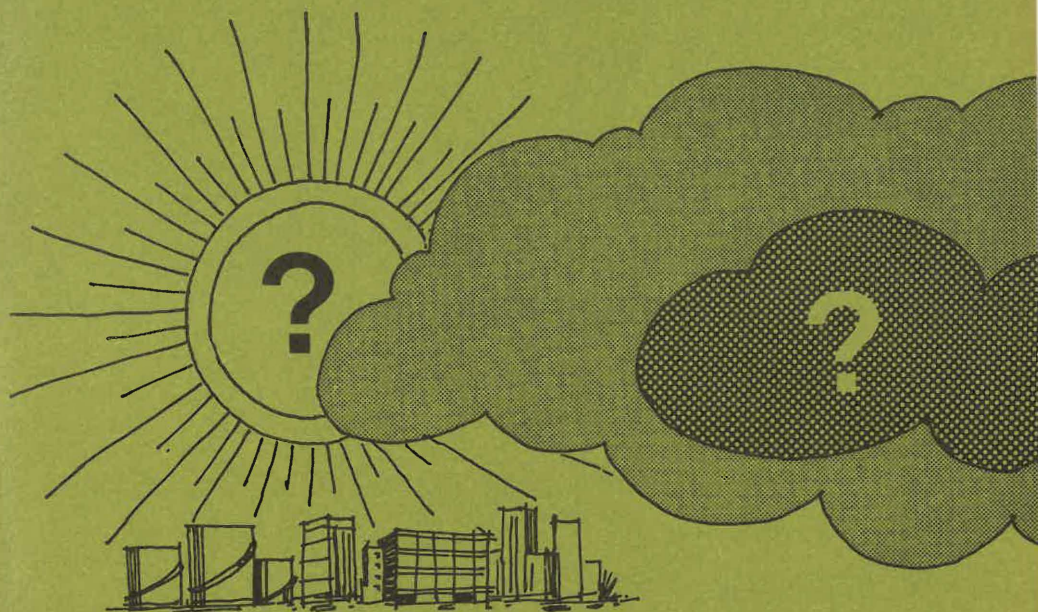




The Bulletin

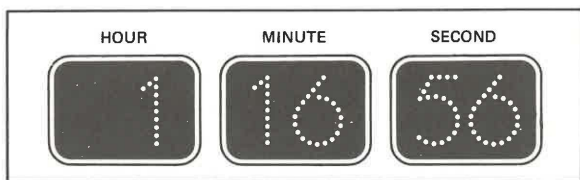
The Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce



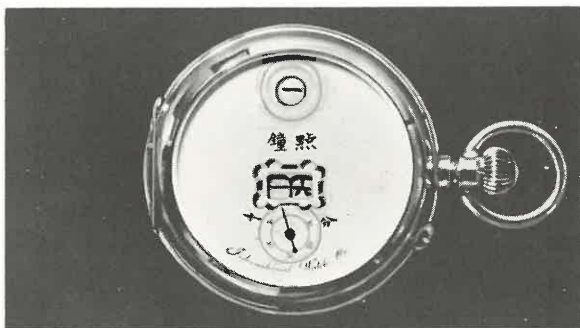
that refinery

life blood for industry
or a slow suicide for us all?

MARCH 1974



瑞士萬國錶 在八十多年前已製造 跳數錶



並具有中國數字.....

數年前一位瑞士外交家的太太，無意發現一隻寫有中國數目字的舊跳數錶，翻查紀錄之後，發現該錶於一八八七年由瑞士萬國錶廠製造，距今已有八十多年歷史。

我們首先將該錶潔淨，加以潤滑，並換上新發條，然後連續在十四日內進行準確測試，結果顯示該錶平均二十四小時之內，祇有約三秒偏差；其精確程度，不少現代手錶亦自愧不如。瑞士萬國錶的優越性能，又再度獲得證實。瑞士萬國錶廠在八十多年以前已經製作跳數錶，時至今日，萬國錶仍然是最值得驕人的手錶。

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煉油及油化工廠

香港政府曾先後接獲兩項提議：其一是香港蜆殼有限公司建議在南丫島東北邊創建煉油廠；其二是香港聯業紡織及日本東亞所組成之財團亦建議在該島興建一煉油及石油化學工廠。政府因此委任基瑪華納顧問公司審慎研究這些提議。

該顧問公司曾細察研究香港蜆殼有限公司之建議，並於去年七月刊印有關該次研究所得之報告書。該報告書着重談論煉油廠之興建所引致之環境染污問題。顧問專家目下正研究由香港聯業紡織及日本東亞財團向政府所提之建議。

經濟形勢剖視

雖然上述兩項提議之工程於一九八零年代之前尚未完成，但本港市民及工商界人士對此甚表興奮及樂觀。尤其由於目下多類製造原料短缺，建立煉油廠之提議使每一市民大為鼓舞。

至於對此反應較為冷淡之人仕而言，彼等對煉油廠或石油化學製品廠之建議在港之價值，表示懷疑。

於將來而言，此等建議能否改變香港之製造業而又因此對本港有不良影响？又或這些建設帶予我們更多利益呢？

於香港，經濟、社會及環境等因素相互關連，斷不可把任何一項個別而論。因此當論及興建煉油廠一事時，人們把此計劃與經濟等各點相提並論。

蜆殼公司之計劃

香港蜆殼有限公司總經理彭德禮先生謂：於煉油廠興建完成後，可保證燃料之供應。據悉，煉油廠每日可產油二十萬桶，即每年產量一千萬噸。此計劃耗資約港幣十二億元，而此數之百分之五十將為直接在港投資。於油廠興建後，每年亦要化費約港幣二千

萬元作保養費用。

於煉油廠內人力方面，估計共需三百多名技術人員，包括技術人材及在保養方面所需之工匠等。

除此，其他在煉油廠外工作人員，如承建商，拖船人員等共需一千多名。

此項規模龐大的投資正好顯示出對香港政治前途之信心。

煉油廠將可出產多類燃料，而又可加強及擴展我們工業及經濟之根基。

石油化學工廠

由香港聯業紡織及日本東亞公司所組成之財團所提議之石油化學工廠將可製造多類石油化學產品，包括塑膠原料等。此類產品可供本港工業所需。

基於此，工商處對此計劃甚表贊同。目下，本港註冊工廠約二萬二千多間，其中大多部致力輕工業。據工商處處長麥理覺先生稱：於過去十八個月可見原料供應對本港工業之重要，適其時，塑膠原料亦供不應求。

在香港，並無任何工業是毫不倚賴塑膠原料，如電器、電子及眼鏡業等彼皆皆是。

再者，石油化學製成品之製造隨之可出產多類物品，如肥皂及化粧品等。因而擴大了本港製造工業之範圍，而亦因而創造了更多的就業機會。

工商處人員認為此項計劃可引致價格平穩。本港工業可向此間之供應商採購製造原料，而策劃擴張之公司又可在原料供應方面得到保證。

環境污染問題

環境學專家對煉油廠所將引致之環境污染之各項問題最為關注。

香港蜆殼有限公司及香港聯業紡織與日本東亞所組之財團均是國際資歷豐富機構，彼等將致力維持環境清潔。本港政府於這方面正小心加以研究及考慮，但一般估計，政府在這方面之器材所需費用頗巨。

本港長春社（一致力研究維護環境優美之組織）之秘書長——韋仕特先生稱：石油化學工廠雖可向香港工業保證供應石油化學之原料，但却不可保證其本身所需之製造原料。

韋氏又指出：我們需要深入研究本港之社會地理結構，由煉油廠所引致而起之工業是否我們所渴望所需？

於二千年之時代，我們將要使二百多萬名居民得就業機會。因此那些需佔地廣，需靠財資及技術遠超人力之工業，對本港將並無多大益處。

卜內門公司建議

卜內門化學工程公司目下向政府建議在青衣島興建一塑膠原料製造廠，佔地約十英畝，所需職工約九十人，彼等均為專門技術人材。目下香港土地奇缺，並不足以此類佔地廣大之工廠之發展。

