

**OFFICIAL REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS****Wednesday, 19 December 1984****The Council met at half past two o'clock****PRESENT**

HIS HONOURABLE THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR (*PRESIDENT*)  
THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF SECRETARY  
SIR CHARLES PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, K.B.E., C.M.G., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY  
SIR JOHN HENRY BREMRIDGE, K.B.E., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
MR. JAMES KERR FINDLAY, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE DAVID AKERS-JONES, C.M.G., J.P.  
SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

THE HONOURABLE ALEX WU SHU-CHIH, C.B.E., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE CHEN SHOU-LUM, C.B.E., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE ALAN JAMES SCOTT, C.B.E., J.P.  
SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT

THE HONOURABLE WONG LAM, O.B.E., J.P.

DR. THE HONOURABLE THONG KAH-LEONG, C.B.E., J.P.  
DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

DR. THE HONOURABLE HO KAM-FAI, O.B.E., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE ALLEN LEE PENG-FEI, O.B.E., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE ANDREW SO KWOK-WING, O.B.E., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE HU FA-KUANG, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE WONG PO-YAN, O.B.E., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE DONALD LIAO POON-HUAI, C.B.E., J.P.  
SECRETARY FOR HOUSING

THE HONOURABLE CHAN KAM-CHUEN, O.B.E., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, M.B.E., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE PIERS JACOBS, O.B.E., J.P.  
SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES

THE HONOURABLE DAVID GREGORY JEAFFRESON, C.B.E., J.P.  
SECRETARY FOR SECURITY

THE HONOURABLE RONALD GEORGE BLACKER BRIDGE, J.P.  
COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR

THE HONOURABLE CHAN YING-LUN

THE HONOURABLE MRS. RITA FAN HSU LAI-TAI

THE HONOURABLE MRS. PAULINE NG CHOW MAY-LIN

THE HONOURABLE PETER POON WING-CHEUNG, M.B.E., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE YEUNG PO-KWAN, C.P.M.

THE HONOURABLE JAMES NEIL HENDERSON, O.B.E., J.P.  
SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER

THE HONOURABLE KIM CHAM YAU-SUM, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE KEITH LAM HON-KEUNG, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE CARL TONG KA-WING

THE HONOURABLE JOHN WALTER CHAMBERS, J.P.  
SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE

THE HONOURABLE MICHAEL LEUNG MAN-KIN, J.P.  
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

THE HONOURABLE JOHN RAWLING TODD, C.V.O., J.P.  
SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS (*Acting*)

**ABSENT**

THE HONOURABLE ROGERIO HYNDMAN LOBO, C.B.E., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE DENIS CAMPBELL BRAY, C.M.G., C.V.O., J.P.  
SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS

DR. THE HONOURABLE HARRY FANG SIN-YANG, C.B.E., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE LO TAK-SHING, C.B.E., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE FRANCIS YUAN-HAO TIEN, O.B.E., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE LYDIA DUNN, C.B.E., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE PETER C. WONG, O.B.E., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE ERIC PETER HO, C.B.E., J.P.  
SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY

THE HONOURABLE WILLIAM CHARLES LANGDON BROWN, O.B.E., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE JOHN JOSEPH SWAINE, O.B.E., Q.C., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE STEPHEN CHEONG KAM-CHUEN, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE MRS. SELINA CHOW LIANG SHUK-YEE, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE MARIA TAM WAI-CHU, O.B.E., J.P.

DR. THE HONOURABLE HENRIETTA IP MAN-HING

**IN ATTENDANCE**

THE CLERK TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
MR. LI WING

**Papers**

The following papers were laid pursuant to Standing Order 14(2):—

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No. 29—The Hong Kong Industrial Estates Corporation—Annual Report 1983-1984.	
No. 30—The MacLehose Fund Trustee's Report for the period 1 April 1983 to 31 March 1984.	
No. 31—Report of The Brewin Trust Fund Committee on the administration of the fund for the year ended 30 June 1984.	
No. 32—Vocational Training Council—Annual Report 1983-84.	
No. 33—The Accounts of the Lotteries Fund for 1983-84.	
 <i>Other</i>	
Arrangements for testing the acceptability in Hong Kong of the Draft Agreement on the Future of the Territory. Report of the Assessment Office. Report of the Independent Monitoring Team.	

## Oral answers to questions

### Employment in new towns

1. MR. TONG asked:—*Will Government inform this Council:*

- (a) *what percentage of the population in new towns are employed locally;*
- (b) *whether new towns are designed as self-contained communities in terms of employment;*
- (c) *if so, is Government satisfied with the progress towards this end; and*
- (d) *if not, are there any plans or is action being taken to improve the employment situation in these new towns?*

SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION:—Sir, according to surveys carried out in 1981 and 1982, the percentage of the working population employed and resident in new towns ranged from about 20 per cent in Sha Tin to about 60 per cent in Tsuen Wan.

The new towns are planned as balanced and self-contained communities. Given the relatively early stage of their development and the rate of expansion of the industrial work force and the changing nature of our economy in recent years, I can say that it is the Government's view that progress towards achieving this concept of self-containment has been reasonably satisfactory.

The Tuen Mun District Board has been particularly active in producing and distributing promotional material on industrial investment in the new town. The Government does not direct which industries should be established and where they should be located. It provides the land and infrastructure needed to attract investment, but in the final analysis the provision of jobs depends upon the private sector and the application of market forces.

The problem in achieving balanced development was, however, recognised from the outset, and this was one of the reasons for a substantial government investment in roads and rail links between the new towns and the urban area, for example the M.T.R. to Tsuen Wan, the N.T. Circular Road, the Tuen Mun Highway and the electrified K.C.R.

MR. TONG:—*Sir, are there any more up-to-date employment figures available, in particular, on Tuen Mun and Yuen Long? If not, are there any plans to collect such data?*

SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION:—I have some figures for 1982 which I can let Mr. TONG have, but those are the latest figures.

(The following written reply was provided subsequently.)

