

OFFICIAL REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS**Wednesday, 10 December 1986****The Council met at half-past Two o'clock****PRESENT**HIS EXCELLENCY THE ACTING GOVERNOR (*PRESIDENT*)

(THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF SECRETARY)

SIR DAVID AKERS-JONES, K.B.E., C.M.G., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

MR. PIERS JACOBS, O.B.E., J.P.

THE HONOURABLE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

MR. MICHAEL DAVID THOMAS, C.M.G., Q.C.

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

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

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

THE HONOURABLE ERIC PETER HO, C.B.E., J.P.

SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY

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

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

THE HONOURABLE HU FA-KUANG, O.B.E., 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 DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE HONOURABLE CHAN YING-LUN, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE MRS. RITA FAN HSU LAI-TAI, J.P.

THE HONOURABLE MRS. PAULINE NG CHOW MAY-LIN, J.P.

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

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

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

THE HONOURABLE JOHN WALTER CHAMBERS, J.P.

SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE

THE HONOURABLE JACKIE CHAN CHAI-KEUNG

THE HONOURABLE CHENG HON-KWAN

DR. THE HONOURABLE CHIU HIN-KWONG
THE HONOURABLE CHUNG PUI-LUM
THE HONOURABLE THOMAS CLYDESDALE
THE HONOURABLE HO SAI-CHU, M.B.E., J.P.
THE HONOURABLE HUI YIN-FAT
THE HONOURABLE RICHARD LAI SUNG-LUNG
DR. THE HONOURABLE CONRAD LAM KUI-SHING
THE HONOURABLE MARTIN LEE CHU-MING, Q.C., J.P.
THE HONOURABLE LEE YU-TAI
THE HONOURABLE DAVID LI KWOK-PO, J.P.
THE HONOURABLE LIU LIT-FOR, J.P.
THE HONOURABLE NGAI SHIU-KIT, O.B.E., J.P.
THE HONOURABLE POON CHI-FAI
PROF. THE HONOURABLE POON CHUNG-KWONG
THE HONOURABLE HELMUT SOHMEN
THE HONOURABLE SZETO WAH
THE HONOURABLE TAI CHIN-WAH
THE HONOURABLE MRS. ROSANNA TAM WONG YICK-MING
THE HONOURABLE TAM YIU-CHUNG
Dr. THE HONOURABLE DANIEL TSE, O.B.E., J.P.
THE HONOURABLE ANDREW WONG WANG-FAT
THE HONOURABLE LAU WONG-FAT, M.B.E., J.P.
THE HONOURABLE GRAHAM BARNES, J.P.
SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS
THE HONOURABLE RONALD GEORGE BLACKER BRIDGE, O.B.E., J.P.
SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER
THE HONOURABLE DAVID GREGORY JEAFFRESON, C.B.E., J.P.
SECRETARY FOR SECURITY
THE HONOURABLE DAVID LAN HONG-TSUNG, J.P.
SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT

ABSENT

DR. THE HONOURABLE HENRIETTA IP MAN-HING, O.B.E., J.P.
THE HONOURABLE HILTON CHEONG-LEEN, C.B.E., J.P.
THE HONOURABLE PANG CHUN-HOI, M.B.E.

IN ATTENDANCE

THE CLERK TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MR. LAW KAM-SANG

**OBITUARY TRIBUTES TO THE LATE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE,
G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., M.B.E.**

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT: Hon. Members, before we commence this afternoon's proceedings, we will observe one minute's silence in memory of Sir Edward YOUDE.

(The Council observed one minute's silence as a token of respect.)

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT: Hon. Members, yesterday, Hong Kong said farewell to His Excellency the Governor Sir Edward YOUDE. Today, we gather to remember the wise, friendly and patient man who was President of this Council and guided Hong Kong and this Council through four turbulent and eventful years.

