WILSON WANG WHAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FURTHER LICENSED AREAS TO ACCOMMODATE AN EARLIER TARGET OF 20,000 PEOPLE, MR. LIGHTBODY SAID NEW LICENSED AREA ACCOMMODATION FOR HALF THIS TARGET HAD BEEN PROVIDED IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS OF 1973/74.

+DURING THE PRESENT QUARTER (APRIL TO JUNE) WE HOPE TO COMPLETE MORE NEW LICENSED AREAS FOR 11,000 PERSONS, SO BEATING OUR DECLARED TARGET BY ABOUT 1,000 SPACES, BUT ADMITTEDLY SLIPPING BACK BY A MONTH OR SO IN OUR TIMETABLE,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE 11,000 SPACES WOULD BE INCORPORATED INTO THE TARGET OF 39,000 SPACES TO BE COMPLETED THIS FINANCIAL YEAR.

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39 CONSULTANTS IN P.W.D. EMPLOY

A TOTAL OF 39 CONSULTANTS ARE AT PRESENT ENGAGED ON VARIOUS PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS, THE HON. DAVID MCDONALD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, TOLD LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY IN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. ROGER LOBO.

MOST OF THE CONSULTANTS ARE WITH THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE, AND INCLUDE 10 ARCHITECTURAL, FIVE STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING, FOUR BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEERING AND FIVE QUANTITY SURVEYING CONSULTANTS.

THE REMAINING OFFICES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ARE AT PRESENT UTILISING THE SERVICES OF 15 ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING CONSULTANTS.

IN ANSWER TO ANOTHER QUESTION RAISED BY THE HON. MRS. JOYCE SYMONS, MR. MCDONALD SAID THAT MORE THAN 1,000 BUILDING AND STRUCTURAL PLANS WERE AWAITING APPROVAL IN THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE.

AS AT APRIL 19 THIS YEAR, HE SAID, THERE WERE 567 FIRST SUBMISSIONS AND 580 RE-SUBMISSIONS OF BUILDING AND STRUCTURAL PLANS AWAITING APPROVAL.

AS FOR CONSENTS TO COMMENCE WORKS, MR. MCDONALD SAID THERE WERE 54 SUPERSTRUCTURE AND GENERAL BUILDING APPLICATIONS AND 119 SITE FORMATION, FOUNDATION AND MISCELLANEOUS APPLICATIONS OUTSTANDING.

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SIX POTENTIAL SITES EARMARKED FOR INDUSTRIAL ESTATES

SIX POTENTIAL SITES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INDUSTRIAL ESTATES, THE SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, THE HON. JAMES ROBSON, SAID TODAY.

HOWEVER, FOR THE TIME BEING, WORK IS BEING CONCENTRATED ON ONE AREA A 150-ACRE SITE OF RECLAIMED LAND ON THE NORTHERN SIDE OF THE TAI PO HARBOUR WHERE THE BASIC REQUIREMENT OF WATER SUPPLY AND ROADS ARE ALREADY AVAILABLE, HE SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. JAMES WU REGARDING THE PROGRESS IN THE PROVISION OF INDUSTRIAL ESTATES FOR SPECIAL LAND-INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES.

WHETHER THIS AREA CAN ACCOMMODATE AN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, THE DATE AT WHICH IT CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE AND THE METHOD TO BE ADOPTED IN DEVELOPING IT, WILL DEPEND UPON WHETHER ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS CAN BE FOUND TO A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY THAT OF FINANCE, MR. ROBSON SAID.

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LATE TAXPAYERS TO PAY MORE
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TAXPAYERS WHO DO NOT PAY UP IN TIME WILL BE LIABLE TO HIGHER PENALTIES UNDER THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974 INTRODUCED TODAY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE BILL EMPOWERS THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE TO IMPOSE AN EXTRA 10 PER CENT SURCHARGE ON ANY AMOUNT OF TAX STILL UNPAID SIX MONTHS AFTER THE DATE ON WHICH THE TAX WAS DUE FOR PAYMENT. THE 10 PER CENT SURCHARGE WILL BE IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING FIVE PER CENT SURCHARGE ON UNPAID TAX.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL, THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. DAVID JORDAN, SAID THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE 10 PER CENT SURCHARGE WOULD BE ASSESSED AFTER 12 MONTHS +TO SEE WHETHER MORE STRINGENT MEASURES NEED TO BE INTRODUCED.+