Statistics obtained from Government surveys conducted in 1981 and 1982, indicating the proportion of the working population accommodated and employed within each new town, are as follows:

- (a) from a Transport Characteristic Survey, undertaken by Transport Department in 1981
- |           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| Tsuen Wan | 59%      |
| Tuen Mun  | 48%      |
| Sha Tin   | 24%      |
| Tai Po    | 43%      |
| Fanling   | 58%      |
| Yuen Long | 51%; and |
- (b) from a General Household Survey, conducted by Census and Statistics Department in 1982
- |           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| Tuen Mun  | 38% |
| Sha Tin   | 19% |
| Tai Po    | 29% |
| Fanling   | 47% |
| Yuen Long | 60% |
- (No separate figure available for Tsuen Wan, which was included in the metropolitan area for the purposes of the survey).

The differences between the 1981 and 1982 survey results do not necessarily indicate any deterioration in the situation, as the size of the sample varied and a margin must be allowed for statistical inconsistencies. However, from the more detailed information available from the 1981 survey it is possible to calculate that, overall, 52 per cent of the working population of the new towns was accommodated and employed in the same township.

As I indicated in my reply in LegCo we do not provide any specific and direct subsidies to industry but the new towns have a plentiful supply of low priced industrial land, flatted factory floor space and a well developed infrastructure.

MR. TONG:—*Sir, given the apparent low percentage of local employment in the new towns, has the Government considered introducing some form of selective investment incentive to attract investment in more remote new towns such as Tuen Mun and, in future, Tin Shui Wai?*

SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION:—No, Sir, as I explained in my earlier reply, we provide the land and the infrastructure. Land is available at market prices in those towns and the price of land is now relatively cheap. It is now up to the industrial sector really, in the course of its expansion, to move into these towns themselves.

### **Overcrowding of M.T.R. trains**

2. MRS. NG asked in Cantonese:—

政府是否知道地下鐵路車廂在繁忙時間的嚴重擠逼情況？政府可否要求地下鐵路公司在繁忙時間增加班次和載客量？

(The following is the interpretation of what Mrs. NG asked.)

*Is the Government aware of the serious overcrowding which occurs on M.T.R. trains during peak hours and can the M.T.R.C. be asked to increase the frequency and carrying capacity of trains operating during peak periods?*

SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT:—Sir, as with all modes of public transport, the Mass Transit Railway is subject to very heavy demand during the peak hours, especially in the morning. The stations along the Nathan Road corridor are the busiest, with peak demand between 8.15 a.m. and 8.45 a.m. on weekdays.

The Mass Transit Railway is designed to provide, at maximum, train services composed of eight-car trains running at two minutes frequencies. This level of service provides an hourly capacity for 75 000 passengers in one direction. Within these designed capacity limits, train services are provided to match passenger demand.

M.T.R. trains are crowded during the rush hours, but the numbers actually carried are well within the carrying capacity of the trains. For example, on the Tsuen Wan line between Argyle and Jordan stations in November 1984 the average number of passengers carried between 8.15 a.m. and 9.15 a.m. was 47 880. 28 728 of these travelled in the 'peak of the peak' half an hour from 8.15 a.m. to 8.45 a.m.

The Corporation is aware of the reluctance of some passengers to move into the centre of carriages, which would ease the situation. By making announcements, train drivers regularly request passengers to co-operate in this respect.

MRS. NG asked in Cantonese:—

政府可否告知本局地下鐵路公司在繁忙時間使用八卡車及六卡車的平均比率是若干？

(The following is the interpretation of what Mrs. NG asked.)

*Sir, can the Government inform this Council what is the average ratio of eight-car trains to six-car trains that are deployed by the M.T.R.C. during peak hours?*

SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT:—Sir, on the Tsuen Wan line at the peak hour mentioned, all the trains are eight-car; on the Kwun Tong line which has a lower demand, 15 out of 27 trains in that hour are eight-car and the other are six-car.

### **U.K. Copyright Act 1956**

3. MR. CHEUNG YAN-LUNG asked:—*Will Government inform this Council whether the provisions in the U.K. Copyright Act 1956 regarding the playing of musical records in cinemas extend to cover Hong Kong?*

SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES:—Sir, the provisions of the Copyright Act 1956 are extended to Hong Kong by the Copyright (Hong Kong) Orders 1972 and 1979. The provisions cover the playing of musical records in public places, such as cinemas, night clubs, restaurants, department stores and so on. In short, in this area the copyright protection given by the law of Hong Kong is similar to that given by the law of the United Kingdom.

MR. CHEUNG YAN-LUNG:—*Sir, can the amount demanded by the U.K. Copyright be negotiable or not?*

SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES:—Sir, I imagine it can be negotiated, but I would like to make further enquiries and give Mr. CHEUNG a written answer.

(The following written reply was provided subsequently.)

THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY has advised that the answer is 'Yes'. The bodies which represent copyright owners can negotiate any fee with a prospective licensee for a licence. Usually the fees are laid down by the bodies representing copyright owners in a 'licence scheme'. If a prospective licensee feels that the fees demanded is unreasonable, he or she may refer the licence scheme to the Performance Right Tribunal for variation, in accordance with Part IV of the U.K. Act and the Copyright (Performing Right Tribunal) Rules (Vol. 23 Laws of Hong Kong App. 1 BF 1). The Tribunal can then either confirm or vary the scheme. If a person requires a licence in a case not covered by a licence scheme and the licensing body refuses to grant the same or demands unreasonable charges, that person may also apply to the Tribunal for the dispute to be settled.

MR. CHEUNG YAN-LUNG:—*Are the income collected from the cinemas by organisations, which claims such rights, taxable?*

SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES:—Sir, if the money is being paid to someone who is carrying on business, yes, it would be taxable.

