

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2) 1171/99-00

Ref : CB2/H/5

House Committee of the Legislative Council

**Minutes of the 15th meeting
held in the Legislative Council Chamber
at 2:50 pm on Friday, 18 February 2000**

Members present :

Dr Hon LEONG Che-hung, JP (Chairman)
Dr Hon YEUNG Sum (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TIEN Pei-chun, JP
Hon David CHU Yu-lin
Hon HO Sai-chu, SBS, JP
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
Hon Michael HO Mun-ka
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, JP
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming, SC, JP
Hon LEE Kai-ming, SBS, JP
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP
Hon NG Leung-sing
Hon Margaret NG
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, JP
Hon Ronald ARCULLI, JP
Hon MA Fung-kwok
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon HUI Cheung-ching
Hon CHAN Kwok-keung
Hon CHAN Yuen-han
Hon CHAN Wing-chan
Hon CHAN Kam-lam
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, JP
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Gary CHENG Kai-nam, JP
Hon SIN Chung-kai
Hon Andrew WONG Wang-fat, JP
Hon WONG Yung-kan

Hon Howard YOUNG, JP
Hon YEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBS, JP
Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-yee, JP
Hon Ambrose LAU Hon-chuen, JP
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon CHOY So-yuk
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon SZETO Wah
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, SBS, JP
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon FUNG Chi-kin
Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong, JP

Members absent :

Hon Kenneth TING Woo-shou, JP
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon Edward HO Sing-tin, SBS, JP
Hon Eric LI Ka-cheung, JP
Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, JP
Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, JP
Prof Hon NG Ching-fai
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon Christine LOH Kung-wai
Hon Bernard CHAN
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, JP
Hon LAU Chin-shek, JP
Hon LAU Kong-wah
Hon LAW Chi-kwong, JP

Clerk in attendance :

Mrs Justina LAM Clerk to the House Committee

Staff in attendance :

Mr Ricky C C FUNG, JP	Secretary General
Mr Jimmy MA, JP	Legal Adviser
Mr LAW Kam-sang, JP	Deputy Secretary General
Mr LEE Yu-sung	Senior Assistant Legal Adviser
Ms Pauline NG	Assistant Secretary General 1

Mr Ray CHAN	Assistant Secretary General 3
Ms Bernice WONG	Assistant Legal Adviser 1
Miss Connie FUNG	Assistant Legal Adviser 3
Mr Stephen LAM	Assistant Legal Adviser 4
Mr Arthur CHEUNG	Assistant Legal Adviser 5
Mrs Vivian KAM	Chief Assistant Secretary (Complaints)
Miss Kathleen LAU	Chief Public Information Officer
Mr Andy LAU	Chief Assistant Secretary (1)2
Mr LAW Wing-lok	Chief Assistant Secretary (2)5
Mrs Betty LEUNG	Chief Assistant Secretary (3)1
Miss Mary SO	Senior Assistant Secretary (2)8

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I. Confirmation of the minutes of the 14th meeting held on 11 February 2000
(LC Paper No. CB(2) 1085/99-00)

The minutes were confirmed.

II. Matters arising

(a) Report by the Chairman on his meeting with the Chief Secretary for Administration (CS)

(Director of Administration's letter dated 18 February 2000 tabled at the meeting and issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2) 1176/99-00 on 23 February 2000)

2. The Chairman said that as there were still a number of bills that had yet to be introduced, he had suggested to CS that the Administration should introduce the bills in order of their priority.

3. Referring to the Director of Administration's letter tabled at the meeting, the Chairman said that the Administration had proposed that priority be given to the scrutiny of the Legislative Council (Amendment) Ordinance 1999 (Amendment) Bill 2000 should Members decide that the Bill be subject to the scrutiny of a Bills Committee.

(b) Mental Health (Amendment) Bill 2000

4. The Chairman said that he had not received any representations on the proposals in the Bill. He considered that there was no need to form a Bills Committee to study the Bill.

5. Members did not raise objection to the resumption of the Second Reading debate on the Bill.

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III. Business arising from previous Council meetings

(a) Legal Service Division's reports on bills referred to the House Committee in accordance with Rule 54(4)

**(i) Legislative Council (Amendment) Ordinance 1999
(Amendment) Bill 2000
(LC Paper No. LS 73/99-00)**

6. The Chairman said that the main purpose of the Bill was to provide that only registered social workers were eligible to be registered as electors of the social welfare functional constituency. The Chairman added that the proposal had been debated when the Council considered the Legislative Council (Amendment) Bill 1999 in July last year.