注視污染程度

長春社秘書長韋仕特先生稱：我們在審

慎考慮某一計劃時應小心行事。

韋氏謂：「我們希望得到堅穩經濟，這比良好之環境控制更為重要。我所擔憂的就是我們容許不大合適之工業之成長。」

「由於財資經費需求高而技術發達之工業之發展所引致之困難就是：當經濟衰退而利潤有所減削時，其控制環境污染之技巧亦因而退減，污染程度便有所高增而不可收拾。當重工業之重要性增加時，政府便對彼等難於施以控制，這也就是危險之所在。」

工業之選擇

長春社之韋仕特先生續謂：「首先我們要向自己發一問——就是我們希望香港之工業在將來作什麼樣的發展呢？又我們是否致力鼓勵需求原料較少而勞工較多之工業？」

我們可以全力着重服務性之商業，如銀行、工商及旅遊中心之成長等。我們應集中致力發展所需原料較少之工業如電子製造等。」

「自由發展之政策——意即讓有興趣之企業家全權自由發展經濟所引致之後果是不堪想像的，這是因為彼等乃根據其自我所需作前題而策劃，毫不想及到香港大眾之利益。」

社會利益至上

基於上述一點，政府應察覺到一全盤計劃及控制之所需。政府在這方面——尤其土地之應用——應有一固定之長期計劃。

在二十五年後，我們之人口將增至約七百萬，因此我們要創建一社會以供居民足夠之房屋、教育、康樂活動、工作及食物。香港目下只僅足容四百萬名居民，因此當前急務為一全盤妥善計劃，以應將來之所需。

環境污染及工業前途

香港並不可能自供自給，但我們可盡量利用現有之土地及食物生產。

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The Refinery, the Environment and the Future

TO begin at the beginning. The Shell Company of Hong Kong approached the Government in August 1971 to ask whether Government would consider a proposal to build an oil refinery on the North East coast of Lamma Island. And if so, what would be the terms and conditions. Shell has made clear that, after research and investigations of their own, Lamma was the most suitable site in view of the necessary water depth and safe approaches it can provide for oil-carrying tankers.

The Government's first action was to send a team of officers in December 1971, led by I.F.C. MacPherson, Deputy District Commissioner of the New Territories, to Singapore and Australia to assess the impact of refineries on the environment in which they were situated. In September 1972, the Executive Council discussed the refinery in the light of the 'MacPherson' report and decided to appoint specialist consultants to advise the Government on the environmental situation before making any decision.

In December the same year, Cremer and Warner were appointed consultants and the Cremer and Warner report was submitted in July 1973. The report concluded that an oil refinery will decrease the vulnerability of Hong Kong by securing adequate reserves of energy. The bulk of the report, however, concentrated on the environmental and pollution situation.

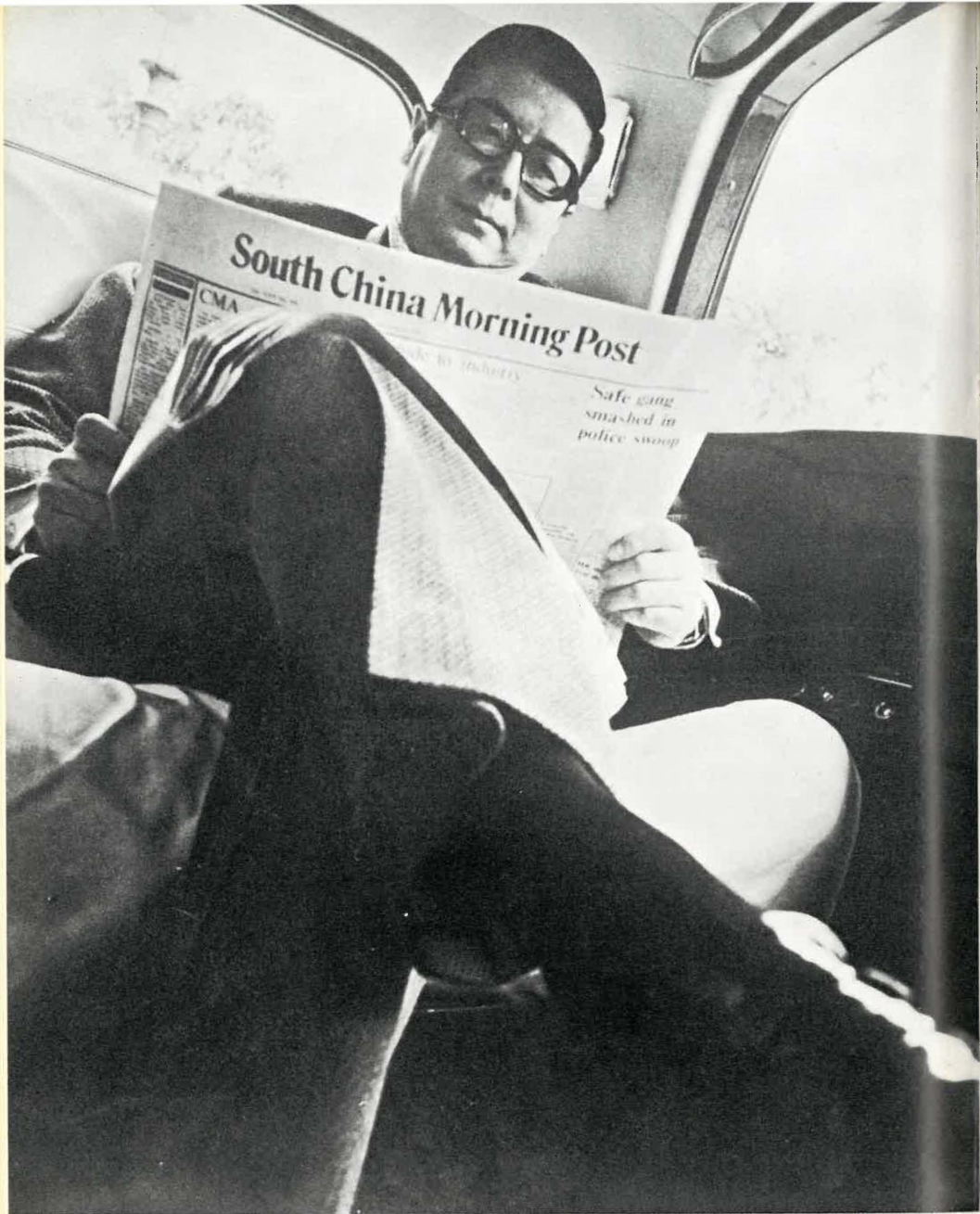
First of all, it confirmed that Lamma is the most appropriate site if a refinery were to be built in Hong Kong. Secondly, it stated that a refinery is acceptable and feasible as long as environmental aspects are taken care of. The report goes on to underline measures and controls necessary to guard against pollution.

Things took another turn when around June 1973, TAL/Toa, a consortium formed by Textile Alliance Limited of Hong Kong and the Toa Oil Company of Japan approached the Government and proposed the building of a combined refinery and petrochemical plant. Once again, Cremer and Warner was brought in to assess the situation. The second report, this time covering both a refinery and a petrochemical plant, has been completed and is now being studied.

So much for the 'historic' genesis and background. What might it mean for Hong Kong?

In the midst of world-wide materials shortages, a politically-inspired cut-back of oil supplies and signs of economic uncertainty on a global level, the prospect of an oil refinery plus a petrochemical plant becomes hourly more attractive to the majority of Hong Kong people, including the Government. Although no plant will reach operational stage before the 1980s, there is, among the general and commercial public, the feeling of optimism and excitement for these 'glamorous' plans.

There are other sectors who are less enthusiastic and they question the justifications put forth for allowing a



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refinery and/or petrochemical plant in a place like Hong Kong.

In the ultimate, will a step in this direction change the course of Hong Kong's industrial and manufacturing future to our detriment or will it prove the first step towards better and greater things to come?