### **Domestic and factory fires**

4. DR. HO asked:—*Will Government inform this Council:*

- (a) whether there has been an increase in domestic and factory fires in the past 12 months compared with the preceding 12 months, and, if so, what are the main causes; and*
- (a) what action is the Government taking to minimise fire hazards in domestic and factory premises?*



SECRETARY FOR SECURITY:—(a) Sir, in the 12 months ending October 1984 (the latest month for which comprehensive figures are available), there were 2 791 fires in domestic buildings. Included in this figure are 1 364 very small kitchen fires which would previously have been classified as false alarms. This reclassification was introduced in the second half of 1983 because it was considered that these fires, although very small in magnitude and causing little damage, were strictly speaking not false alarms. If these cases are excluded, the number of fires in domestic buildings in the 12 months ending October 1984 goes down to 1 427, which, compared to 1 161 in the preceding 12 months, represents an increase of 23 per cent.

The number of fires in factory buildings in the 12 months ending October 1984 is 557, which, compared with 433 in the preceding 12 months, represents an increase of 29 per cent.

It is not possible to be precise as to the causes of these increases. But statistics on the causes of fires in general show that there has been an increase in fires caused by the improper disposal of cigarette ends and such like, and to a lesser extent, in fires involving cooking stoves. Also, when we look at statistics over a number of years, the amount of rainfall appears to have an effect on the number of fires, both in domestic and factory buildings. The summer of 1984 was appreciably dryer than the summer of 1983 and the summer of 1982.

(b) The action the Government is taking to minimise fire hazards in domestic and factory premises includes fire prevention publicity campaigns to make the public aware of the dangers of fire hazards and of ways to prevent fires.

It also includes regular inspections of domestic and industrial buildings by fire officers who issue Fire Hazard Abatement Notices as necessary. If those against whom the notices are issued fail to abate the hazards, they are prosecuted.

In addition, as I said in answer to Miss DUNN on 10 October 1984, the Director of Fire Services has been looking into the possibility of amending the law. He has now put forward two major proposals to amend weaknesses in the law on fire hazards. We are about to go to the next stage, which is to consult with the public and the industry through the appropriate government departments.

DR. HO:—*Sir, has any evaluation been undertaken to assess the effectiveness of the fire prevention publicity campaigns referred to in paragraph 4 of the answer, and is the Government satisfied that these campaigns have successfully passed the message to the target groups?*

SECRETARY FOR SECURITY:—Yes, Sir, we keep under constant analysis the effectiveness of these campaigns, but of course, it is very difficult to determine precisely and exactly how effective they have been. The fact of the matter is, if

they were truly 100 per cent effective, the number of fires that we would have had at the present time would be very much less than they are now. Some awful lot of fires are caused by carelessness. So, I am afraid, we have just got to keep pushing this message across and hope that in due course it will sink home.

MR. ALLEN LEE:—*Sir, may I ask the Secretary for Security, how many Fire Hazards Abatement Notices were issued in 1984, both in domestic and in industrial buildings, and how many were prosecuted?*

SECRETARY FOR SECURITY:—*Sir, I am afraid I do not have these statistics with me; I will answer my honourable friend in writing.*

(The following written reply was provided subsequently.)

I am now in a position to provide you with the figures for the first eleven months of 1984. They are—

	Domestic buildings	Industrial buildings
No. of Fire Hazard Abatement Notices issued	2 727	1 482
No. of prosecutions against failure to comply with such notices	143	167

There is a time lag of four to six weeks between the issue of a Fire Hazard Abatement Notice and the date of the prosecution which may result from the issue of the notice. As a result, the prosecution figures for the first few months of 1984 include cases arising from notices issued towards the end of 1983. On the other hand, there are eight cases in respect of domestic buildings and 36 cases in respect of industrial buildings which are still in various stages of the prosecution process. These cases have not been included in the figures.

### **Lok On Pai Desalter**

5. MR. SO asked in Cantonese:—

政府可否告知本局：

- (甲) 樂安排海水化淡廠自從上次生產淡水到現在，相隔有多少時間？
- (乙) 該廠每年的保養費用是多少？
- (丙) 是否有計劃拆卸該廠？

(The following is the interpretation of what Mr. So asked.)

*Will Government inform this Council:*

- (a) *how long is it since the Lok On Pai Desalter was in productive use;*
- (b) *what is the annual maintenance cost of the plant; and*
- (c) *whether there are any plans to dismantle the plant?*

SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS:—Sir, the desalting plant was last operated in May 1982, two and a half years ago. It is currently preserved in a ‘mothballed’ state. The annual maintenance cost of the plant is some \$4.5 million, of which \$1.64 million is accounted for by electricity and general maintenance costs and \$2.87 million by staff costs. However, now that the ‘mothballing’ is completed, and maintenance procedures firmly established, the staffing level will be considerably reduced in the near future.

Finally, Sir, the plant is still retained as a standby reserve and there are at present no plans to dismantle it.

MR. SO asked in Cantonese:—

閣下，隨着淡水湖的啓用，及購買東江水的配額增加，這個化淡廠作為應急後備作用，是否大大減少呢？

(The following is the interpretation of what Mr. So asked.)

*With the coming into use of the Plover Cove and High Island Reservoirs, and with the additional supply of water from the East River in China, has the value of retaining the desalting plant as a standby reserve not been decreased?*

SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS:—Sir, in a dry year, the output from the plant which represents about 10 per cent of the total consumption would still contribute significantly to the deferment or the reduction of severity with water restrictions, which would otherwise be necessary. However, by 1986-87 installations associated with the East River-Shenzhen supply system and the works currently in hand in Hong Kong will be sufficiently advanced to enable substantial additional quantities of water to be drawn from China, should the situation require this. At that time, Sir, consideration can be given to the practicability and the economics of dismantling the plant.

### **Moral and civic education**

6. MRS. FAN asked:—*The Director of Education said in this Council on 25 July 1984 that a comprehensive set of guidelines on civic education would be compiled, similar to the integrated approach of the guidelines on moral education in schools. Will the Government inform this Council about the effectiveness of moral education in schools since the issue of the guidelines on moral education three years ago?*

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION:—Sir, the purpose of the guidelines to which Mrs. FAN has referred was to raise the level of moral consciousness in schools through the formal curriculum and the corporate life of the school. I am satisfied that this purpose is being achieved, as is demonstrated by the large number of schools,

both primary and secondary, which now have moral education programmes pursued variously through formal lessons, class periods, schools assemblies and extra-curricular activities, or combinations of these modes.