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE EXISTING SURCHARGE OF UP TO FIVE PER CENT OF UNPAID TAX TAKES NO ACCOUNT OF THE LENGTH OF THE PERIOD OF DEFAULT. A DEFAULTER WOULD THUS, TEND TO LEAVE THE TAX AND SURCHARGE UNPAID FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

+AT CURRENT RATES OF INTEREST THE ADVANTAGE OF LEAVING TAX AND SURCHARGE UNPAID CAN BE QUITE CONSIDERABLE AND THE TAXAYER CANNOT LOSE SINCE HE CAN ALWAYS STOP FURTHER PROCEEDINGS BY PAYING THE AMOUNT DUE,+ MR. JORDAN SAID.

THE PROPOSED ADDITIONAL SURCHARGE OF UP TO TEN PER CENT SHOULD, THEREFORE, ENCOURAGE EARLIER PAYMENT OF AMOUNTS DUE.

IF THE BILL IS PASSED, THE PROPOSAL WILL BE EFFECTIVE FROM JULY 1, THIS YEAR, WHICH SHOULD GIVE DEFAULTERS AMPLE TIME TO PAY UP BEFORE BECOMING LIABLE TO THE ADDITIONAL SURCHARGE.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT NO TAX IN DEFAULT FOR MORE THAN SIX MONTHS BEFORE JULY 1 ESCAPES THE NEW PROVISION, THE BILL ENABLES THE COMMISSIONER TO LEVY A SURCHARGE OF UP TO TEN PER CENT IN THESE CASES EVEN THOUGH THE DUE DATE MIGHT BE BEFORE JULY 1.

THE BILL, WHICH SEEKS TO IMPLEMENT TWO OF THE TAX PROPOSALS THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY MADE IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH IN FEBRUARY, ALSO SEEKS TO INCREASE THE INITIAL ALLOWANCES FOR EXPENDITURE ON PLANT AND MACHINERY FROM ONE FIFTH TO ONE QUARTER, TO BE EFFECTIVE FROM APRIL 1, THIS YEAR.

ON APRIL 10, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MADE A RESOLUTION INTRODUCING A NEW TABLE OF RATES OF ANNUAL DEPRECIATION ALLOWANCES RANGING FROM FIVE TO 30 PER CENT FOR PLANT AND MACHINERY.

/THESE

THESE NEW RATES WERE DESIGNED TO REFORM THE SYSTEM AND INCREASED THE ANNUAL ALLOWANCES FOR SOME TAXPAYERS. THE CHANGE IN INITIAL ALLOWANCES NOW PROPOSED UNDER THE BILL WOULD APPLY GENERALLY TO CAPITAL EXPENDITURE OF PERSONS CARRYING ON A TRADE, PROFESSION OR BUSINESS AND WOULD THUS OFFER A MORE GENERAL ENCOURAGEMENT TO MANUFACTURERS TO RE-EQUIP AND TO UPGRADE THEIR PLANT AND MACHINERY, MR. JORDAN SAID.

THE BILL ALSO MAKES A SIMILAR PROVISION FOR PLANT AND MACHINERY ACQUIRED UNDER A HIRE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT.

MR. JORDAN ADDED THAT THE INCREASE IN THESE INITIAL ALLOWANCES WOULD COST THE REVENUE ABOUT \$10 MILLION IN 1974-75.

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BAPTIST COLLEGE QUALIFICATION STATUS AMENDED
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THE STATUS OF BAPTIST COLLEGE QUALIFICATION HAD BEEN RECONSIDERED WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY, THE HON. MICHAEL CLINTON, SAID TODAY.