7. The Legal Adviser drew members' attention to the delineation of the social welfare subsector of the Election Committee, which remained the same as that for the Legislative Council election in 1998. He also informed members that the legal and drafting aspects of the Bill were in order.

8. Members did not raise objection to the resumption of the Second Reading debate on the Bill.

**(ii) Town Planning Bill
(LC Paper No. LS 70/99-00)**

9. The Chairman introduced the paper and said that members had agreed at the last meeting that priority be given to the scrutiny of this Bill should members decide that a Bills Committee be formed.

10. Mr Ronald ARCULLI suggested that a Bills Committee be formed to study the Bill in detail. Members agreed. The following members agreed to join : Mr HO Sai-chu, Mr Edward HO Sing-tin (as advised by the Chairman), Mr LEE Wing-tat, Mr Ronald ARCULLI, Mr James TO Kun-sun (as advised by Mr LEE Wing-tat) and Dr YEUNG Sum.

**(iii) Urban Renewal Authority Bill
(LC Paper No. LS 78/99-00)**

11. Introducing the paper, the Chairman said that the annex to the paper set out the relevant clauses in the "blue" Bill which contained revisions to the White Bill. The Legal Adviser said that there were other revisions of a technical nature which were not set out in the list.

12. Mr Ronald ARCULLI suggested that a Bills Committee be formed. Members agreed. The following members agreed to join : Mr HO Sai-chu,

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Mr LEE Wing-tat, Mr LEE Cheuk-yan, Mr Ronald ARCULLI, Mr James TO Kun-sun (as advised by Mr LEE Wing-tat), Miss CHAN Yuen-han, Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung and Dr YEUNG Sum.

13. The Chairman said that upon activation of the Bills Committee, the Secretariat would issue a circular inviting Members to join the Bills Committee. He hoped that members of the Subcommittee to study the Urban Renewal Authority White Bill would serve on the Bills Committee and continue their scrutiny of the Bill.

(iv) Buildings (Amendment) Bill 2000
(LC Paper No. LS 84/99-00)

14. The Legal Adviser said that the Bill introduced various policy changes involving building control matters. The Legal Service Division was still scrutinizing the Bill and would seek clarification from the Administration on certain legal and drafting aspects. The Legal Adviser was of the view that the Bill merited detailed study by a Bills Committee.

15. Mr Ronald ARCULLI suggested that a Bills Committee be formed. Members agreed. The following members agreed to join : Mr HO Sai-chu, Mr Dr Raymond HO Chung-tai and Mr Ronald ARCULLI.

(v) Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2000
(LC Paper No. LS 79/99-00)

16. The Legal Adviser said that the Bill sought to improve the existing legislation on "reckless driving". He pointed out that the proposals to replace the existing offences of "reckless driving causing death" and "reckless driving" with "dangerous driving causing death" and "dangerous driving" respectively had been discussed by the Panel on Transport. Panel members had expressed reservations on the proposed definitions of the two new offences.

17. Mrs Miriam LAU said that the Panel on Transport had discussed the Administration's proposed measures to deal with reckless and dangerous driving on two occasions in 1999. In response to the views expressed by Panel members, the Administration had removed the proposed offence of "careless driving causing death" and the reference to the Road Users' Code under the definition of "dangerous driving" in the draft of the Bill. The Panel was generally in support of the two new offences proposed in the Bill. She further said that the Administration hoped that the Bill would be passed within the current legislative session.

18. Mrs LAU pointed out that the provision in the Bill relating to specification of a wider range of alternative offences to the new offences had not been discussed by the Panel. She suggested that a decision on the Bill be

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deferred to the next House Committee meeting on 3 March 2000 so that the Panel could discuss with the Administration with a view to removing this provision from the Bill, thus obviating the need for the Bill to be subject to scrutiny by a Bills Committee.

19. The Chairman said that if necessary, the Administration could propose that priority be given to the scrutiny of this Bill.

