



FOUNDED IN 1949

# Felix

NEWSPAPER OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

INSIDE:  
pullout supplement  
on new grants rates.

No. 422

Friday 4th June, 1976

FREE!

## NUS mount massive campaign against unemployment

# Teachers-3/8 face dole

### Mood of militancy grows

### How our graduates fare

LAST SUMMER, 739 people (665 men, 74 women) graduated from IC. Of these, 7½% (50) of the men and 9.4% (7) of the women were still seeking jobs at the end of last December. The overall proportion of graduates still unemployed at that time was 10.1%, according to the University of London Careers Advisory Service. This figure includes 2.6% of those

contacted who failed to reply.

The figure of 10.1% (for 1975) compares with 7.8% in 1974, 11.9% in 1973 and 10.9% in 1972.

The feedback to departments careers advisors on job offers and acceptances registered by prospective graduates suggest no marked change from previous years.

THE NUS this week stepped up its campaign to get 15,000 trained teachers into employment in schools in England and Wales. NUS headquarters, at Endsleigh Street, is acting as an emergency campaign machine, handling what NUS President Charles Clarke described as "the biggest and most important campaign NUS has ever mounted."

*teachers will be on the dole at a cost of 85% of what it would cost to employ them. Even the Government must soon see how ridiculous, and how embittering this is."* he says.

In addition, unemployment information desks are to be set up in each SU in the country. The numbers of new graduates unemployed this year will be collected and sent to NUS, who hope to release full figures on graduate unemployment by June 14.

In an attempt to increase public awareness of graduate unemployment, leaflets, posters, and a specially - prepared tabloid-style broadsheet are being prepared. The latter should be ready for distribution to students next week. This forms the backbone of a campaign to get the facts and figures about graduate unemployment across to all sections of the student community. MPs will be lobbied as will be the TUC Special Conference on June 16.

Reaction to the campaign has so far been favourable, said NUS Press Officer Francis Beckett.

The campaign continues tomorrow with a National Conference of delegates from Colleges of Education and education departments at Manchester Polytechnic. The conference will discuss the campaign and the decisions made for continuing it made by the NUS Executive. This will be followed by public meetings from 7-11 June in five major cities: Glasgow (7th), Manchester (8th), Sheffield (9th), Cardiff (10th) and Birmingham (11th).

The massive programme of public meetings and demonstrations culminates in what is likely to be the biggest national demonstration called by NUS on June 15th.

101 colleges of education and two universities, Heriot-Watt and Glasgow, are at present in occupation because of the issue of unemployed teachers. The occupations, which began in Scotland a few weeks ago, involve all 14,000 trainee teachers in Scotland, and are not expected to end in the foreseeable future.

Well attended, meetings of the students unions involved have preceded all the occupations (1600 at Jordon hill, Glasgow). The occupations have brought teacher training to a standstill in Scotland. Only necessary activities such as Teaching practice examinations and payment of staff wages have been allowed to continue.

The militant response from colleges of education has met with solid backing from the NUS Executive. Campaign plans announced for this month will cost an estimated £6000, and over the next two weeks raising money for NUS's fighting fund will be a major activity. Trade unions and student unions alike are being asked to help with the necessary financial aid for the campaign.

The man in charge of the "action desk" at NUS Headquarters is NUS Deputy President, Alastair Stewart. "I have never known a response like this to an NUS call to action. Thousands of trained

### Post Grad AGM

RICHARD PARKER, currently ICU AAO, was elected as Chairman of the Post Graduate Group at their AGM on Wednesday. Gabrielle Dailey and Kate Ducie were elected as Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

It will be the first time for quite sometime that the Post Grad Group have started with an active executive. The Group will be looking for more representation for PGs at a departmental level, a far more worthwhile aim in Mr

Parker's views.

From this, he hopes that inter-departmental links can be developed and strengthened. The Group will also be looking into ways of making more contact with MSc students who seem to be out on a limb within the Group.

They are at present awaiting the report of the working party looking into PG studies and will base some of their activities around any concrete suggestions that emerge from it.