+AS A RESULT,+ HE SAID, +COLLEGE DIPLOMA HOLDERS ARE NOW GRANTED HALF THE NUMBER OF INCREMENTS AWARDED TO DEGREE HOLDERS IN GRADES FOR WHICH THE NORMAL MINIMUM ACADEMIC ENTRY QUALIFICATION IS MATRICULATION.+

MR. CLINTON CITED AS AN EXAMPLE THE STARTING SALARY FOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER CLASS II. THE ENTRY POINT OF THIS POST IS \$1,750 PER MONTH FOR UNIVERSITY GRADUATES, \$1,660 FOR BAPTIST DIPLOMA HOLDERS, AND \$1,570 FOR MATRICULANTS.

+IN GRADES WHERE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A DEGREE HOLDER AND A MATRICULANT IS ONLY ONE INCREMENT, NO INCREMENTAL CREDIT IS GIVEN TO HOLDERS OF THE BAPTIST COLLEGE DIPLOMA,+ HE ADDED.

IN ADDITION, THE CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT FOR PRINCIPAL WELFARE ASSISTANT AND SUPERVISORS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN AMENDED TO PROVIDE FOR THE DIRECT APPOINTMENT OF BAPTIST COLLEGE DIPLOMA HOLDERS AT EITHER \$1,400 OR \$1,660 PER MONTH ACCORDING TO PERFORMANCE.

FULL DETAILS OF THE APPOINTMENT CONDITIONS ARE SET OUT IN A CIVIL SERVICES BRANCH CIRCULAR WHICH WAS ISSUED TWO WEEKS AGO, MR. CLINTON SAID.

HE WAS REPLYING IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON. WILSON WANG ON THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE REPRESENTATIONS OF THE BAPTIST COLLEGE AS TO THE STATUS OF ITS QUALIFICATION.

AS TO MR. WANG'S QUERY ON WHETHER THE REPRESENTATIONS HAD BEEN ASSESSED BY THE COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL ACADEMIC AWARDS, MR. CLINTON SAID: +UNFORTUNATELY, THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL ARE RESTRICTED BY ITS ROYAL CHARTER TO GREAT BRITAIN, AND IT WAS NOT THEREFORE IN A POSITION TO ADVISE US.+

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PRINCE EDWARD ROAD TO BE PARTIALLY CLOSED

A SECTION OF THE WEST-BOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF PRINCE EDWARD ROAD FROM WATERLOO ROAD TO KNIGHT STREET IS TO BE PARTIALLY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR A PERIOD OF SIX WEEKS FROM 10.30 A.M. ON FRIDAY (APRIL 26).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT ONLY CARS AND LIGHT VEHICLES WANTING ACCESS TO PROPERTIES IN THE AREA WOULD BE ALLOWED TO USE THIS SECTION OF THE ROAD.

ANY VEHICLE WITH A HEIGHT OF MORE THAN SIX FEET SIX INCHES REQUIRING ACCESS TO PREMISES WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO USE THE ROAD BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE WORKS BEING CARRIED OUT.

+THE PARTIAL CLOSURE IS NECESSARY TO ENABLE A NEW CONCRETE CARRIAGEWAY AND BUS BAYS TO BE CONSTRUCTED BEFORE THE LATER STAGES OF THE WATERLOO ROAD FLYOVER PROJECT,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

NORTH-BOUND CARS AND LIGHT VEHICLES ALONG WATERLOO ROAD WILL STILL BE ABLE TO TURN LEFT INTO PRINCE EDWARD ROAD TO GET TO PREMISES IN THE AREA.

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QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY OBSERVANCE

GOVERNOR SENDS MESSAGE OF GREETINGS FROM PEOPLE OF HONG KONG

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, HAS SENT A MESSAGE THROUGH THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THE OCCASION OF HONG KONG'S OBSERVANCE OF HER BIRTHDAY TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE MESSAGE READS: +ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL OBSERVANCE IN HONG KONG OF THE BIRTHDAY OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD SUBMIT TO HER MAJESTY, WITH MY HUMBLE DUTY, BIRTHDAY GREETINGS FROM THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.+

GARDEN PARTY

IF THE WEATHER IS BAD TOMORROW (THURSDAY), THE GARDEN PARTY AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE MAY BE CANCELLED IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVITED. HOWEVER, A FINAL DECISION WILL BE MADE SHORTLY BEFORE 3 P.M.