20. Miss Margaret NG said that she would not object to deferring a decision on the Bill to the next meeting. However, she considered that a Bills Committee should be formed as the Bill proposed new criminal offences.

21. Mr TAM Yiu-chung said that the Administration was considering the views expressed by the professional drivers unions on the alternative offences specified in the Bill, which might result in the Administration proposing amendments to the Bill.

22. Mr CHAN Kam-lam suggested that a Bills Committee be formed to study the Bill. He further suggested that pending the activation of the Bills Committee, the Panel should meet with the Administration to discuss the issue of specification of alternative offences to the new offences as well as other related matters. Messrs CHAN Wing-chan and Andrew CHENG Kar-foo expressed support for Mr CHAN Kam-lam's suggestions.

23. Members agreed that a Bills Committee be formed. The following members agreed to join : Miss Margaret NG, Mr CHAN Kwok-keung (as advised by Miss CHAN Yuen-han), Mr CHAN Wing-chan, Mr CHAN Kam-lam, Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-ye and Mr Andrew CHENG Kar-foo.

(vi) Employees' Compensation (Amendment) Bill 2000
(LC Paper No. LS 81/99-00)

24. The Legal Adviser said that the Bill sought to restore the protection afforded to employees against accidents occurring during travelling to and from work when the Red rainstorm warning signal was issued. He added that the legal and drafting aspects of the Bill were in order.

25. Mr Ronald ARCULLI asked why the proposal in the Bill would take retrospective effect from 5 July 1999 and whether the retrospectivity provision in the Bill would give rise to problems in respect of insurance coverage and claims.

26. The Legal Adviser said that the Bill, if enacted, would be deemed to have come into effect on 5 July 1999. This was because the date "5 July 1999" was the date when the amendment to exclude Red rainstorm warning signal from the definition of "rainstorm warning" contained in the Judicial

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Proceedings (Adjournment During Gale Warnings) Ordinance took effect. As regards the implications of the retrospectivity of the Bill on insurance policies taken out by employers, the Legal Adviser said that the Legal Service Division would look into the issue and submit a further report.

27. The Chairman suggested that a decision on the Bill be deferred pending the Legal Service Division's further report. Members agreed.

(vii) Broadcasting Bill
(LC Paper No. LS 77/99-00)

28. The Legal Adviser said that the Bill introduced important changes relating to the control and regulation of broadcasting services in Hong Kong. He recommended that a Bills Committee be set up to study the Bill in detail.

29. Mr SIN Chung-kai suggested that a Bills Committee be formed. Members agreed. The following members agreed to join : Mr Ronald ARCULLI, Mrs Selina CHOW, Mr SIN Chung-kai, Mr YEUNG Yiu-chung, Miss CHOY So-yuk and Mr Andrew CHENG Kar-foo.

(viii) Family Status Discrimination (Amendment) Bill 2000
(LC Paper No. LS 87/99-00)

30. The Legal Adviser introduced the paper and explained that the Bill sought to add a new provision to clarify that it was not unlawful for a person to afford benefits only to one or more immediate family members of his employees without affording the same to all immediate family members. The Legal Adviser added that the provision did not involve any change in policy and that the legal and drafting aspects of the Bill were in order.

31. The Chairman said that according to the Administration, the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Labour Advisory Board had expressed support for the proposal in principle. The Administration had also briefed the Panel on Home Affairs on 10 January 2000. Panel members did not raise objection to the proposal.

32. Miss Margaret NG referred to the Secretary for Home Affairs' letter annexed to the paper and said that she would need time to consult the Legal Adviser as to why the proposed amendments would, upon the Bill's enactment, be deemed to have come into operation on 21 November 1997 but that any proceedings initiated before 1 February 2000 would not be affected by the enactment of the Bill.

33. The Chairman suggested that a decision on the Bill be deferred to the next meeting. Members agreed.

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(ix) Noise Control (Amendment) Bill 2000
(LC Paper No. LS 88/99-00)

34. The Legal Adviser said that the Bill sought to deter noise offences by a body corporate by stating explicitly that when the offender was a body corporate, the management of that body corporate committed a like offence. The Bill also proposed to empower the Noise Control Authority to issue codes of practice for the purpose of providing industries with good management practice. He added that the Legal Service Division was seeking clarification from the Administration on certain technical points, in particular the legal status of the Codes of Practice proposed in the Bill.