### Nat West expands

NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED is pleased to announce that the enlargement of the Sub-Branch premises in Imperial College is due to commence on Monday 7th June. The work is expected to take approximately three months, finishing by the end of August. It is envisaged however, that some inconvenience will be felt, not only by the Staff of the Branch, but by all customers and the Bank would like to take this opportunity of apologising beforehand for any discomfort suffered.

During alterations, which eventually will provide more

amenable conditions both sides of the counter, the Branch WILL remain open. Of the services to be made available in the new premises a Cash Dispensing machine will be installed and those customers wishing to prepare for this service are invited to apply for the necessary cards before hand.

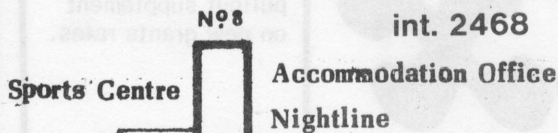
Any customers wishing to avoid the works area may make other arrangements to cash their cheques and Bob Bainbridge will be happy to discuss details with them, although it is sincerely hoped that such extremes will not be necessary and that the inconvenience will be minimal.



## Nightline

581 2468

int. 2468



PRINCES GDNS.

South Side

Someone to talk to  
Information on:-  
pregnancy, legal aid, gay  
centres, drugs, late night  
buses etc.

You will find  
Nightline at:  
8 Princes Gardens  
South Kensington

### BABY SITTING SERVICE

I AM HOPING to set up a list of people willing to be babysitters. Could anyone interested contact me either at the Welfare Centre or by internal mail to Sue Kalicinski, Welfare Officer, IC Union. Please include the days of the week on which you are available and how often you are prepared to 'sit'

### STUDENT WELFARE CENTRE

The Centre is open Mon - Fri for general information on legal problems, contraception, abortion, accommodation, NHS benefits etc. Tube and bus maps given away. NUS discount handbook and Vac Job Index available for consultation. Also visits and holidays for overseas students.

We are at the top of the Union Building.

### TEMPORARY ROOMS

THE UNION is running a Temporary Accommodation Scheme for people coming down to London before the start of the next session to hunt for flats and digs. The Scheme runs from 18th to 25th September inclusive. Rooms will be available at the cost of 50p per night plus a £5 returnable key deposit.

All you need do, if you wish to make use of this facility, is to turn up at the Union Office on the days concerned. You must also bring with you, a sleeping bag, otherwise it's the cold hard floor for you. Please do not bring all your luggage with you.

### Results of the Wine Tasting Competition

1st ROGER NUNN,	Mining 3	82½ marks
2nd TREVOR JACQUES,	Chem 2	80 marks
3rd T.J.D. PYE,	Chem Eng 2	78 marks

The maximum possible total was 150. All prizes will be presented at 12.30pm on Monday 7th June in the Union Lounge.

# IF Only..

## To Stratford or not Stratford...

YES IT IS me again, and no I don't fancy myself as some great literary genius, but when the editor of FELIX marches into the IF Union, and says, "I take it there's no IF ONLY article this week" because you've forgotten to ask someone to write one, there's nothing for it, but to sit down and write one yourself. Anyway, I suppose it's a good excuse for a plug for the Union. (You didn't know we could sink to those depths did you?) (That was a pun.)

For those of you who haven't seen or read the notices put up by Paula, we have arranged a day trip to Stratford-on-Avon. (Sorry folks, Brighton and Southend were booked up) we have managed to procure 41 tickets for the matinee performance of a play by a relatively unknown author called Juliet and Romeo (I've just been told that my information is incorrect. The

author is not called Juliet and Romeo, neither is the play. I am confused.) We are leaving at some unearthly hour of the morning, like 8.30, (I wouldn't quote me on that, and neither would I), long before IC have even considered getting up, let alone starting college. There will be some espede de sight-seeing trip before the performance, and we should get back well before closing timw. Not that that has anything to do with it, of course. Tickets will and do cost £3.90 (luncheon vouchers are not accepted), and are on sale in the Union, and do come and buy them, as they are cluttering up the place. Surely, brethren, this is a more worthy cause than 74 kitkats, 18½ cms. of typing paper, or 52 6/7 typing rubbers which you might otherwise have spent your well-earned grant/baby-sitting money on.