IF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN INVITED ARE DOUBTFUL WHETHER THE GARDEN PARTY WILL BE HELD, THEY ARE ADVISED TO LISTEN TO THE BROADCASTING AND TELEVISION SERVICES BETWEEN 3 P.M. AND 4 P.M., WHEN AN ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE AT INTERVALS ON WHETHER THE PARTY WILL TAKE PLACE AS SCHEDULED.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1974.

CONSUMER ADVISORY SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING PRICES WERE REALISED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AT SALES UNDER THE RICE CONTROL SCHEME AND AT THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION WHOLESALE MARKET AND THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION WHOLESALE MARKET AT CHEUNG SHA WAN, KOWLOON:

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF RICE
RICE CONTROL SCHEME

GRADE OF RICE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY) MODE
CHINA RICE		
SEE MEU		
- OLD CROP	GOOD	-
- NEW CROP	GOOD	2.12
S.C. JIEN		
- OLD CROP	GOOD	--
- NEW CROP	GOOD	2.06
PO NGAI	GOOD	--
CHU CHO	GOOD	--
THAI RICE		
100%WHOLE	GOOD	2.03
10-15% BROKENS	GOOD	--
A1 SUPER EXTRA	GOOD	--
A1 SUPER	GOOD	--
WHOLE GLUTINOUS	GOOD	--
U.S. RICE	GOOD	1.94
AUSTRALIAN RICE		
	GOOD	1.92
PAKISTAN RICE		
	GOOD	--
TAIWAN RICE		
	GOOD	--

/SUPPLIES AND

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1974

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF MARINE FISH
(CFMO CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE FISH MARKET)

SPECIES	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
GOLDEN THREAD	GOOD	3.80	2.50	3.00
BIG-EYES	GOOD	2.40	1.00	1.70
SQUID	NORMAL	3.70	1.50	2.70
HAIR-TAILS	GOOD	2.00	0.80	1.40
LIZARD FISHES	NORMAL	2.60	0.80	1.70
CROAKERS	NORMAL	1.50	0.50	1.00
CONGER-PIKE-EELS	NORMAL	1.70	1.00	1.40
MELON COAT	LIMITED	2.40	1.50	1.80
BREAMS	LIMITED	3.80	2.80	3.10
YELLOW BELLY	GOOD	1.60	0.80	1.20
MACKERELS	GOOD	3.20	2.20	2.70
RED GOAT FISH	GOOD	0.80	0.40	0.50
FORK-TAIL	LIMITED	1.20	0.80	1.00
HORSE-HEAD	GOOD	5.00	2.40	3.50
MELON SEED	LIMITED	2.50	1.00	1.70
POMFRETS	SCARCE	10.00	7.00	8.00
GARROUPAS	NORMAL	7.40	4.50	6.00
YELLOW CROAKER	---	---	---	---

/SUPPLIES AND

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1974.

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF LOCALLY PRODUCED VEGETABLES

(V.M.MO. CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET)

TYPE OF VEGETABLE	AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY	WHOLESALE PRICE (\$/CATTY)		
		HIGH	LOW	MODE
FLOWERING CABBAGE	LIMITED	1.60	0.50	1.20
WHITE CABBAGE	GOOD	0.40	0.10	0.25
CHINESE LETTUCE	GOOD	0.50	0.10	0.30
WATER SPINACH	GOOD	1.20	0.20	0.80
CHINESE KALE	LIMITED	1.20	0.40	0.80
STRING BEANS	---	---	---	---
SPRING ONION	GOOD	0.80	0.20	0.50
SPINACH	SCARCE	0.80	0.30	0.60
WATER CRESS	LIMITED	1.00	0.30	0.70
LEAF MUSTARD CABBAGE	NORMAL	0.40	0.10	0.30
CHINESE SPINACH	NORMAL	0.60	0.20	0.40
TOMATO	NORMAL	1.50	0.50	1.00

SUPPLIES AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SUINE

(ALL SOURCES)

AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY - GOOD
WHOLESALE PRICES OF PORK (\$/PICUL-LIVE WEIGHT) - 305 (AVERAGE)

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