Here, the implications for Hong Kong's economic, sociological and environmental life are intricately intertwined and it would be impossible to study one aspect separately without taking into consideration the others. For this reason, both the parties for and against the proposed refinery and petrochemical plant have emphasised the inseparable link between the economic and the human aspect.

Huge Investment

The two interested companies are quick to outline all the advantages in store for Hong Kong. F.W.P. Bentley, Managing Director of Shell sees the refinery as a guarantee of energy supplies. The refinery can process up to 200,000 barrels a day, which means 10 million tons a year. Some HK\$1,200 million will go into setting up the refinery and 50 per cent of the amount would be investment directly injected into Hong Kong. More money spent later on maintenance and renewal would amount to about HK\$20 million a year. There is also the added value of oil which arrives as crude oil, is processed and exported at higher values.

Technical employment would be available for about 300 people in the

refinery itself. These will be on the technical graduate level, as well as artisans on maintenance and operations. Another 1,000 people would be working for the refinery outside: maintenance people, contractors, ferry and tug-boat services, security forces, and so on.

Long-term confidence

An investment of such size implies long-term confidence in the political future of Hong Kong. The company is thinking in terms of the next twenty to forty years and much of the profits will be ploughed back constantly into the plant.

Shell also sees the building of a refinery as a step towards deepening and widening our industrial and economic base. This is one way of developing into primary industry, thus securing raw materials. Other industries will come because of the availability of raw materials, it is argued.

The refinery itself will produce a wide range of fuels. The lighter fractions, gas and LPG are for domestic and commercial use. Gasoline includes petrol for vehicles and aviation spirit for aircraft. The middle distillates consist of kerosene, jet fuel, light diesel (for buses, taxis and lorries) and heavy diesel for industry. The residue include fuel oil (used for ships, electricity generation and industries) and bitumen (for roads).

At present, we have facilities for about 70 to 90 days supply of all oil and at no time are these facilities in full use. Tankers are constantly coming and going and we are supplied

frequently and in small packages. An oil refinery would provide greatly in excess of this amount, and Hong Kong would conceivably be able to export any excess.

TAL/Toa's combined plant is geared to producing a wide range of petrochemicals including PVC, low density polyethylene and styrene monomers. The raw materials produced will supply local industry. An integral part of the agreement between TAL/Toa and Government is that Hong Kong's industries will have first call on all their products.

On the Government front, the Department of Commerce and Industry supports the proposed refinery and petrochemical plant. According to the Department, of the 22,000 factories registered in Hong Kong, 21,000 employ less than 100 workers. Most of these are involved in light industries therefore form the nucleus of our GDP. Anything providing employment and improving the level of skills — in particular for the male sector — is encouraged by the Department.

The Department sees Hong Kong as vulnerable at present, with 17 of our largest industries engaging 90 per cent of the entire workforce, while the three largest account for some 60 per cent of the workforce. Again our three largest markets take up nearly 60 per cent of our total exports, creating a dangerously vulnerable situation.

According to Jimmy McGregor, Deputy Director of Commerce and Industry, the last year or eighteen months have emphasised the import-

ance of raw materials supply for Hong Kong's industry. A downward trend of production is one result of the oil situation. The Department believes that the plastics industry has serious problems in meeting raw materials demand.

In Hong Kong, there is hardly one industry that is not dependent on plastics. The electrical, electronics, and optical industries, for instance, all make use of plastics. The petrochemical plant can therefore help Hong Kong to produce the materials needed. The various distillates from the oil refinery can be employed to produce a wide range of petrochemicals, according to need. The package of petrochemicals produced in any plant is adjustable to meet demands and thus can cater specifically to the needs of Hong Kong industry.

The Benefits Downstream

The raw materials produced from petrochemicals can open out a broad range of products that Hong Kong can manufacture — for example soap or cosmetics. The implications of this is again social. With a change in the base of Hong Kong's manufacturing industry, there would arise a demand for new types of skills and labour providing employment of all levels for Hong Kong's workforce. It is "downstream" that labour is really going to benefit. The use of new materials to trigger off capital and labour intensive industries can hopefully provide employment to the bulk of the labour force.

The refinery and petrochemical plant itself will require technicians of a high level, especially in the petrochemical plant. Hundreds, and possibly in the longer term thousands, of jobs at the technological level will open up for university level engineers and chemists, providing a lifetime of responsible and lucrative employment. Craftsmen level and polytechnic trained technicians will be needed in operations, machine and equipment use.

Assured supply

The Department of Commerce and Industry also sees such a development as providing a price stabilising effect. There would be less speculation and uncertainty if local producers can turn to local suppliers. It is also helpful if an industry, or a company or a group of companies, are considering plans for expansion or development, to know that they can rely on an assured supply of materials.

Another development that will be advantageous is that local industries making use of petrochemicals will increasingly have available developmental research programmes or consumer advisory services. Any company in Japan, for instance, can approach a petrochemical producer and ask for advice and specialised help. There will be built up here locally a similar pool of skills and technical knowhow in the petrochemical field.

Basically then, an oil refinery and a petrochemical plant in itself does not necessarily mean a lot to Hong Kong. It is when they are seen as a catalyst

and a creator of industrial development in the long term, especially in the medium and medium heavy, labour-intensive industries that the prospect becomes exciting.

Not all are enthusiastic about the possibilities of such development. Environmentalists, for example, are concerned with the possible pollution risks. This is, however, not the biggest of the misgivings. Both Shell and TAL/Toa are highly respected and experienced international companies and they will be the first to ensure safety and pollution standards. Government can be expected to be careful and in the event of any approval for the construction and operation of a refinery cum petrochemical plant, stringent requirements will be laid down to control pollution of any form.

Scepticism

There is however scepticism in many quarters concerning Government's ability to ensure the implementation of safeguards. It is also obvious that the more secure the safeguards, the more expensive the equipment and production methods. If Government does not take a rigid and strong stand in monitoring controls and safeguards, — and some people are frankly sceptical that it can — then the long term effects, as well as the possibilities of accidents, can be unpleasant, to use an understatement.

But the biggest misgiving, as outlined by Michael Webster, Executive Secretary of the Conservance Association, is thought-provoking. In the

first place, and his argument is more relevant in the light of recent events, an oil refinery and petrochemical plant, while assuring fuel supplies and petrochemical raw materials for the rest of HK, is incapable of guaranteeing *its own* supplies of raw materials for use on plant.

In the second place, one must probe more deeply into the social and geographical structure of Hong Kong and then ask oneself whether this is the kind of industry that is needed in the long term. Are the industries an oil refinery can attract the kind that Hong Kong wants, in order to be economically viable?

Jobs for 2 million

By the year 2000, we will have to face the task of providing new jobs for some two million people. Industries that require large areas of our scarce land, rely on capital and high technology and not on people, are not going to be of much help. Yet the kind of industries we shall increasingly attract and encourage by the presence of an oil refinery will inevitably be those from the heavier sector.

A good example is the polystyrene plant proposed by Dow Chemical. Ten acres of land is allocated to the company and the plant is expected to employ only about 90 people, mostly highly skilled. A plastics producing plant of this sort is exactly the type that can make use of distillates from a refinery and this type of heavy industry takes up a great deal of space per job. Our restricted land area cannot accommodate heavy

industry of this sort. Michael Webster believes in and advocates more caution before embarking on any scheme with a potentially dangerous future.

The facts of life

'A strong economy is desirable and in fact, is a prerequisite before there can be good environmental controls,' he says. 'This is a fact of life, not a question of what comes first. What is worrying me is that we may be getting in to the wrong industries.'

'With capital and technology intensive industries, when the economy deteriorates and profits go down, environmental controls will be more and more disregarded and even scrapped and pollution levels will rise. The danger will come when heavy industry can become so dominant to the extent that Government can no longer control it.'

'We must ask ourselves what we want the future of Hong Kong industry to be. Are we doing enough to encourage industries that need less materials and land but more labour?'