JANE TURNER

# THE LETTERS

## Lacking motivation

Sir, - There have been a number of articles and letters in FELIX recently, and echoed in your editorial column last week, on the boring nature of lectures. When students say that they found a lecture "boring", what they really mean, in most cases, is that they were unable to understand or follow it.

When difficult material is encountered for the first time, this must be expected, unless one takes the trouble to read up on it beforehand. The lectures may then become more interesting! (Unless, of course, the student has no interest in his/her subject anyway; in which case he really has no business at Imperial College, being bored to death at public expense.)

What perhaps galls many students is that mastering a scientific or engineering subject at an advanced level requires hard work and long hours of study. There are very few short cuts, but nice, easy

short cuts are exactly what Britain's pampered youth want. Instead, they are given worksheets (problem sheets) which actually require them to work!

I think the basic trouble stems from the fact that many, perhaps a majority, of the students here have no strong motivation for studying their subject, or even for being at university.

Few sixth-formers choose a university course out of a strong desire to study that particular subject, and even fewer bother to find out what studying that subject at university would entail. In these circumstances boredom is hardly unexpected, and while the presentation of lectures would certainly be a good thing, it will not solve the problem.

Yours sincerely  
LS HAYNE  
Maths 3

Coming  
soon!

## THE BREMSSTRAHLUNG BOOK

Only  
10p  
folks!



Complete set of 40  
cartoons from the pages  
of FELIX

All proceeds to ICU Rag

T.J.

# NUS Response to the Grants Announcement 1976/77

## Discretionary Awards

The Grants announcement on Thursday 27th May did nothing for discretionary awards except to clarify that one course at one College did not merit a mandatory award. More than half the members of NUS receive no awards at all or less than full value awards because of the discretionary powers of local authorities. The normal excuse proffered by the DES for doing nothing on discretionary awards, apart from the usual public expenditure considerations, is the lack of legislative time. On this occasion there was no such excuse. The Education Bill 1975, the Comprehensive Bill, is currently going through the House. Clause 7 of that Bill extends the range of designated courses to include the new higher diplomas of the Technical Education Council & the Business Education Council. This was a golden opportunity to extend mandatory provision still further to include all courses of advanced further education & to make proper financial provision for the 16-19 age group, this Government's so-called educational priority. Nothing has been done & once again increases in the main rate of grant have been used to mask a totally inadequate & unjust settlement for the majority of our members.

## The Means Test

The Means Test stays virtually unchanged for another year. The DES have tampered with the base of the means test scale raising it from £2200 to £2700. But improvements in the base will do nothing to help the majority of students whose parents earn in excess of £4000. For parents above that level, the contribution has been reduced by only £20 & that is assuming that parental income remains static, which is of course unlikely. This can only mean that the 57% of students now shown not to receive all or part of their contribution will be added to as the means test burden grows heavier. In the decade 1962 to 1972, the average value of the student maintenance grant paid by local authorities has risen by only 27% whereas the average parental contribution has risen by 139%. This settlement will continue that trend. The fact that the settlement has cost £30m, an increase on the previous grants bill of only 11% suggests that much of the cost of the settlement will come from the parents' pocket not the Government's.

There has been no alteration in the age of independence. Married students continue to be assessed on their spouse's income or worse still their parents. The concession granted on the three years earning rule which will mean that periods of time spent at home caring for children will count as self-support, for the purpose of establishing independence, will apply to married students only, not to unmarried students. This is appalling discrimination against the unmarried.

## The Main Rate

The main rate of grant has been increased from £740 to £875. On the face of it this looks to be more than might have been expected in the light of the Government's current pay policy. Closer inspection does not bear out this first impression. We calculated that students needed a minimum of £845 last September if they were to have enough to cover their basic needs. An award of £875 in September 1976, twelve months later, goes no way to meet that need. We asked for a grant that would meet costs in the middle of the academic year for which it is paid. Instead this settlement takes little account of the inflation we have already seen this academic year. Inflation in March still stood at 21%. An increase of 18% in a totally inadequate grant of £740 coupled with a heavier means test burden can only mean even further reduced living standards for students next year. The whole main rate settlement suggests a naive belief in the Government's anti-inflation policy and its optimistic belief that inflation will be down to single figures in February of next year.