While it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to measure the degree of 'morality' achieved by schools, it can be demonstrated, quite clearly, that there is now a heightened degree of moral awareness among both teachers and students.

During the past three years over 2 600 teachers have attended seminars and workshops of various kinds on moral education and an estimated 1 300 teachers have visited the moral education resource centre, which the Education Department established to enrich the programme.

These figures are indicative of the support schools are giving to our strategy for promoting moral education and this in turn has had a positive effect on student support for community service through, for example, our Community Youth Club scheme, which has seen a dramatic increase in membership from 52 000 in 1980 (before the guidelines were issued) to over 130 000 today.

The guidelines pointed the way, but the more detailed directions have been provided in the form of two substantial and comprehensive sets of reference materials, in the compilation of which many schools contributed enthusiastically, in social morality programmes developed by the I.C.A.C. with my department's co-operation, in E.T.V. programmes, in videotaped teaching materials, and in conferences organised jointly by my department and various District Boards, school sponsors and other government departments. Elements of moral education are also included in the administration courses which the department now provides for primary and secondary school heads.

I might add, too, that we have had the full co-operation of parents in our moral education programmes. This co-operation, together with the active support of various District Boards, indicates positive community acceptance of our endeavours.

To conclude, I am entirely satisfied that the strategy for moral education announced and explained through the guidelines is being implemented successfully and I am confident that the future development of the programme of activities now being provided for schools will help to strengthen and consolidate the strategy. For this reason, a similar strategy is being adopted in the promotion of civic education in schools.

MRS. FAN:—*Sir, can the Director of Education inform this Council whether teachers experienced any difficulties in promoting moral education when the guidelines were first issued. And, if the answer to this question is positive, were the two sets of reference materials provided at a later stage proved useful in removing some of these difficulties?*

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION:—Yes, Sir, at the beginning many teachers have expressed some concern about the vagueness of the guidelines in the early stage. We have since then issued further reference materials particularly in the two volumes of reference materials and by and large, by now, 90 per cent of the teachers have expressed satisfaction with the help given to them by these reference materials.

MRS. FAN:—*By adopting the same strategy for the promotion of civic education, does the Director of Education plan to engage in a similar scheme of training for teachers, issuing sets of reference materials, setting up a resource centre, getting parents' support for civic education, etc.?*

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION:—Sir, the answer is yes.

### **Burglar alarm systems in shops**

7. MR. YEUNG PO-KWAN asked:—*In the light of frequent complaints from residents about the nuisance caused by malfunctioning burglar alarm systems in shops, could Government inform this Council:*

- (a) how many cases of false alarms have been brought to the attention of the police on Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories in the past six months;*
- (b) whether it is an offence to give a false alarm through a faulty system which causes a nuisance to neighbours and, if so, how many cases have been prosecuted in the last six months; and*
- (c) what action will Government take to minimise the nuisance caused by faulty alarm systems?*

SECRETARY FOR SECURITY:—Sir, regarding my friend's opening remark I would say the Government itself has not received frequent or widespread complaints about malfunctioning burglar alarms.

Turning to the first part of his question the police only keep statistics in respect of alarms which terminate in a police station or in a police regional control centre. In the first six months of this year, there were 7 358 false alarms, representing 99.3 per cent of the alarms activated.

In answer to the second question it is not an offence to give a false alarm through a faulty system.

And the answer to the third question is that the only possible action that can be taken to improve the prevailing situation is to encourage the installation of better quality alarms and their proper maintenance. This can be achieved either

through self-regulation within the security industry which provides alarm systems, or through legislating for some minimum standards. I have been examining these options with the Commissioner of Police for some time and it has become clear that the drafting and enforcement of legislation would be very difficult. We now favour self-regulation. The Fight Crime Committee is also aware of the need for some form of better regulation within the security industry.

MR. YEUNG PO-KWAN:—*Sir, will the Secretary for Security clarify whether the figures of 7 358 represent the figures of false alarms for the first six months of the year or for the past six months of the year as asked in part (a) of my question and whether there is an increase or a decrease in the figures when comparison is made of the two periods?*

SECRETARY FOR SECURITY:—*Sir, the figures are for the first six months of the year, this being the latest figures that we have available from the force.*

MR. YEUNG PO-KWAN:—*Sir, in view of the higher figure of false alarms in the first six months of the year will Government consider recovering from shop operators a fee for deploying police manpower to investigate a false alarm?*

SECRETARY FOR SECURITY:—*Sir, frankly what we would prefer is that it becomes an offence to have an alarm set off improperly. I suspect we have a tremendous job turning that into legislation; but to use police manpower to investigate false alarms will be an even bigger use of police manpower down this particular road than we are at the moment—I mean the wastage of police manpower answering 7 358 false alarms is very very large indeed and naturally, Sir, the police are extremely worried about it.*

MR. YEUNG PO-KWAN:—*Sir, as the Fight Crime Committee sees the need for some form of better regulation within the security industry, will Government also consider regulating the installation of burglar alarm systems in order to ensure that the shop operators always maintain their alarm systems in good operational order?*

SECRETARY FOR SECURITY:—*This again, Sir, is a possibility to which we have given consideration but it will be extremely difficult to police it—that's the trouble.*

### **Putonghua training in Colleges of Education**

8. MR. KEITH LAM asked in Cantonese:—

鑑於政治環境轉變的需要和趨勢，政府會否考慮在三所教育學院增設普通話學系，培訓師資，以便在最短的時間內，使部分學校可以選用普通話作為中國語文科或其他科目的授課語言？

(The following is the interpretation of what Mr. Keith LAM asked.)

*In view of the changing needs and trends in the political environment, will the Administration consider setting up a Putonghua department in each of the three Colleges of Education to give Putonghua training to teachers, so that some schools may, within the shortest possible time, have the choice of using Putonghua as the medium of instruction for Chinese Language or other subjects?*

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION:—Sir, Putonghua could feature in the school system in four different ways: first, as a separate and independent subject in the curriculum; second, as an extra-curricular activity; third, as the medium of instruction for the Chinese subjects; and fourth, as the medium of instruction for other subjects.