'We can concentrate on our services, our image as a banking, commercial and tourist centre. We should gear ourselves even more to manufacturing that is less materials and land intensive, for example the electronics or recycling industries — even if Government have to start it. Complete laissez-faire in the sense of leaving economic development to interested entrepreneurs is precarious. They can be expected to plan only

from their point of view and less for the general well-being of the Hong Kong community.'

Any development in the economic sector is bound to bring about far-reaching implications socially and Government must be urged to see the need for overall planning and control. This calls for a very long-term and consistent policy, especially in the use of land.

In about 25 years time, our population is estimated to be seven million and somehow we must be geared to creating a society and economy that will be able to provide more and more housing, education, recreation, jobs and food. In an area that can hardly support four million, there is an urgent need for a comprehensive and forward thinking policy.

The social needs

Hong Kong can never be self-sufficient, but we can perhaps try to be more so by making use of marginal land for food production. We can make the most of the materials we have got and think of recycling methods. Above all we must view our industrial and economic development in the wider context with its social implications and needs.

The overwhelming impression that built up as the Chamber investigated the background to the debate was that, ironically, it is the industrialists who argue most strongly about environmental matters, whereas the environmentalists speak more about the long term future of industry!

As always, the case is not one of black against white. And this perhaps is where confusion has arisen. The problem, to quote our cover, is not a choice between 'life blood for industry or a slow suicide', but is a fundamental debate on the long term economic future and viability of Hong Kong.

Intelligent

And the battle is most certainly not being waged between profit hungry capitalists on the one hand and naive idealists on the other. Both sides show an intelligent concern for the view point of the other.

To summarise, Shell has not yet committed itself to anything other than a refinery. In the very near future, it may well have done so, either on a go-it-alone basis, or perhaps in the form of a joint venture with TAL/Toa. The advent of the oil crisis has understandably given Shell other things to think about and has made long term planning exceedingly difficult.

If therefore it is, as Mr. McGregor suggests, the long term 'downstream' employment opportunities that are the principle benefit, rather than the sheer advent of a refinery, one ought presumably to favour the TAL/Toa project? But this venture again is not yet over clearly defined. The company has for example not made clear exactly what materials would be produced. And this in turn is partly because it claims its hands are tied until Government can be more specific

cont'd p. 30, col. 2

Corruption and the Businessman

THE Independent Commission Against Corruption is now swinging into operation and has already set off its recruitment campaign. In a move to understand more fully the operation of the new Commission, the Chamber Council extended an invitation to Messrs. Jack Cater, J. V. Prendergast and T. J. Bedford to a discussion session where the three senior officers of the Commission explained the function of the new organisation and suggested how the commercial sector might assist in dealing with the problem of corruption.

Jack Cater gave a detailed explanation of the operation of the Commission. There would be three Departments. The Operations Department would be headed by Mr. Prendergast, the Corruption Prevention Department headed by Mr. Bedford and the third Department would be the Community Relations Department.

The Operations Department will be responsible for investigation and prosecution, and the criminal aspects of corruption cases at all levels and will work closely with the Prevention Department.

The legal side of the business

The Prevention Department will be dealing with the legal aspects and government rules, regulations and procedures. It will examine the delays and inefficiencies which might be conducive to corrupt practices.

The three Departments will in

effect be dealing with the short, medium and long-term respectively. Initially the success of the Commission will be gauged on the effectiveness of the Operations and Prevention Departments, but in the long run it will be the Community Relations Department which must be relied on to help change entrenched attitudes on corruption and thus perhaps to make the most fundamental contribution.

'Double standard'

Support from the Commercial sector is vitally important as corruption is a problem which affects the community as a whole and there cannot be a 'double standard'; one for the public service and a different standard for the commercial sector. The Commission, therefore, intends to continue to look to the Chamber and similar organisations for advice and support and, it is hoped, action on improving business practices and standards. Mr. Cater explained that the law, as it stood, also embraced the private sector in addition to Government and the public bodies listed in the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance.

Among other subjects, council Members discussed the operation of the commission system in the commercial sector, notably in the construction industry. A suggestion was made that the Inland Revenue Department condoned the system by allowing commissions as an expense in company tax returns. However,

it was pointed out that unless payments to individuals are detailed in the paying company's return, they are not allowed as a charge against the profits of the company concerned. If included in the employer's return and if incurred in earning the profits subject to tax, then they are allowed as a charge against the profits of the paying company but are taxable in the hands of the recipient. It was agreed that secret commissions and rebates were undeniably paid in certain circumstances.

Mr. Cater believed that the commission system was open to abuse if used for the wrong reasons such as a 'pay-off' for sub-standard work and for services rendered.

Gifts

The meeting went on to discuss the giving and acceptance of business gifts, a widespread practice and open to much abuse. Asked for advice, Mr. Cater suggested that the private sector might wish to take into consideration, and use as a guide, the Government regulations concerning the acceptance of gifts by Crown Servants, although he personally considered some of these regulations to be unduly generous and open to abuse. He agreed with the comment that the practice of giving and accepting gifts in commerce had reached large proportions. It was suggested that leading commercial organisations might make it clear to the donor of a gift that it would be

handed over to a charitable organisation such as the Community Chest, if it was accepted at all. This in time might discourage the practice of offering presents as an inducement.

Corruption and our young

Mr. Cater also pointed to the absence of widespread commercial corruption in the People's Republic of China and in Singapore and said that the main hope for the future lay in the critical attitude of the younger generation in Hong Kong many of whom were not disposed to accept standards which had been accepted by their parents. He therefore hoped to harness the assistance of these responsible younger people and others in fighting corruption and in re-educating the general public in its attitude to corruption.

It was suggested that the tender system in Government, whereby a contract would often go to the lowest bidder regardless of other circumstances, could lead to abuses and to corruption. In noting this, Mr. Cater said that the recruitment of qualified professional staff, e.g. quantity surveyors, accountants, to act in an advisory capacity might help to eliminate any such weaknesses and possible abuses which might be present in the tender system.

Mr. Cater elaborated on the importance of the role of the Corruption Prevention Department. The elimination of delays and inefficiencies in Government Departments

would reduce the incentive for corrupt payments to Government officers. In this context salaries were important although much had already been done to improve the conditions of service and particularly of the uniformed services.

In dealing with delays and inefficiencies in Government Departments where corruption was suspected, Mr. Cater suggested that complaints be addressed to the Head of the Department concerned with a copy to him as head of the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

It was agreed that more can and should be done to ensure widespread public acquaintance with regulations such as the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance and to educate the public generally as to their rights as citizens. The Chamber has already taken steps here to draw attention to some of these provisions, and further copies of this circular to Members are obtainable from the Chamber (Reference no. 2/74 dated February 5, 1974).

Advisory boards

Mr. Cater informed the Council that a system of advisory boards would be set up on which the commercial sector would be represented, particularly in the corruption prevention field. (This in effect has already been discussed in the Legislative Council). He will also be looking to the commercial

sector to second qualified staff to the Commission for short periods on contract or on a consultancy basis.

John Prendergast explained the role of his Department as the one which would have to obtain quick results and a high 'success' rate within the first year of operation.

Intelligence

For this he would rely on intelligence from all sources. Intelligence would be treated in full confidence and provided the source of the intelligence preserved confidence, this firm or organisation would not be embarrassed.

He hoped that those with information would be willing to testify in Court where necessary but where this was likely to lead to victimisation or embarrassment, it would not be insisted on. Even if intelligence did not lead to a prosecution, he said, it will assist in pinpointing areas for further investigation and this itself would be of great value.

Trevor Bedford described the role of the Prevention Department as the medium term operation. He felt it was necessary to enlist the support not only of the large commercial concerns but also of the small people. Cumulatively, small areas of corruption could represent large sums of money, and it would also be necessary to improve ethical and professional standards throughout all levels of the community.

Will Those Who Want a Planned Economy Please Raise Their Hands ?

LAST month, for possibly the first time in history, Hong Kong departed significantly from its traditional free trading pattern.