35. Mr Ronald ARCULLI suggested that a Bills Committee be formed. The following members agreed to join : Mr HO Sai-chu, Mr Ronald ARCULLI, Mr HUI Cheung-ching and Mr CHAN Wing-chan.

(x) Security and Guarding Services (Amendment) Bill 2000
(LC Paper No. LS 86/99-00)

36. The Legal Adviser said that the Bill sought to clarify the scope of activities regulated under the Security and Guarding Services Ordinance and its fees provisions, as well as to streamline the operation of the regulatory scheme and the Security and Guarding Services Industry Authority (the Authority). He further said that the proposal to tighten up the existing definition of "security work" was made in response to the views expressed by the Hong Kong Bar Association and The Law Society of Hong Kong.

37. The Legal Adviser also explained the proposed criteria for fixing the licence fee as detailed in paragraph 6 of the paper. He added that the Legal Service Division was still scrutinizing the legal and drafting aspects of the Bill.

38. The Chairman said that the Administration briefed the Panel on Security on the proposals in the Bill on 11 November 1999. Some Panel members had expressed concern about various aspects of the Bill. He added that the Administration had proposed that the Bill should be accorded priority in view of the imminent renewal of security work permits and licences in June this year.

39. Mrs Miriam LAU declared interest as she was the Chairman of the Authority. She said that the Bill should be dealt with by the Council as soon as possible as the Administration would need to introduce Amendment Regulations by early May following the passage of the Bill. She also pointed out that in response to the Panel on Security's concerns, the Administration had deleted the reference to private investigation work from the definition of "security work" in the Bill and had extended the time to be given to the Commissioner of Police to investigate into an application for a licence.

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40. Mr LEE Cheuk-yan was of the view that the two additional non-official members of the Authority proposed in the Bill should come from employees' representatives. He suggested that a decision on the Bill be deferred so that he could discuss the matter with the Chairman of the Authority and the Administration.

41. The Chairman suggested that a decision on the Bill be deferred to the next meeting. Members agreed.

(b) Legal Service Division's report on subsidiary legislation tabled in Council on 16 February 2000 (gazetted on 11 February 2000)
(LC Paper No. LS 85/99-00)

42. Members did not raise any query on the three items of subsidiary legislation gazetted on 11 February 2000.

43. The Chairman reminded members that the deadline for amending the subsidiary legislation was 15 March 2000, or 29 March 2000 if extended by resolution.

IV. Further business for the Council meeting on 23 February 2000

Bills - resumption of debate on Second Reading, Committee Stage and Third Reading

(i) Mass Transit Railway Bill

(ii) Exchanges and Clearing Houses (Merger) Bill

(iii) Firearms and Ammunition (Amendment) Bill 1999

44. Members agreed at previous meetings that the Second Reading debates on the above Bills be resumed.

V. Business for the Council meeting on 1 March 2000

(a) Questions
(LC Paper No. CB(3) 569/99-00)

45. The Chairman said that 20 questions (six oral and 14 written) had been tentatively scheduled.

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(b) **Bills - First and Second Readings**

46. Members noted that no notice had been received.

(c) **Bills - resumption of debate on Second Reading, Committee Stage and Third Reading**

(i) **International Organizations (Privileges and Immunities) Bill**

(ii) **Dumping at Sea (Amendment) Bill 2000**

47. Members agreed at previous meetings that the Second Reading debates on the above Bills be resumed.

(d) **Government motions**

48. Members noted that no notice had been received.

(e) **Members' motions**

(i) **Motion on "Accident and emergency services"**

49. Members noted the wording of the motion which would be moved by Mr Howard YOUNG.

(ii) **Motion on "Alleviating the disparity between the rich and the poor"**

50. Members noted the wording of the motion which would be moved by Mr CHAN Wing-chan.

51. The Chairman reminded members that the deadline for giving notice of amendments (if any) to the motions was 23 February 2000. The speaking time limits stipulated in rule 17(c) of the House Rules would apply.

52. Mr Howard YOUNG said that the title of Mr CHAN's motion did not appear to reflect the content of the motion and asked whether the title of a Member's motion was provided by the Secretariat.