So far we have programmes in respect of the first two of these four possible developments.

We have been conducting a pilot scheme in schools since 1981 with the object of determining the possibility and feasibility of introducing Putonghua as an independent and optional subject in the schools. Stage I of this scheme involving 42 primary schools was completed this summer and the conclusion reached is that it would be feasible to include Putonghua in the primary curriculum as an *optional* subject.

Stage II of the scheme involving 51 secondary schools commenced in September this year and will be completed in 1987.

At the same time, the Education Department provides guidelines and advice to those schools wishing to promote Putonghua as an extra-curricular activity.

Individual schools are free to adopt any of these approaches. Because so far only a very small number of schools have actually adopted Putonghua as the medium of instruction, we have provided training to teachers mainly through in-service courses. Such courses are run by the Adult Education Section, the Advisory Inspectorate and the Institute of Language in Education. They have met the needs of the teachers in the pilot scheme schools and will continue to cater for other interested teachers.

As for pre-service training, Putonghua is taught in the Colleges of Education now, as part of the complementary studies programme. But until there is clearer indication of how far schools in general intend to go in teaching Putonghua, I think it would be premature to consider setting up Putonghua departments in the Colleges of Education. We will of course keep the situation under review and will ensure that the needs of the schools are fully met.

### Triad and gang activities

9. MR. KEITH LAM asked in Cantonese:—

繼本年七月十一日保安司在本局答覆何錦輝議員提出的問題後，政府可否告知本局：

- (甲) 三合會分子參與有組織罪行的程度；及
- (乙) 撲滅罪行委員會屬下匪黨問題研究小組是否已制定全面計劃對付三合會活動？

(The following is the interpretation of what Mr. Keith LAM asked.)

*Further to the Secretary for Security's reply to a question raised by Dr. Ho Kamfai in this Council on 11 July 1984, will Government inform this Council:*

- (a) *the extent to which triads are involved in organised crime; and*
- (b) *whether the Working Group on Gangs set up under the Fight Crime Committee has formulated an overall strategy to combat triad activity?*

SECRETARY FOR SECURITY:—(a) Sir, the police have under constant review the extent to which triads are involved in organised crime. Also the Fight Crime Committee's Working Group on Gangs looks at the problem from the viewpoint of the Government as a whole. The working group has recently received a number of up-to-date reports from the police on triad and gang activities. It has also had several reports now from other government departments.

These reviews are showing a revival in triad activity. It would not be to our advantage in our efforts to stamp out organised crime for me to publicise the details. Better for the triads to find out as a result of increased activity against them by the police in particular and by the Government as a whole.

But I can assure Members that the interests of the community are being very well looked after by a Member of this Council and a member of a District Fight Crime Committee on the Working Group on Gangs.

(b) The answer to the second part of Mr. LAM'S question is that the working group is formulating or will formulate a strategy to meet each area of serious triad activity it comes across.

### Government Business

#### Motions

#### INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY moved the following motion:—That the Inland Revenue Ordinance be amended—



- (a) in section 80 by deleting ‘\$2,000’ in both places where it occurs and substituting the following—  
‘\$5,000’;
- (b) in section 80A(1) by deleting ‘\$2,000’ and substituting the following—  
‘5,000’; and
- (c) in section 82(1)—  
(i) by deleting ‘\$2,000’ and substituting the following—  
‘\$5,000’; and  
(ii) by deleting ‘\$10,000’ and substituting the following—  
‘\$20,000’.

He said:—Sir, the proposed resolution increases the maximum fines that may be imposed by a court for offences under the Inland Revenue Ordinance.

Increases from \$2,000 to \$5,000 on summary conviction are proposed in respect of various offences involving failure to comply with requirements imposed by the Ordinance. The proposed resolution additionally makes provision for an increase from \$2,000 to \$5,000 on summary conviction and from \$10,000 to \$20,000 on conviction on indictment for offences involving fraud and the like, committed by persons with a wilful intent to evade tax.

The levels of penalties for the various offences were introduced on different occasions over many years. The deterrent effect of these penalties has since been eroded by inflation and the proposal will restore the effect of the penalties available to the courts.

Sir, I beg to move.

*Question put and agreed to*

## **MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE**

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the following motion:—That the Magistrates (Forms) (Amendment) (No. 2) Rules 1984, made by the Chief Justice on 4 December 1984, be approved.

He said:—Sir, I move the motion standing in my name on the Order Paper.

The Magistrates (Amendment) Ordinance 1984, which was enacted in May this year, introduced a new procedure to deal speedily with minor offences. Under that procedure, forms are to be prescribed for use by the court. The Chief Justice therefore prescribed certain forms in the Magistrates (Forms) (Amendment) Rules 1984 which were approved by this Council on 10 October this year and published as Legal Notice 347 of 1984.

Since then, it has become apparent that the forms are deficient. Section 7G of the Magistrates Ordinance clearly contemplates two distinct procedural steps— first, a notice of imposition of penalty, requiring payment in 21 days followed by, if necessary, a notice of failure to pay the penalty, requiring payment within 14 days, failing which a summons or warrant will be issued. The forms originally prescribed combined these two steps, and this is wrong. The rules now before the Council correct the error by prescribing new versions of the forms. They also prescribe two new forms for use with the minor offence procedure. Sir, I should add that the error was spotted before the new procedure was introduced and, as a result, its implementation has been deferred pending the introduction of the corrected forms and no one is in fact prejudiced.

At the same time, the opportunity has been taken to amend the forms prescribed in connection with the Fixed Penalty (Traffic Contravention) Ordinance to take account of recent amendments to that Ordinance.

Before the amendment rules can become law they require, under section 133 of the Magistrates Ordinance, the approval of this Council, which I now seek.

Sir, I beg to move.

*Question put and agreed to.*

## **PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE**

THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES moved the following motion:—That the following regulations, made by the Pharmacy and Poisons Board on 14 September 1984, be approved—

- (a) the Pharmacy and Poisons (Amendment) Regulations 1984; and
- (b) the Poisons List (Amendment) Regulations 1984.