Many local businessmen appear to have welcomed the event and very few outside the business community were even aware it had happened. But during January, Hong Kong agreed that exports of plastics materials should be restricted by quota — not, as usually happens in these cases, at the insistence of overseas governments, but to conserve supplies for local industry.

In recent months, there has been a dramatic re-emphasis in the direction of controls. No longer is it control of imports that is bothering many economies, but control of *exports*. Ironically, the traditionally free port of Hong Kong has been among the first to impose this type of control. *The Bulletin* is not suggesting that Government was wrong to take this step. It is however asking Chamber Members to consider its implications.

Of late there seems to have been a growing demand within the community for greater government intervention in the economy. One outstanding instance was the debate in the Legislative Council last November, when the majority of Unofficials called on Government to take various measures to contain inflation. Another instance was a recent proposal put forward by a well-known and important business association, virtually all of whose members are stalwart practitioners of private enter-

prise, for an increased degree of Governmentally controlled economic planning.

When large scale problems, such as rapid inflation, occur, it is to be expected that many will call for government intervention. After all, a government is usually one of the few organisations which has the size and power needed for action on a large scale. Whether such action is — or ever can be — effective is another matter. The evidence drawn from current instances of governmental intervention in the economic problems of, for example, the UK and the USA, might suggest that it is at best only partly effective.

Hong Kong's economy has traditionally been described as 'laissez-faire'. This is at the best of times an unprecise phrase which an economist is hard put to define in a scientific manner. But like so many hard-to-define phrases most of us know what it means and can employ it meaningfully in communication.

Very roughly, it implies that a government does not legislate to control industrial, commercial and trading etc. matters, except perhaps when. . . . And it is of course the word 'except' that causes the problem. When does the list of exceptions become so great that laissez-faire ceases to be laissez-faire and becomes something else?

Currently, the HK Government appears to be waging a somewhat low-profile campaign against its association with the laissez-faire

continued p. 19

Picture Briefing

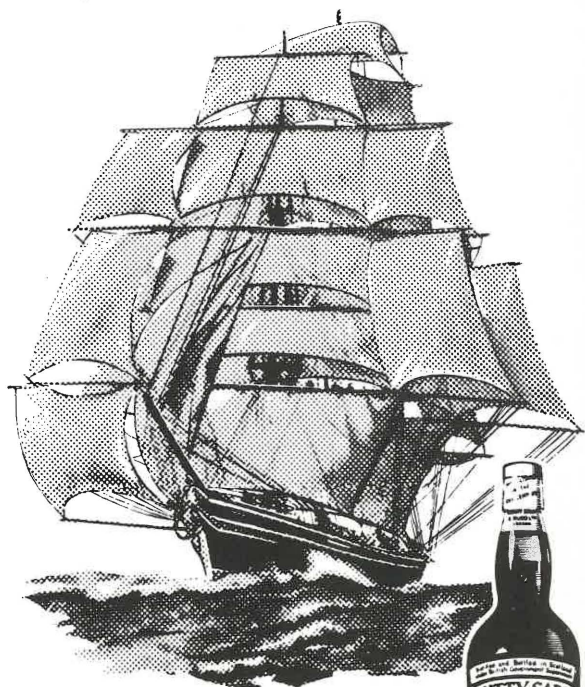
- A** Mr. T. Chiba, Governor of the Iwate Prefecture in Japan visited the Chamber on January 16. He is pictured here presenting a souvenir to S. L. Chung of the Chamber, while looking on is Mr. Nishikawa, Manager of the Japan Trade Centre in HK.
- B** Mrs. Wat was both crime-fighter and good Samaritan. A \$3,000 Good Citizen Award made to her by the Chamber was immediately donated by Mrs. Wat to the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals. At a double ceremony on January 19, Mrs. Wat presents her cash award to Mr. Philip Wong, a director of the Tung Wah Group while Mr. H. P. Foxon, Vice-Chairman of the Chamber and Mr. Wat look on.
- C-D** The Chamber's annual luncheon for the Consular Corps was held this year on January 28. (C) Mr. Ramon Rodriguez Benson, Consul-General of Mexico and Doyen of the Consular Corps speaking on behalf of the guests. (D) From left, Dr. E. U. Junker of the German Consulate General with F. M. Castro and Harry Garlick of the Chamber.
- E** Senior representatives of leading Dutch and Belgian retail organisations visited HK at the invitation of KLM and the TDC. The group met Mr. A. C. W. Blaauw (4th from left) and members of the Europe Area Committee.
- F** Students from the University of HK, the Chinese University and the Polytechnic were presented with Chamber scholarship awards at a ceremony on February 4.





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philosophy. 'But we're not really laissez-faire, you know,' serious gentlemen from the Colonial Secretariat are from time to time heard to murmur, seemingly more in sorrow than in anger.

Free enterprise is perhaps a less emotive term. Yet as we all know, free enterprise today, whether it be in the USA, the UK or Hong Kong is not quite as free as it was one hundred, even twenty five years ago. The alleged home of free enterprise, the United States, has some pretty tough laws regulating the conduct of business. Hong Kong in comparison is almost wildly free.

Even so, the truly individualistic entrepreneur of the last century would regard our businessmen as cruelly hen-pecked by Government. 'Tax? At fifteen per cent? You're fools to allow it!'

The point *The Bulletin* wishes to be considered is—do we really understand what is meant by free enterprise, and if so, is it still appropriate for Hong Kong's present day conditions? Or, perhaps more pertinently, are we as a community still prepared to put our faith in free enterprise, or would we prefer a greater degree of governmental regulation—regardless of whether one calls that regulation 'planning' or 'interference'?

The working of private enterprise cannot be understood without reference to the concept of the 'market mechanism'. If one accepts the validity of this concept, one believes

that any commodity, any product, any asset or service (including, of course, labour) has its market price, and that this price is established by putting that commodity etc. up for sale in a free market.

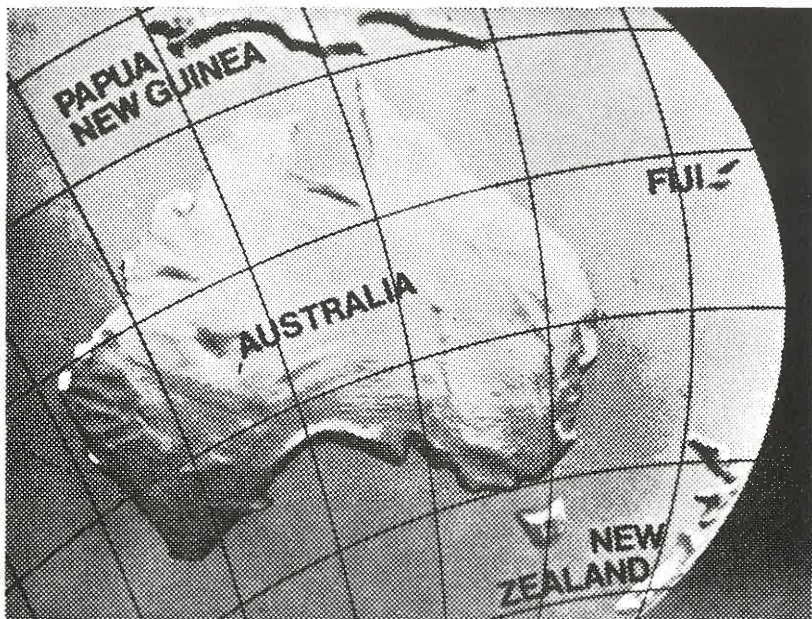
Values reflect needs

To work properly the market must truly be free, since the price determined by the market is regarded as the only means of establishing a value for the commodity. The individuals that make up the market will buy the commodity only *at a price that can be realistically related to their need for it*. If the price of a commodity becomes too high, it will find no buyers, and thus will either come down or buyers will find a substitute.

Interference with this free process, it is claimed, will inevitably distort the value-establishing mechanism, and so give rise to values that do not reflect the real needs of the market. Thus interference by Government, or any other agency, in the market mechanism by way of subsidy, controls, rationing etc., although it may be of benefit to a limited group, will ultimately be achieved only to the detriment of the market as a whole.