When he took office on 20 May 1982, as the twenty-sixth Governor, Sir Edward said that he would do his utmost to contribute 'to the welfare and prosperity of the people of Hong Kong and to making the future of this territory a bright one'. He spoke these words when dark clouds of uncertainty had gathered about our economy and about our ability to sustain the major programmes of improvement that had been started in the years before and about the future of this very special place. Today we can see from the evidence around us, in the streets, the shopping malls, the factories, housing estates, schools, universities, hospitals, concert halls, playgrounds and country parks how well those ambitions have been achieved.

In his first policy speech to this Council in October 1982, he clearly set out the objectives of his Governorship—'to be responsive to the public will; to create an environment which would encourage drive and enterprise, regulating only where the orderly conduct of business, fair treatment of the work force and the good name of Hong Kong require; to provide the infrastructure to enable modern techniques to develop; to be a government concerned with the welfare of the people; and to achieve all these in a society in which the rights of the individual are respected and where law and order can prevail'.

He set about these tasks in a characteristic, steady and unassuming manner, quietly addressing the problems and, by his high example, inspiring us all to achieve these objectives.

Sir Edward came at a time of world economic recession, when in Hong Kong, banks were failing, business houses were undermined and collapsing and when this Government's revenues dropped into deficit. Sir Edward responded to these inauspicious beginnings by vigorously defending Hong Kong's economic interests at home and abroad. Abroad, he personally led trade delegations to the United Kingdom, Japan, the United States and, in the last days of his life, to China to promote these interests. At home in this Council, legislation was introduced and passed, the better to regulate and supervise banking, insurance, the securities industry and business houses. Hong Kong put its house in order.

Sir Edward refused to be blown off course by conflicting advice and partisan appeals. As a result, wealth from renewed economic growth continues to be channelled into the social programmes that are so important to our stability and well-being. In particular, today, I should like to single out Sir Edward's special contribution and concern for education. In addition to all the other very necessary things that have to be done in the performance of good and sensible government, many of them clear to us all, he believed that education, a supremacy in education, lay at the very heart of our ability in Hong Kong to keep Hong Kong moving forward, to be able to maintain our position in the region and to enable us to make our particular and special contribution to the modernisation of China, and to assure our future. He believed this to be of the utmost importance and for this reason, he gave wholehearted support to the concept of building a third university and said that it should specialise in management, science and technology and that it should be built as quickly as possible. Hon. Members, we have that legacy to carry out.

During his Governorship, during his Presidency, recreation and the arts flourished; the welfare of our workers improved, without overlooking the interests of employers and the need to be competitive in our export markets; new town development and public housing production continued, with a long-term vision of the needs of our future population; the management and organisation of hospital services were reviewed; social security provisions were improved; and the road and rail network was expanded. These were achieved through years and years of careful planning, painstaking administration, determination and a strong sense of commitment at a time when as an administration we had to tighten our belts.

It was during these past four years that means have been carefully devised and implemented to include elected members in this Council, by carefully thought out arrangements conforming to our need to find broad agreements and the common ground; and to find simple uncontroversial means of linking this Council with committees advising on our other programmes and problems. During these years, the consultative and advisory role of district boards has become a firmly established, indeed essential, part of the system of representative government as it develops and evolves. We can see in these arrangements the great importance he attached to responding to the public will and to serving the common good.

In this chair, for which I suspect, as a former naval officer, he had a particular affection (because it came from the old Naval Court), Sir Edward listened through many long afternoons, and sometimes late evenings, to the views of the Council: on the Sino-British Joint Declaration, on nationality, Vietnamese refugees and the Daya Bay nuclear plant. And he represented, without equivocation, the views of this Council to Her Majesty's Government. And he travelled untiringly in fulfilment of this mission on behalf of the interests of Hon. Members and the public you speak for and represent.

His death is irredeemable.

Hon. Members, Sir Edward moved with quiet confidence amid many uncertainties and many conflicting voices, let our fervent wish be today that, inspired by his example, in a spirit of unity and give and take, we, too, can see our way through the months and years that lie ahead.