He said:—Sir, I move the motion standing in my name on the Order Paper in respect of the Poisons List (Amendment) Regulations 1984 and the Pharmacy and Poisons (Amendment) Regulations 1984.

Under section 29 of the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance, the Pharmacy and Poisons Board is responsible for prescribing a list of substances which are to be treated as poisons and for classifying these poisons according to schedules for different levels of control under the Pharmacy and Poisons Regulations.

The Board has now updated the Poisons List and also the Schedules to the Pharmacy and Poisons Regulations to include new substances which are potent in nature and thus their sale and use should be subject to strict control.

The proposed amendment to the Poisons List Regulations is to add a list of substances to Part I of the Poisons List so that these substances can only be sold on the premises of an authorised seller of poisons under the supervision of a registered pharmacist.

The proposed amendment to the Pharmacy and Poisons Regulations is to update the First, Second and Third Schedules under these regulations, thereby—

- (a) providing for the application of additional restrictions with regard to the dispensing, compounding and sale of certain poisons to be added to Part I of the Poisons List;
- (b) providing for the deletion of an unnecessary exemption of certain substances, which are no longer permitted for sale in Hong Kong, from the principal Ordinance; and
- (c) providing for the control by prescription of certain of the more potent poisons which are added to Part I of the Poisons List.

Sir, I beg to move.

*Question put and agree to.*

## **HOUSING ORDINANCE**

THE SECRETARY FOR HOUSING moved the following motion:—That the Housing (Traffic) (Amendment) By-laws 1984, made by the Housing Authority on 4 December 1984, be approved.

He said:—Sir, I rise to move the motion standing in my name on the Order Paper.

The Housing (Traffic) (Amendment) By-laws 1984, which were made by the Housing Authority on 4 December 1984, under section 30 of the Housing Ordinance, bring the principal by-laws into line with the new provisions contained in the Road Traffic (Parking) Regulations made under the Road Traffic Ordinance (Chapter 374).

The main amendments include the abandoning of the concept of ‘no waiting’ and replacing it with ‘no parking’, the adoption of the new signs and road markings, the increasing of the maximum penalty for various offences from \$500 to \$2,000 and the introduction of some definitions, offences and other provisions based on the Road Traffic (Parking) Regulations.

These amendment by-laws also provide for increased charges for the impounding, removal and storage of vehicles which have been illegally parked on restricted roads in public housing estates. The existing charges under by-law 30 of the principal by-laws are: for impounding a vehicle, \$50; for removing a vehicle, \$110; and for storing a vehicle, \$35 for each day after the first day during which the vehicle is detained. Experience has shown that the present

charges are too low to be an effective deterrent to offending motorists and it is, therefore, proposed that these charges be increased to \$140, \$200 and \$50 respectively.

Sir, I beg to move.

*Question put and agreed to.*

## **EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE**

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR moved the following motion:—That the level of wages specified in sections 4(2)(a) and 31G(2) of the Employment Ordinance be amended by deleting ‘\$8,500’ wherever it occurs in those sections and substituting in each case the following—

‘\$9,500’.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR:—Sir, I move the motion standing in my name in the Order Paper.

The Employment Ordinance applies to all manual workers and to nonmanual workers earning less than the monthly wage ceiling prescribed in section 4(2)(a) of the Ordinance. This wage ceiling was last revised in October 1983 when it was increased from \$7,500 to \$8,500. It is reviewed annually by the Labour Advisory Board, which recommends a revision if it is clearly needed.

The Labour Advisory Board has again reviewed the wage ceiling and has recommended that it be revised from \$8,500 to \$9,500, which is estimated to be the current equivalent of \$8,500 at the time of the last revision. The effect of this revision, if approved, will be to exclude about 2.3 per cent of all employees from the scope of the Ordinance, which is similar to the position when the ceiling was last revised.

Sir, I beg to move.

*Question put and agreed to.*

## **First reading of bills**

### **ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1984**

### **PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL BILL 1984**

### **MONEY CHANGERS (DISCLOSURE OF RATES, CHARGES AND COMMISSIONS) BILL 1984**

**TRADE MARKS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984****FIRE SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984****PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984****EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984**

*Bills read the first time and ordered to be set down for second reading pursuant to Standing Order 41(3).*

**Second reading of bills****ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1984**

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the second reading of:—‘A bill to amend the Arbitration Ordinance’.

He said:—Sir, I move that the Arbitration (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 1984 be read a second time.

Under the Arbitration Ordinance the conduct of arbitration proceedings is supervised by the High Court. However, where a judge, in particular a High Court judge, is an arbitrator or umpire, it is obviously undesirable that this supervisory function should be performed by his fellow judges. In 1982 when the Ordinance was amended to provide for judges to take arbitrations, special provisions, contained in the Fourth Schedule, were introduced to deal with the problems arising. However this Fourth Schedule did not apply to either the new section 23, which provided for appeals from arbitrators to the High Court, nor to the new section 23A which gave the High Court jurisdiction to determine any question of law arising in the course of the arbitration proceedings.

Sir, the reason for the omission to apply the Fourth Schedule to sections 23 and 23A appears to be simply that Hong Kong, in 1982, followed the provisions of the analogous United Kingdom legislation where, however, the structure of the courts is somewhat different from ours. The effect of the 1982 amendments is that an appeal from a judge-arbitrator or a judge-umpire is heard by another judge under section 23, while questions of law arising before a judge-arbitrator or judge-umpire could, under section 23A, be referred to another judge for decision and this clearly is not satisfactory.

The object of the Bill is to put right the anomaly that was created in 1982. Appeals where a judge is an arbitrator or umpire will, under the Bill, go to the Court of Appeal and section 23A will not apply where there is a judge-arbitrator or a judge-umpire, because he will be perfectly competent to decide questions of law.

The Bill then is a minor, but useful, improvement in the law relating to arbitrators.

Sir, I move that the debate on this motion be adjourned.

*Motion made. That the debate on the second reading of the Bill be adjourned*—THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

*Question put and agreed to.*

### **PROVISIONAL REGIONAL COUNCIL BILL 1984**

THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION moved the second reading of:—‘A bill to establish a Provisional Regional Council, and to provide for matters incidental thereto’.