For instance, the administration of a subsidy etc. scheme must be paid for, and this gives rise to the traditional argument against bureaucracy—that the need to pay wages for the bureaucrats administering any centrally controlled scheme inflates the true market price of the commodity.

Finally, the effect of intervention in



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the market is to stifle initiative and the development of new replacements for, or improvements in, the commodity that is rationed, subsidised etc. By this stage, it is argued, the value of the commodity is far removed from the true needs of the market and resources on all levels are squandered instead of being used to maximum efficiency.

The current oil crisis provides something of an example of a market at work. Defenders of the market mechanism would point to the example of those producers who are having second thoughts on their pricing policies and gleefully point out, 'There you are. The price went too high for the market, now the market is bringing it down.'

They would go on to instance the recent plethora of activity to expand production from off-shore drillings and from shale, and the attempt to find substitutes for oil-based power. These, they would claim, give an example of how man comes to terms with a scarcity by developing cheaper, acceptable alternatives. And the progress of mankind, they would add, depends on providing exactly this type of incentive. Otherwise stagnation, both economic and spiritual, sets in. But at this stage the argument leaves the area of economics and becomes part — almost — of ethics.

Perhaps a more clearly defined example of the market mechanism at work and its application to Hong Kong occurred during the wig boom of two or three years ago. Manufacturers suddenly found themselves

faced with a world boom in demand for wigs. Local entrepreneurs were quick to see the opportunities and almost overnight new factories sprang up.

The wig manufacturers sudden need for labour placed a strain on the local market. To get the employees needed, employers started offering higher wages. The labour market responded, the wig manufacturers got their employees, but at the expense of manufacturers in other industries such as garments and electronics. This in turn had the effect of forcing up wages in the latter industries.

The higher costs of increased wages were ultimately paid for by the market, in this case the overseas customer. The net result was an overall increase in Hong Kong's earnings — the community as a whole became slightly richer. Then world demand suddenly changed. Wig factories were forced to close; the high wage rates previously offered no longer applied and the work force drifted back to the industries they had left a year or so before, thus helping to iron out *their* problems.

What controls fashion?

This simplified picture does of course omit much. It takes no cognisance of the role played by, for instance, taste-forming media in the market. Why suddenly did virtually every woman in Europe and the US feel that she should need one or more wigs, and then equally suddenly why did she tire of them? But this is in

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a sense irrelevant. The market mechanism does not concern itself with why something has occurred, but with the fact that it has occurred. It is up to the individual entrepreneur to assess the whys of the situation and to price his product accordingly. And depending on how successful his judgement has been, he will either assist in developing the market or in destroying it — or at least his share.

The important point is that it is hard to visualise this sudden wealth-creating opportunity being exploited under some form of controlled economy. Suppose for example, Government had decided that a drift of labour from, say electronics to wigs was not to be tolerated. This would have prevented wig manufacturers from taking advantage of the market; would have held down wages in sectors of the work force; and would indirectly have inflated the wage bills of electronics and all other manufacturers who would have had to pay for their 'hidden' staff in the form of the bureaucrats that administered the controls. And, perhaps most importantly of all, would the electronics industry really have gained much?

But what about plastics?

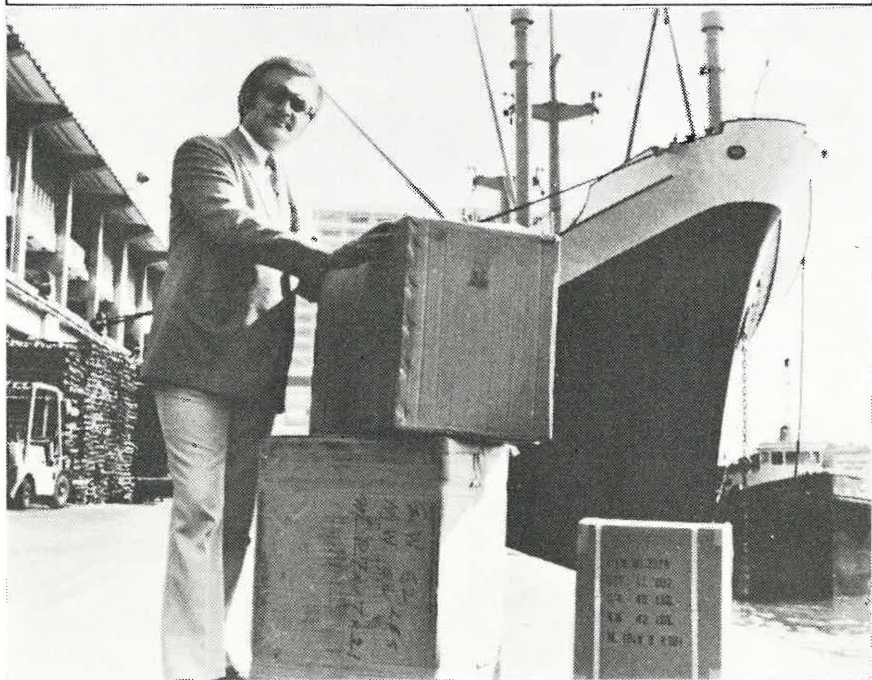
A more recent instance that could be used to counter this example arises from the present supply situation in the plastics industry. Here, it is claimed, merchants and wholesalers have been hoarding supplies in order to benefit from a scarcity and to sell only to the highest bidders — who

may well be overseas customers rather than Hong Kong manufacturers. In response to protest from the local industry, Government has imposed controls on the re-export of plastics materials.

This no doubt is a well-intentioned move designed to help not only manufacturers of plastics products, but, it is believed, Hong Kong industry as a whole; and the restrictions undoubtedly have the support of many local industrialists not directly in the plastics field. Furthermore, the controls are likely to be temporary in nature. But they nonetheless interfere with the market mechanism; they are not free enterprise; and they oblige all sectors of the community, albeit to a very marginal extent, indirectly to subsidise the plastics manufacturers. It could quite logically be argued that if a plastics manufacturer in times of adversity finds that he cannot afford to obtain raw materials, then it is up to him to get out of the industry, and to turn his time and talents to an enterprise where he can create wealth. Indeed by subsidising him, one is perhaps actually preventing him from exploiting other, potentially more profitable, opportunities.

Be that as it may, the case against relying solely on the market mechanism becomes stronger if we consider again the oil situation. Plastics, although important to the community, are less important than energy supplies. Here the majority would probably agree that the case in

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favour of governmental intervention is overwhelming. Many may even suggest that some form of rationing should be implemented, even if only by setting priorities on consumption, — supplies should go to the electric companies before mini-bus operators, etc.

The case is complicated by the fact that oil supplies — in so far as they *have* been cut back — have been restricted partly as the result of prior interference with the market mechanism by the producing states for political reasons. So since the market mechanism has ceased to operate anyway, why not try to control the situation within the limits that are available?

This line of reasoning is taken further by economists such as J.K. Galbraith, who was adviser to the late President John Kennedy, and who maintains that in today's conditions the market mechanism has largely ceased to work in the classical form. Not only is half — or more — of the world living under planned economies of a greater or lesser degree of control, but in addition large corporations such as the oil or automobile companies are in a position to dominate the market and to force their demands on it.

The price mechanism can only work, in its classical sense, in conditions of more or less equal competition, where one producer competes with another and so establishes the true market price for a given commodity. The existence of monopoly,

or near monopoly, be it in the hands of government or private shareholders, will ipso facto create a condition in which the price mechanism can be manipulated for the benefit of the monopolist.