MISS DUNN: Sir, the Members of this Council join you, Sir, in paying tribute to our late President, Sir Edward YOUDE, and in offering our deepest sympathy to Lady Youde and the family.

We have now had time to absorb the news which only last Friday shocked and saddened the whole territory. We have mourned the loss of an accomplished statesman, an inspired leader, and a kind and patient friend. His period of office as Governor of Hong Kong spanned only four and a half years. But what momentous years they have been. And in that brief time he achieved so much.

Since he first stepped ashore at Queen's Pier that blustery day in May 1982, he steered this territory through many rocky shoals and heavy seas. In the anxious and uncertain years, up to the end of the negotiations he never wavered in his determination to find an acceptable basis for Hong Kong's future that would enable its people to maintain their way of life. His long association with China and his understanding of the hopes of the people of Hong Kong led us to a better agreement than we had ever thought possible. Now we prepare confidently for a stable and prosperous future, a future in which we, the people of Hong Kong, have been guaranteed a high degree of autonomy in the running of our city. All of us, our children, and our grandchildren can live to enjoy what he gave his life to secure.

Even during the most strenuous stages of those negotiations, when he travelled farther and faster than any of his predecessors, Sir Edward did not neglect the day-to-day work of government or the development of its policies. He was an able, diligent and decisive leader with a prodigious appetite for work. Under his guidance we progressed to a more representative system of government, wider participation in making decisions, and a larger and more broadly-based Legislative Council. This was the outcome of his strongly-held conviction that the opinions and preferences of the ordinary man and woman have an essential contribution to make to the work of a successful government. He was the driving force behind many recent policy initiatives. You have reminded us that his concern for advancing education has borne fruit in the plans for a third university, and in the debates now underway on the development of our educational system. While other countries grappled with inflation, unemployment and social unrest, Hong Kong, under his leadership, enjoyed full employment, rising standards of living, and a declining crime rate. During a period when, in spite of its own unique problems, Hong Kong had to make its way in a world of economic recession and increasing protectionism, he was a steadfast advocate of free trade and open competition. You mentioned, Sir, his tours of the USA, Canada, Japan, China and Britain to promote Hong Kong's

reputation and to foster trading links. These inspired Hong Kong to be proud of its products and of its place in the world.

All these achievements in so short a time are there for historians to record. They were possible because he was the man for the times: a distinguished diplomat who understood how best to bring together the interests of Britain, of China and of Hong Kong; a superbly successful administrator who knew how to get things done. He had the tireless devotion to duty which is the hallmark of the outstanding public servant. He could always see the wood and the trees. And always found the path through the wood when others had lost their way.

As a person, Sir Edward never let the pressures and difficulties of his work affect his warm and cheerful nature. His humility, honesty, and unfailing charm and good humour made him approachable to everyone. And this enabled him to understand the problems and aspirations of the ordinary people of Hong Kong. He showed this wherever he went. And let us not forget that Lady Youde selflessly took on a full share of public duties, and participated in a wide range of community and charitable activity. They will both be remembered throughout the length and breadth of this territory with affection and gratitude.

Sir Edward told us in his address to the Council at the beginning of this session two months ago that ‘The ability of this Council to consider ... legislation constructively, and with due despatch, will be an essential element in assuring the future prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.’ He, more than anyone, was aware of the importance of this Council’s role in implementing the Joint Declaration. We had counted on him to guide and lead us towards our future. And not only Members of this Council—Hong Kong relied on Sir Edward for so much. But now that he has left us, at last I think we shall see his greatest legacy to Hong Kong was to help and encourage us to rely more on ourselves. He would not have expected there to be any interruption in the work of this Council. We owe it to his memory to continue his work; to build on the foundations that he laid, to follow the course that he set for us, to fulfil his vision of Hong Kong’s future. As we do so, we pledge our full support to you, Sir, as Acting Governor and as President of this Council.

Adjournment and next sitting

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT: In accordance with Standing Orders I now adjourn the Council until further notice.

Adjourned accordingly at five minutes to Three o'clock.