The new arrangements for vacation support will also have an impact on the student's spending power. The DES are not going to publish any breakdown of the grant but we know that the vacation element will be in the region of £11.35 per week in the short vacations. If we allow for there being eight weeks in the short vacations this puts the total vacation element at £90.80. This means an increase in the term-time grant of 17%. (£740 minus £70 (vac element 1975/6) = £670; £875 minus £90 (vac element 1976/7) = £785; an increase of £115 or 17%.) The DES will not specify the number of weeks the new vacation element is meant to cover in the short vacations, so students with short vacations of more than eight weeks in total are likely to suffer as a result.

There are only two aspects of the settlement which can be welcomed. The full cost of medical insurance for students going abroad as part of their course will now be paid as part of their grant. The relaxing of the three year self-support from earnings rule to allow students who have claimed sickness, invalidity or maternity benefit to count those periods as self-support should mean that more students than previously will be granted independent status.





# NUS Travel

**Huge Reductions on "Holidays 76"**  
**Cut The Cost Of Summer Sun**

NUS TRAVEL is offering special reductions on most June departures in their "Holiday 76" programme. Prices have been cut by as much as £10 per holiday. New low rates include camping in Corsica from £55, the South of France from £64 and pension accommodation Athens from £84.

This year, for the first time, all but two of the inclusive tours are open to everyone — so now, non-students can also take advantage of NUS Travel's inexpensive holidays.

Specially designed for all young people "Holidays 76" offers two very important ingredients — low price and variety. Mediterranean destinations vary from traditional sun-spots like Sitges to the uncommercialised island of Sardinia.

Last year's programme was highly successful and although this summer's capacity has been greatly increased, NUS Travel advises students and young people to book early and avoid disappointment.

Bookings can be made at any of the 48 NUS Travel offices situated both on campus and in the High Street.

## NUS Travel's New Low Fares on Eurotrain

SAVE UP to 50% of normal rail fares to more than 60 destinations this summer with Eurotrain — the first fully integrated student rail network.

As an added bonus NUS Travel is offering even larger reductions on selected routes. Prices include Paris for £10.20, Madrid for £26.65, Rome for £26.45 and Brussels for £7.85.

As well as students and scholars all young people under the age of 21 can take advantage of the frequent Eurotrain programme. During the summer months trains run daily to most major European cities.

The Eurotrain symbol gives complete confidence and reliability, both in this country and abroad. Travelling across Europe is now easier than ever before with foreign student train operators working together to provide this comprehensive service.

One important feature to note is that Eurotrain tickets guarantee reserved seats at no extra cost on nearly all trains leaving London.

# small ads

## SOUTH SIDE HALLS OF RESIDENCE

In order to obviate complaints from local residents it is proposed to re-introduce the practice of nightly locking the wooden gate at the foot of the stairs leading from Prince's Gate Mews to the South Side Halls. As from 25th June this gate will be locked at 11pm each night.

## SOCIAL COLOURS

Social colours pendants are here!

Buy yours today, only 90p

Social colours holders only

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

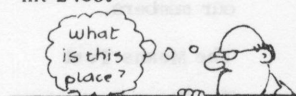
Continue to enjoy the use of Union facilities after you leave College by taking out your life membership before you leave. Application forms and more details available from Jen in the Union Office.

## WANTED

Flat for four wanted from around the end of term. Walking distance from College-ADRIAN YARDLEY 418 Tizard.

## NIGHTLINE

At the beginning of next year, Nightline will be short of volunteers as many of us are leaving college. If you have ever thought of helping with Nightline we would like to hear from you now. We can introduce you to Nightline and what you need to know so you are ready to start at the beginning of next term. Give us a ring soon after 6.00pm any evening to find out more 581 2468 or int 2468.



## HOLIDAY

Third person wanted for holiday during August and early September to Greece and Eastern Europe. Must have current driving licence and at least £200. Contact STEVE WILKS in Elec Eng 3 or Falmouth 316.