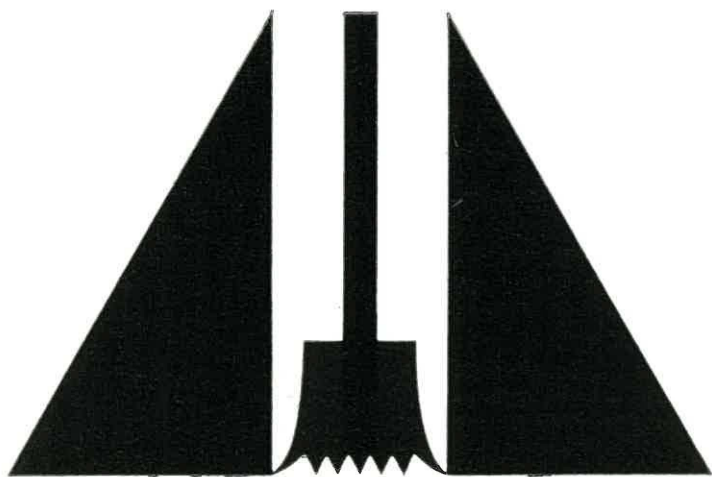
Government & Land

Hong Kong has perhaps succeeded precisely because there have been few enterprises here in a monopolist position. Some businesses are of course bigger than others and thus have an advantage in the market, but by-and-large the play of competition has been real rather than illusory. One of the few approaching a monopolist position is the Hong Kong Government, and the results of this are clearly shown in the extent to which land prices — and consequently rents — have soared. In fairness, it must be added that Government has tried to keep the rules and play its approach to land sales so as to establish the true market value for land. Ironically, it is the private enterprise sector that has objected most loudly to this approach and has suggested that priorities other than price should control land sales!

Traditionally, Chambers of Commerce, and the Hong Kong Chamber in particular, have supported the idea of free enterprise as manifested in Hong Kong's free port; in the right of all comers to seek a market here; and in the equal right of the Hong Kong merchant to seek a market overseas without — as the saying goes — let or hindrance.

But, as we have shown, it is often

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difficult to decide when free enterprise really is free. Throughout its recent development, Hong Kong has been more or less obliged to co-operate in observing restrictions on the free passage of its goods, solely in order to preserve its markets. And it was of course the Chamber that was in part instrumental in bringing in one of the first instances of this type of restrictionism, in the shape of the cotton textiles agreement negotiated with the UK in 1959.

The market mechanism has worked well in the past largely because Hong Kong has been a unique, and, in a sense, an isolated society. Its lack of concern with the political realities that plague other developing nations, its colonial status, its unique relationship with China, even its geographical position have created a society that to some extent breaks all the known rules. (Or should it be that Hong Kong is what it is because of free enterprise?)

The impossible becomes real

But is this approach still appropriate? We are no longer an area of low labour costs, and already what many claimed was impossible is becoming reality as basic industry in the form of oil and petrochemicals become established. Will the economic freedom that was right for a population of some three to four million be right when one has to house, feed, educate and find jobs for a population that could reach six, seven or more millions? These questions are more

than academic since the current materials problems are forcing them to our attention in a way that might otherwise have never occurred.

In a period of less than twenty-five years the Colony has been transformed from a sleepy port on the Chinese coast into the 16th largest exporter in the world. During this period, despite individual pockets of hardship, many of which undoubtedly linger, we have crept closer and closer to the status of a developed society. And if one accepts that a developed society is one in which per capita income is in excess of US\$1000 per year, there are grounds for believing that we may in fact have arrived.

The question that faces Hong Kong business today is how far can the laissez-faire pattern be eroded without Hong Kong's particular brand of cut-and-thrust success being lost? In colloquial terms, when do we throw out the baby with the bath water?

Now that we are a relatively rich, industrialised economy, now that we have a larger stake in the world's trade, must we follow the example of developed economies — virtually all developed economies — and accept an increasing degree of control? Will it not be long before we have our own Prices and Incomes Boards, our control of wages, and our Stages One, Two, Three and all the paraphernalia that play so large a part in the economies of our trading partners?

Or could it be that Hong Kong was right all along, and that the rest of the world was wrong?

Did You See That . . .

Since so many Hong Kong Businessmen spend a large part of the year outside the Colony, it is easy for a major event to occur which may escape notice. To help keep the traveller up-to-date, we summarise here some of the more important recent business events. We cannot guarantee the reliability of all items quoted, but if you wish to know more about the report, please refer to the source quoted and not to the Chamber.

□ Hong Kong-born Mr. Peter Blaker has succeeded Mr. Anthony Royle as Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in the British Government. (S.C.M.P. and others—January 16th).

□ Chinese and English will be made official languages under legislation to be introduced shortly. Both will have equal status and be used in communication between Government and the public. (Most papers—source Government Information Services 5-233191).

□ Export quota controls were imposed on polyethylene high density granules, moulding and extrusion compounds. Controls already apply to exports of polypropylene. (Most papers—source Government Information Services 5-233191. See also below).

□ Commerce & Industry Department is currently assisting 14 foreign industrialist attempting to set up joint venture or licencing arrangements in Hong Kong. Details may be obtained from Thomas Yiu (5-233781).

□ Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation is now empowered to guarantee medium and long term loans to local exporters. This should help exporters in obtaining credit from their bankers. (Most papers—source Government Information Services 5-233191).

□ China has promised to increase oil supplies to Hong Kong by an undisclosed amount in excess of eight per cent. (Ming Po — January 28th) Government confirmed that land had been made available at Sha Tin and on Tsing Yi island for the construction of storage tanks for oil supplies from China. China is expected to supply about seven per cent of Hong Kong's total oil needs. (Most papers — source Government Information Services 5-233191).

□ Exports increased in value during 1973 by 27 per cent over the 1972 value. Imports increased by 33 per cent and re-exports by 57 per cent (Most papers — source Government Information Services 5-233191).

□ Hong Kong's population at the end of 1973 was in excess of 4.2 million. (Several papers — source Government Information Services 5-233191).

□ Further extensions to the control of exports of plastics were announced Low density polyethylene granules, moulding powders and extrusion compounds and PVC resins are now under quota. (Most papers—source Government Information Services 5-233191).

Placing Round Pegs in Round Holes

the Labour Dept.'s Special Register

IT is not unique. The Colony has in fact quite a number already. From the agency that handles maahs and cleaners to the highly polished professional using esoteric methods of psychological selection, employment agencies abound.

The unusual feature of the Labour Department Special Register is however that it is a free service. What's more, it is staffed by qualified personnel who look after the interests of applicants just as keenly as the 'pros' look after their fees or commissions.

The Special Register is an extension of the work of the Local Employment Service run by the Labour Department, a simple employment exchange to assist job-seekers looking for employment in the commercial, industrial and service sector.

For years, now, Hong Kong has been concerned about the 'brain drain', the flood of graduates who seek — and often find — lucrative careers abroad. Perhaps the tide is now changing, because the Special Register was established specifically in response to the numerous enquires from graduates of the local universities and technical institutes. This was given impetus by the many overseas enquiries from students wishing to return from overseas to work in Hong Kong.

'The Special Register is run along the lines of the Professional and Executive Register maintained by employment exchanges in the UK,' says Mrs. Connie Soo.

Mrs Soo and her assistants try to analyse each applicant so as to find out within a short period of time personal assets that would not normally be revealed in an application form. At the moment the Register does not have the facilities for fanciful selection testing that one finds in some selection agencies. Psychological testing is strictly a person-to-person affair as far as Mrs. Soo is concerned.

Job satisfaction

The need for job satisfaction is vital and Mrs. Soo and her team realise that this is the most significant point to keep in mind when looking for a job to suit a particular applicant.

What about the employer? 'As a starter', Mrs. Soo explains, 'officers call on the large firms to introduce them to this service. Letters from the Commissioner of Labour have already gone to a number of organisations to enlist their help. With these we have included a list of our applicants with their details. These lists will be sent out regularly to prospective employers.'

At present, the list covers, for instance, mainly engineering graduates and a number of business administration majors. One particular applicant has degrees in textile technology from both the HK Technical College and Leeds University in the UK. He would like work as a mill engineer or factory manager. Another has a degree in applied chemistry with training in a paint research station;

another is a graduate of HKU in chemistry and physics and a Leeds University masters in colour chemistry. There are computer scientists, statisticians, accountants and personnel officers.