53. Assistant Secretary General 3 said that in the majority of cases, the titles of Members' motions were provided by Members themselves. Where a Member had not given a title for his motion, the Secretariat would provide a title for the motion in consultation with the Member concerned.

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VI. Advance information on business for the Council meeting on 8 March 2000

(a) Questions

(LC Paper No. CB(3) 570/99-00)

54. The Chairman said that 12 written questions had been tentatively scheduled. He reminded members that the deadline for giving notice of questions was 28 February 2000.

(b) Bills - First and Second Readings

Appropriation Bill 2000

55. The Chairman said that the Financial Secretary would address the Council on the 2000-2001 Budget at the Council meeting on 8 March 2000.

VII. Arrangements in respect of Members' remuneration and operating expenses reimbursement upon expiry of their term of office on 30 June 2000

(Paragraphs 64 to 68 of Minutes of the 14th Meeting held on 11 February 2000 & LC Paper No. AS 134/99-00)

56. The Chairman said that he had raised with CS that the Administration should not arrive at a decision until Members had the chance to consider the matter. CS hoped that the Administration could receive Members' views by 10 March 2000 so that there would be no delay in making a submission to the Independent Commission on Remuneration of Members of the Executive Council and the Legislature of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region .

57. The Chairman invited members' views as to whether Members should take no action and await the Administration's decision, or whether the matter should be referred to the Subcommittee on Review of Operating Expenses for Members of the Legislative Council (the Subcommittee) for consideration before Members' views could be forwarded to the Administration.

58. Dr YEUNG Sum pointed out that the matter raised a constitutional issue as Members were required to attend emergency meetings of the Council if such were held during the period between the end of the current term and the date of the next election. He suggested that the matter be referred to the Subcommittee for consideration.

59. Miss Margaret NG said that she had no strong view on Dr YEUNG's suggestion but said that members should give preliminary views at the meeting in order that the Subcommittee could have some indication of Members' inclinations when it met to deliberate the matter. Miss Emily LAU echoed

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Miss NG's view and requested the Secretariat to provide other relevant background information to facilitate the Subcommittee's deliberation.

60. Mr Ronald ARCULLI suggested that any Member who wished to give views should forward them in writing to the Subcommittee by 23 February 2000. The Chairman added that the Subcommittee should submit a report for consideration by the House Committee on 3 March 2000.

61. Members agreed to the suggestions in paragraphs 58 and 60 above.

VIII. Reports

(a) **Position report on Bills Committees/subcommittees**
(*LC Paper No. CB(2) 1086/99-00*)

62. The Chairman said that there were 14 Bills Committees and seven subcommittees in action. The Bills Committee on Adaptation of Laws (No.9) Bill 1999 had completed work and would report under item (d) below. He added that the vacant slot would be taken up by the Bills Committee on the Town Planning Bill.

63. The Chairman further said that with the formation of five Bills Committees under agenda item III(a)(iii) - (v), (vii) and (ix), there were 16 Bills Committees on the waiting list. He added that given the current progress of the work of the Bills Committees in action and the likelihood that additional Bills Committees would be formed to study some of the bills to be introduced in the coming weeks, special measures similar to those adopted by the former LegCo towards the end of the term to speed up the scrutiny of bills might need to be put in place. The Chairman informed members that the measures adopted in the last few months of the 1996-1997 session included the following -

- (i) increasing the quota of Bills Committees in action from 15 to 18;
- (ii) providing an additional time slot during lunch hour (12:30 pm to 2:30 pm); and
- (iii) commencing preparatory work for the top four Bills Committees on the waiting list (such as calling for the first meeting, electing the Chairman and inviting submissions from organizations, etc.) prior to activation of the Bills Committees concerned.

64. The Chairman instructed the Secretariat to prepare a paper detailing the measures adopted in the former LegCo to facilitate discussion at the next meeting.

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(b) Fourth report of the Subcommittee on subsidiary legislation relating to 2000 Legislative Council election
(LC Paper No. CB(2) 1097/99-00)

65. Mr Ronald ARCULLI, Chairman of the subcommittee, introduced the paper which detailed the subcommittee's deliberations on the four items of election-related subsidiary legislation which would come into operation on 3 March 2000.