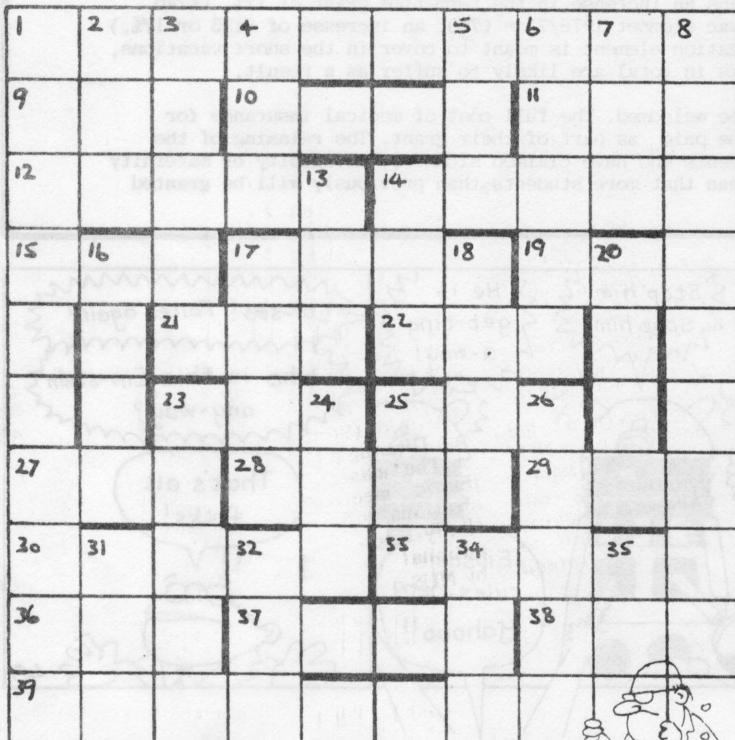
## REWARD

£10 reward for you if you can place us in a nice self-contained flat in South or West London. For PG and wife. Rent up to £20 per week. Contact DAVE YOULL, Astronomy, int 4455.

# PRIZE CROSSWORD No.38

## ACROSS

1. The are tales told on journeys to here.
9. A poem to be sung
10. Reverse 24 up
11. Union for training squirrels
12. Lumps in interpola! 9
14. Minus voltage back twice with nothing in god
15. Turf lump
17. Could be a 5th brand



## DOWN

19. he use??
21. Maybe like a potato
22. Fifty, or one, to five hundred it closes
23. Odds on this is it?
25. Simeon who, when, where!?
27. Mark or damage ram
28. That moment so distorts mine
29. The sheltered side of J Cobb
30. Change alien to bring it into line.
33. Man you is great
36. Brown leather to preserves
37. Top God, Norsely
38. Prefix (Oh, what a give away).
39. A merry abode for something that should polish

20. To glut, or consume dollar
23. Salt water or Aussie thinking organ
24. Knot or knotted
25. Dept of Education and Science
26. Old record co., fruity
31. Beat the hell out of a lamb
32. It ain't this neither
34. United Nations organisation
35. Make an error (Oh, what a give away.)

The winner of Crossword No.37 was T Carlstedt-Duke.

The £1 prize will be given to the first correct solution drawn out of the Editor's Hat at noon next Wednesday June 9. The Editor's decision will be final.

## Solution to Crossword No.37

H	I	E	R	O	P	H	A	N	T
E	T	A	I	L	S	E	N	T	A
D	I	R	A	B	B	A	T	A	R
D	L	E	H	U	A	T	A	R	A
H	V	I	M	T	O	N	E	N	
U	M	I	C	E	S	U	N	S	T
N	O	L	L	L	K	Y	A	T	E
T	O	N	I	F	I	F	H	A	L
E	N	O	E	L	A	F	A	R	L
R	A	T	N	A	C	A	M	L	A

## DOWN

1. I'm Roman mate con another to perfection
2. It's about O playwise
3. Young seagoon
4. Foot digit, not inch
5. Would spokes go into this, instead of out from it
6. Unod
7. Cf (1) animally
8. Be struck by thunderbolt
13. Man's name
14. Lit up
16. O pounds a jar
17. Flesh (which crawls up)
18. A right of possession

So this is hyperspace!