'As soon as an employer notifies the service of a vacancy, staff of the service will, after careful selection, send to the employer detailed information about the suitable applicants. The employer is free to decide which applicant to interview and which to reject. Arrangements for interviews will be at the employer's discretion. The decision whether or not to engage an applicant will of course lie with the employer.'

And if you happen to need one of the UK graduates in the list, the Service will make arrangements to have him interviewed in London through the Appointments Service in the Hong Kong Government Office in London. As yet this overseas service applies only to the UK but the possibility of extending the service to other countries, particularly those in the Commonwealth, is not remote. Besides the United Kingdom, applicants come from Canada, Australia and the USA, plus a few other areas. Total applicants registered with the Special Service is now nearing 100, 70 per cent of them male.

Women, unfortunately, are not receiving equal treatment from prospective employers. Preference is for men, with women mainly acting as substitutes.

Try a phone call direct to Mrs. Soo at 5-282523, ext. 49. Even the Government is using the service to recruit staff, so they obviously have faith in the service.

THE REFINERY—CONT'D

on exactly what environmental limitations need to be observed. 'If products A, B and C pose too great a hazard, let us know, and we will then investigate the feasibility of products D, E and F,' they not unreasonably claim.

But this, as Mr. Webster says, is to some extent besides the point—it is not only a question of short term defined pollution risks, but more a question of the overall type of environment we are creating for Hong Kong, taking into account the type of employment and social environment that we shall hand to our sons.

In the meantime, the only option would seem to be one of 'better the devil you know . . .' Given the fact that much still remains to be settled in the way of detail, and given the fact that a refinery/petrochemical complex on balance would be *something* of contribution towards creating a securer future for Hong Kong, it therefore seems worth encouragement. However, one sympathises with Mr. Webster in that it may not be the *best* investment we could make. Unfortunately, no one has yet come up with anything more specific. . .

總商會於詳細研究煉油廠興建之建議時，發現工業界所辯論的就是這計劃所引起之環境污染問題，而環境學專家所談論的竟是未來工業之發展一事。

這一困難之處理頗令人費神，這不但是「工業之命脈或慢性自殺」之選擇，而是香港經濟前途之轉捩點。而這亦非單純是牟利至上之工業家及理想學家之爭奪。彼等均能細察此事之利害。

工商處麥理覺先生曾指出我們需着重由工業所引致之就業機會而並非單純一間煉油廠之興建。

長春社韋仕特先生亦強調：我們並非只談論短暫之污染問題，而是對香港整體而論之一環境製造——包括工作種類及社會環境。

「職業特別登記冊」

政府勞工處之就業輔導組於最近向社會提供一新增免費服務——取名「特別登記冊」——協助求職人士在工商各界尋找合適的工作。

在過去多年以來，香港對人材外流一事甚為關注，因為不少畢業生嚮往海外待遇優厚之高職而他往。也許這一趨勢有所轉機，勞工處接獲本港兩所大學及理工學院之畢業生有關就業之諮詢，而亦有不少目下在海外深造而希望返港工作之學生向勞工處提出類似之問題，勞工處有見及此，便成立「特別登記冊」此項服務，並由高級勞工事務主任蘇莫秀霞女士負責處理。

於處理此項新增服務之過程中，蘇女士及其助理們首先迅速地將一位求職人士加以分析，試圖找出彼等之優點所在或持有之技能。

據蘇女士稱：在工作上得到滿足是最重要的一環，因此在替任何一位求職者尋找工作時，他們常注意這一要點。

目下，勞工處人員往訪各大機構，闡釋有關此項服務，勞工處處長亦已去信本港各社團徵求協助。而勞工處又把求職者之資歷等寄往各商行及機構——彼等均為未來之僱主。

現刻在「特別登記冊」登記之求職者大部份為機械工程及工商管理系之畢業生，其中一位曾在香港工專學院肄業完滿後往英國里茲大學深造，並獲紡織技術學學位。而另外一位專攻實用化學並曾在一漆油研究站受專門訓練。其他求職的人士包括電腦專家、統計家、會計師及人事管理人員等。

於解釋「特別登記冊」之工作程序時，蘇女士謂：「當僱主宣稱其機構有空缺時，我們便審閱求職者之資歷表，而把最合適之人選之詳細資料寄予該位僱主。此後便由該名僱主自我安排接見該求職者或把他予以拒絕，至於是否僱請該位求職者與否全由僱主方面決定。」

假若僱主所欲尋找之人士為英國畢業生時，勞工處可代為安排香港政府駐倫敦之辦事處之「就業組」代為面試該畢業生。

現今這海外服務只包括英國，但不久將來，亦會擴展到殖民地各國。除英國外，求職人士有來自加拿大、澳洲及美國等地。

於「特別登記冊」登記之人士現約共一百名，而男性佔百份之七十。

據稱僱主們對男性有所偏好，因而使女性佔下風，得不到男性們所獲到之同等待遇。蘇女士謂彼希望這觀感日後有所改轉。

香港政府現刻亦利用此一方法徵募公務員，可見其效果為高。

閣下若希望與蘇女士聯絡，請電：5-282523（內綫49），勞工處隨時樂意為閣下服務。

合力撲滅貪污

爲對總督特派廉政專員公署之工作有所澈底之認識，總商會之諮詢董事會董事曾於該部門之三位要員磋商談及彼等所肩負之任務及提供工商界於反貪污事宜中所可能予以之協助。該署出席座談之三位要員爲姬達先生，彭定國先生及鮑富達先生。

姬達先生乃是公署之廉政專員，該處屬下分三部門——行動組（由彭定國先生出掌），防止貪污部（由鮑富達先生處理），及社會聯誼部。

行動組將負責偵查及檢控與防止貪污部保持密切之聯繫，負責有關政府訂立之規條及法例之法律問題。而社會聯誼部着重改變人們過往對貪污一事之觀感。

廉政專員公署最渴望獲得工商界之支持，故與總商會及其他同類機構舉行磋商會談。

於與總商會諮詢董事會座談中，董事們論及商界尤其建築界之佣金制度，及在商界中以禮物作酬報之情形。

據廉政專員姬達先生稱：在中國大陸及星加坡，商業上之貪污並不存在。

若果我們能減除政府各部門之工作怠慢態度，便可杜絕對公務員之受賄情形。

於此，薪酬爲一主要問題。而目下治安人員之待遇已大有改善。

閣下若對某一政府部門之工作效率不力，因而對其與貪污一事有所懷疑時，可向該部門之主管投訴，及將副本寄予姬達先生作參攷之用。

於討論中，大家一致贊同謂政府應致力使社會大眾人士認識及了解有關這方面的法例及規條，如防止賄賂條例等等。（於二月五日，本商會已把這項法例之第九項規條寄

予各位會友，若有所需要，請逕向本會索取所需份數）。

廉政專員姬達先生又敬告本會諮詢董事會董事，謂彼將成立一諮詢委員會制度，並將邀請工商界人士代表列席爲委員，（而立法局亦已論及此項提議）。姬達先生同時亦希望工商各機構把一些資歷充沛之職員調往廉政專員公署以合約方式服務一短暫時間。

廉政專員公署行動組之彭定國先生詳細闡釋其部門之工作情形，以第一年之工作而言，彼等着重快速處理及高度效率。於此，彼等切望得到各方面所能提供之資料，此類資料將屬高度機密而得到妥善保密處理。再者，彭氏希望告密者於必需時，願意出庭作證。

姬達先生指出，雖然告密情報並不一定引致被牽連之人仕被檢控，但有助公署進行調查與情報有關之可疑點。

公署屬下鮑富達先生出掌之防止貪污部於談及其部門之工作時謂：彼等致力獲得工商各界人士及市民大眾之支持，多項較小規模之賄賂事件積聚而言，款項數額便甚爲可觀。

鮑富達先生更希望把社會各階層之工作水準及觀念加以提高及改善。

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