He said:—Sir, I move that the Provisional Regional Council Bill 1984 be read a second time.

In May this year, after extensive consultation with the public, Government announced its plan to establish a Regional Council on 1 April 1986 to cover those areas outside the aegis of the Urban Council. It was also decided that a Provisional Regional Council should be established in 1985 to allow some working experience to be gained before the full Council comes into being. The purpose of this Bill is to make provision for the establishment, functions and membership of this interim Council.

Under clause 1 of the Bill, the Provisional Regional Council will commence from a date to be appointed by you, Sir, by notice in the *Gazette*. This is expected to be 1 April 1985.

As the Provisional Council will last for only one year, it is proposed that for expediency's sake, it will not become a full statutory executive authority but will give advice on the planning, inaugural and operational matters relating to the establishment of the full Regional Council and on matters relating to the environment, public health, sanitation, hygiene and recreation and culture. Provisions for these arrangements are contained in clause 4 of the Bill.

There will not be any directly elected constituency-based members on the Provisional Council. Instead, it will consist of 24 members, of which 12 will be appointed, three will have an *ex-officio* status, comprising the Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen of the Heung Yee Kuk, and the remaining nine will be individually elected by each of the District Boards in the New Territories. As the elections of District Board representatives will be held after the District Board elections and during April 1985, membership of the Provisional Regional Council will be complete by 1 May 1985. This composition is stipulated under clause 5 of the Bill.

Clause 6(1) of the Bill provides for the appointment of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Provisional Regional Council by the Governor from amongst the members.

Under clause 11, the Provisional Council is empowered to appoint committees which in turn may appoint sub-committees for the discharge of its functions but with more than half of their members being members of the Provisional Council itself.

Sir, with the enactment of this legislation another important step will have been taken to establish the Regional Council. The Council will involve representatives of the people in the provision and management of facilities and services which have a direct bearing on their daily lives and their living environment. The development of this arm of Government and the opportunity for participation in Government that it affords has been widely welcomed by those living in the areas concerned.

Sir, I move the debate on this motion be adjourned.

*Motion made. That the debate on the second reading of the Bill be adjourned*—SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

*Question put and agreed to.*

## **MONEY CHANGERS (DISCLOSURE OF RATES, CHARGES AND COMMISSIONS) BILL 1984**

THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES moved the second reading of:—‘A bill to provide for the disclosure by money changers of exchange rates, charges and commissions on exchange transactions and for the obtaining of consent thereto’.

He said:—Sir, I move that the Money Changers (Disclosure of Rates, Charges and Commissions) Bill 1984 be read the second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to provide some protection for persons who exchange currencies with a money changer in Hong Kong.

Over the past two years, the Hong Kong Tourist Association and the Consumer Council have received many complaints from both tourists and local residents regarding some money changers’ inadequate notice of their intention to charge a commission. In reply to a question in this Council on 21 December 1983, the Attorney General indicated that there might be a case for legislative

intervention to give customers a fair chance of deciding in advance whether they wished to do business on the terms offered by a money changer. The present Bill is designed to give effect to this suggestion.

Clause 4 of the Bill therefore provides that a money changer, before entering into an exchange transaction with a customer, shall give to the customer a note setting out certain details of the transaction, including the rate of exchange and the amount of any charge or commission. The money changer will also be required to draw the customer's attention to those details, and to obtain the customer's written concurrence. In order to provide additional protection, clause 5 provides that a customer may rescind the transaction within three days if, and only if, a money changer contravenes these requirements. There is no automatic right to rescind.

To ensure full disclosure of commissions or charges imposed on exchange transactions, a money changer who maintains a board or screen displaying exchange rates is required to state clearly on the board or screen the particulars of any charge or commission.

Clause 3 provides for a number of exemptions. Because this Bill is primarily for consumer protection, it is not the intention to intervene in exchange transactions where the sum involved exceeds HK\$100,000 or its equivalent. At this level it is more likely than not that the transaction will be made in the course of business, and the parties involved can reasonably be expected to be able to protect themselves. Furthermore, banks and deposit-taking companies are exempted. These financial institutions are already governed by their respective Ordinances and in any event only offer money changing as an ancillary service to their clients. Hotels selling Hong Kong currency primarily as a service to their guests are also excluded from the effect of the proposed legislation.

In order to allow those engaged in the business of money changing enough time to absorb the contents and purpose of this comparatively modest Bill, it is intended that the second reading should not be resumed until 23 January 1985. Furthermore, if the Bill is passed, money changers will be given a period of about one month after the date of enactment so that before the legislation becomes operative they may adjust their business procedures and any forms they may use. I might add that it is not the Government's wish to impose unnecessarily burdensome requirements in relation to normal business practices, and in these circumstances the periods for consideration that I have mentioned are appropriate. Nevertheless, as I said at the outset, some measure of protection for consumers is needed.

Sir, I move that the debate on this motion be adjourned.

*Motion made. That the debate on the second reading of the Bill be adjourned—* SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES.



*Question put and agreed to.*

### **TRADE MARKS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984**

THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES moved the second reading of:—'A bill to amend the Trade Marks Ordinance'.

He said:—Sir, I move that the Trade Marks (Amendment) Bill 1984 be read the second time.

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to relax the criteria for registration of a trade mark in Part B of the Trade Marks Register. The amendment, if enacted, will bring the Trade Marks Ordinance in line with existing United Kingdom legislation upon which our Ordinance is largely based. The provisions of the amended Ordinance will thus be in accordance with modern practice.

The Trade Marks Register is divided into parts A and B, with different criteria for registration specified in sections 9 and 10 of the Ordinance respectively. The criteria for registration in Part B are less stringent, but include the requirement that a trade mark must have been used in Hong Kong for two years before it can be accepted for registration. The most important effect of the proposed amendment will be the abolition of this two-year user requirement.

For a mark which meets the criteria for registration in Part A, there is no problem. But the proposed amendment to section 10, which deals with Part B, is desirable because the user requirement tends to inhibit local manufacturers and importers of foreign goods from investing locally in the promotion of a new trade mark which, under the present law, cannot be protected by registration in Part B for at least two years after the date when the mark is first used. Infringement is all too likely.