66. Mr ARCULLI highlighted in particular the subcommittee's deliberations on the election expense limit for the Geographical Constituencies and the registration of ex-officio membership of the Election Committee as detailed in paragraphs 5 to 6 and paragraph 15 respectively. He added that the majority of members of the subcommittee were in support of the four items of subsidiary legislation, with the exception of Miss Emily LAU who did not support certain provisions proposed in the subsidiary legislation.

67. Miss Emily LAU said that she would seek to repeal two of the four items of subsidiary legislation, viz. the Legislative Council (Formation of Election Committee) (Appeals) (Amendment) Regulation 2000 and the Distribution of Number of Members Among Designated Bodies (Election Committee) (Legislative Council) Order 2000. In addition, she would propose that the election expense limits for the Geographical Constituencies specified in the Maximum Scale of Election Expenses (Legislative Council) Order 1997 (Amendment) Order 2000 be reduced by 50%. She added that details of her proposal to reduce the election expenses limits would be circulated to Members as soon as possible.

68. Mr Ronald ARCULLI said that in order to allow adequate time for Members to consider the subsidiary legislation and the amendments proposed by Miss LAU, he had, on the recommendation of the subcommittee, given notice to move a motion at the Council meeting on 23 February 2000 to extend the scrutiny period to 1 March 2000.

(c) Report of the Subcommittee on Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Loadshifting Machinery) Regulation
(LC Paper No. CB(2) 1102/99-00)

69. Mrs Miriam LAU, Chairman of the subcommittee, introduced the paper and highlighted the subcommittee's deliberations on the training capacity of training providers, training costs and definition of "responsible person" detailed in paragraphs 12-15, 16-19 and 26-28 respectively. The Administration had proposed a revised version of the Regulation incorporating changes to address the subcommittee's concern and to improve the presentation and clarity of the provisions in the Regulation. Mrs LAU added that the subcommittee had recommended that the revised version of the Regulation be supported.

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(d) Report of the Bills Committee on Adaptation of Laws (No. 9) Bill 1999

70. Miss Margaret NG, Chairman of the Bills Committee, reported that the Bills Committee had completed deliberation of the Bill and would submit a written report to the House Committee on 3 March 2000.

71. Miss NG said that the majority of the adaptations proposed in the Bill were straightforward technical amendments. The Bills Committee could not, however, reach consensus with the Administration over the adaptation of the reference to "Crown" to "State" in the following provisions -

- (i) provision in the Motor Vehicles Insurance (Third Party Risks) Ordinance relating to the granting of exemption to vehicles owned by the State from taking out third party insurance;
- (ii) provisions in the Eastern Harbour Crossing Road Tunnel By-laws and the Tate's Cairn Tunnel By-laws relating to the granting of exemption to persons in the service of the State from the payment of toll when they performed duties in relation to the relevant tunnels; and
- (iii) provisions saving and preserving the powers or duties the law had conferred or imposed on persons in the public service of the Crown which might be affected by the operation of the Eastern Harbour Crossing Road Tunnel By-laws, the Road Tunnels (Government) Ordinance and the Tate's Cairn Tunnel By-laws.

72. Miss NG added that the Administration had agreed to introduce Committee Stage amendments (CSAs) to delete the provisions referred to in paragraph 71 above. The Administration had also undertaken to conduct a review of the provisions concerned and introduce a separate bill in the next legislative session. In the light of the Administration's response, the majority of the Bills Committee members supported the Bill subject to the CSAs to be moved by the Administration.

73. Miss NG informed members that she would move a CSA on her own in relation to the provision concerning the granting of exemption to vehicles owned by the State from taking out third party insurance.

74. Miss NG further said that the Bills Committee had recommended that the Second Reading debate on the Bill be resumed on a date to be proposed by the Administration.

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75. Members raised no objection to the resumption of the Second Reading on the Bill.

IX. Any other business

(a) Meeting and dinner with the Australia-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group on 29 February 2000

76. The Chairman said that only three Members had so far indicated that they would attend the meeting and the dinner reception scheduled to take place on 29 February 2000 from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm and from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm respectively. He further said that the deadline for returning reply slips to the Secretariat was 22 February 2000 and urged Members to make an effort to attend the functions.

(b) Date of next meeting

77. The Chairman said that the next meeting would be held on 3 March 2000.

78. There being no further business, the meeting ended at 3:48 pm.

Legislative Council Secretariat

1 March 2000