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From:

Date:2004/02/28 Sat PM 12:06:37 CST

To:<views@cab-review.gov.hk>

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Subject:KEEP THE BALANCE IN LEGCO



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Dear the task force,

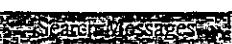
Attached is my article entitled 'KEEP THE BALANCE IN LEGCO" published by SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST on 28th Feb., 2004.

HENRY WONG

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Keep the balance in Legco

Hong Kong has undergone unprecedented political as well as economic upheavals since the resumption of sovereignty on July 1, 1997.

Noisy and boisterous protests have threatened efficient governance. Who is to blame? Are officials of Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa's government inefficient and incompetent? Some have maintained that few are of adequate calibre.

Some want universal suffrage to tackle this problem. But is universal suffrage to be conducted by 2007 an effective panacea? For the time being, no one dares give a definite answer.

Hong Kong shows signs of falling into factional strife and social discord. It is very probable that universal suffrage will bring uncertainty to the economy.

It is generally acceptable that the views of the major-

ity hold sway. However, the views of the minority will sometimes hold water, too. Only through practice can we test the truth. "Feeling for the stones while crossing the river" is the attitude we should adopt when dealing with constitutional reform.

It is equally acceptable that the present legislature, with functional constituencies, rightly reflects the balanced representation of all strata in the community, especially business and professionals. Universal suffrage will neither guarantee that the right calibre of people form the legislature nor that the chief executive and elected Legco members represent the interests of all strata of the community.

Formulating a structure that will provide these is the target we are striving for.

HENRY WONG,