The Law Society has been consulted and strongly supports the proposed amendment.

Sir, I move that the debate on this motion be adjourned.

*Motion made. That the debate on the second reading of the Bill be adjourned*—SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES.

*Question put and agreed to.*

### **FIRE SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984**

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY moved the second reading of:—'A bill to amend the Fire Services Ordinance'.

He said:—Sir, I move that the Fire Services (Amendment) Bill 1984 be read the second time.

This Bill seeks to reduce an overlap of responsibility between the Director of Fire Services and the Building Authority.

The responsibility for making sure that all buildings include adequate means of escape in case of fire lies with the Building Authority under the provisions of the Buildings Ordinance. But under the provisions of the Fire Services Ordinance, the Director of Fire Services is responsible for matters concerning fire hazards including those arising from the inadequate provision of means of escape.

To eliminate this overlap of responsibility in respect of means of escape, the Fire Services (Amendment) Bill 1984 seeks to delete from the definition of 'fire hazard' in section 2 of the principal Ordinance references to matters relating to the provisions of adequate means of escape for which, as I have said, the Building Authority is the responsible body. It will also repeal section 24 of the principal Ordinance which refers to the provisions of adequate means of escape in certain types of buildings and for which the Building Authority is again the responsible body.

Consequential amendments will also be necessary to the Public Health and Urban Services Ordinance and the Education Ordinance.

Sir, I move that the debate on this motion be adjourned.

*Motion made. That the debate on the second reading of the Bill be adjourned—* SECRETARY FOR SECURITY.

*Question put and agreed to.*

## **PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984**

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY moved the second reading of:—'A bill to amend the Public Health and Urban Services Ordinance'.

He said:—Sir, I move that the Public Health and Urban Services (Amendment) Bill 1984 be read the second time.

For the reasons I have just explained when I moved the second reading of the Fire Services (Amendment) Bill 1984, this Bill seeks to amend section 2(1) of the Public Health and Urban Services Ordinance by deleting from the definition of 'fire hazard', references to matters relating to the provision of adequate means of escape for which the Building Authority is the responsible body.

Sir, I move that the debate on this motion be adjourned.

*Motion made. That the debate on the second reading of the Bill be adjourned:—*SECRETARY FOR SECURITY.

*Question put and agreed to.*

### **EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984**

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY moved the second reading of:—‘A bill to amend the Education Ordinance’.

He said:—Sir, I move that the Education (Amendment) Bill 1984 be read the second time.

For the reasons I have explained when I moved the second reading of the Fire Services (Amendment) Bill 1984, this Bill seeks to amend sections 12(1), 21 and 22(1) of the Education Ordinance to remove the Director of Fire Services’ responsibility for the provision of adequate means of escape in schools and to define clearly the responsibility of the Building Authority in this respect.

Sir, I move that the debate on this motion be adjourned.

*Motion made. That the debate on the second reading of the Bill be adjourned—*SECRETARY FOR SECURITY.

*Question put and agreed to.*

### **HOUSING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984**

#### **Resumption of debate on second reading (5 December 1984)**

*Question proposed.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

Bill read the second time.

*Bill committed to a committee of the whole Council pursuant to Standing Order 43(1).*

#### **Committee stage of bill**

Council went into Committee

**HOUSING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984**

Clauses 1 and 2 were agreed to.

**Council then resumed.**

**Third reading of bill**

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL reported that the

HOUSING (AMENDMENT) BILL

had passed through Committee without amendment, and moved the third reading of the Bill.

*Question put on the Bill and agreed to.*

Bill read the third time and passed.

**Valedictory to Mr. D. C. BRAY (Secretary for Home Affairs)**

HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT:—Honourable Members, before adjourning this Council, and even though he is not present today I must pay a warm tribute to Mr. Denis BRAY. At the end of this month he will be retiring after ten years' membership of this Council and 34 years with the Hong Kong civil service.

Mr. BRAY was first appointed to this Council in 1971 as District Commissioner, New Territories, and then in 1973 as Secretary for Home Affairs. He left Hong Kong in 1977 to serve as Hong Kong Commissioner in London, but returned to resume his seat as Secretary for Home Affairs in 1980. He has also presided over this Council on four occasions when he was Deputy to the Governor.

Honourable Members will agree with me that Mr. BRAY'S contributions to this Council and to the Government have been of the highest order. He has demonstrated both inside and outside the Council his steadfast commitment to the development of Hong Kong and the welfare of its people. His unstinting efforts in reflecting the views of the people have earned him universal respect and we shall miss his sage advice in our debates.

Whilst recording our appreciation of Mr. BRAY'S services on his retirement I must also extend to him and his wife Marjorie our best wishes for their future life and endeavours.

MR. ALEX WU:—Sir, it is a great honour and privilege for me to speak on behalf of my Unofficial colleagues including the Members absent today in associating ourselves with your remarks about Mr. Denis BRAY.

He will be remembered for his long and faithful service with the Government and for the people of Hong Kong—34 years altogether—and especially in his capacity as Secretary for Home Affairs from 1973-77 and from 1980 until now.

He is without a doubt one of the best known civil servants in Hong Kong by virtue of his wide association with the people and his broad knowledge of Chinese affairs, traditions and philosophies. The diction of his Cantonese commands respect from scholars of that language.

He is well respected by both Official and Unofficial Members of this Council as well as the community at large. We shall miss him for his sense of humour and for his ability to inject a human touch to the proceedings of this Council.

With these inadequate words, I would like to extend on behalf of my colleagues to Mr. and Mrs. BRAY our best wishes for a very happy retirement.

#### **Adjournment and next sitting**

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL moved that Standing Order 8(5) be suspended to enable a separate sitting to be held on 20 December 1984.

*Question put and agreed to.*

HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT:—In accordance with Standing Orders I now adjourn the Council until 7.00 p.m. on Thursday 20 December 1984.

*Adjourned accordingly at twenty-eight minutes past three o'clock.*