# STUDENTS' GRANTS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1976/77

1. Following are details of changes in rates of grants for students announced by the Secretary of State for Education and Science on 27th May 1976. The rates will be effective from 1 September 1976 and apply to students taking first degree and comparable courses, courses of initial teacher training, and courses leading to the Diploma of Higher Education and the Higher National Diploma.

## MAIN RATES OF GRANT

### 2. Rates of Grant

	1975/76 £	1976/77 £
a. Hall / Lodgings: (i) London	810	955
(ii) Elsewhere	740	875
b. Parental home	570	675

## SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS

### 3. Dependants' Allowances

	1975/76 £	1976/77 £
a. Spouse or other adult dependant (a first dependant child if no adult dependant)	380	445
b. First dependant child	165	195
c. Second and each subsequent dependant child	85	115

### 4. Mature Student's Grant

	1975/76 £	1976/77 £
Age at beginning of course: 26	57	68
27	114	136
28	171	204
29	228	272
30 or over	285	340

To qualify for this grant the student's earnings for any one of the last 6 years must have reached a specified level and he must have been in full-time employment during 3 of the previous 6 years.

	1975/76 £	1976/77 £
6. Two homes grant	135 p.a.	165 p.a.
7. Grant for term-time residential study away from the establishment (max per day)	2.30	3.20

### 8. Additional grant for extra attendance

	weekly	weekly
a. Hall / Lodgings: (i) London	16.10	18.30

	1975/76 £	1976/77 £
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	weekly	weekly
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b. At Home	8.40	8.90
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### 9. Additional grant for vacation study

	daily	daily* (maxima)
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The rates of grant for 1976/77 are maxima.

a. Hall / Lodgings (i) London	2.30	3.20
(ii) Elsewhere	2.00	2.80
b. At Home	1.20	1.90

### 10. Discretionary vacation hardship allowance (max per week)

	10.00	16.15*
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### 11. Grant for disabled students (max)

	120 p.a.	140 p.a.
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### 12. Travel allowance. At present the cost of a student's necessary travel over £22 p.a. is reimbursed. This sum will be increased to £26 p.a. for 1976/77.

\* Any payments in respect of vacation study or vacation hardship in the short vacation should take account of the resources already available in the grant for those vacations (£11.35 per week).



## PARENTAL CONTRIBUTION

13. The scale of parental contributions will be revised as follows:

Residual Income	1975/76 contributions	1976/77 contributions
£	£	£
2200	30	-
2300	50	-
2400	70	-
2500	90	-
2600	110	-
2700	130	30
2800	150	50
2900	170	70
3000	190	90
3100	210	110
3200	230	130
3300	250	150
3400	270	170
3500	280	190
3600	290	210
3700	300	230
3800	310	250
3900	320	270
4000	330	290
4100	340	310
4200	350	330
4300	360	340
4400	370	350
4500	380	360
5000	430	410

14. In calculating residual income for the purposes of assessing the contribution, the following allowances will be changed:

	1975/76	1976/77
	£	£
a. Dependant child: age under 11	310	365
age 11 - 16	320	375
age 17 and over	400	470
b. Other dependant (other than spouse)	400	470
c. Domestic assistance in certain cases	320	375
d. A parent who holds a statutory award	160	185

## LIABILITY FOR PARENTAL CONTRIBUTION

15. The criteria for determining whether a student has established independence from his parents by supporting himself for 3 years will be widened so that

- periods spent at home by married students looking after children, and
- periods (not limited to maximum of 6 months) when a student was in receipt of benefit under sections 14(1)(b) (sickness), 15(1)(b) or 36(1) (invalidity) or 22(1) (maternity of the Social Security Act 1975)

will count towards the 3 year period

## SPOUSE'S CONTRIBUTION

16. Married students in respect of whom no parental contribution is assessed are liable to a spouse's contribution at rates and conditions similar to those for the parental contribution (see para-

## DISREGARD OF STUDENT'S INCOME

19. In calculating the student's income for the purpose of assessing grant, the amount may be disregarded will be increased from £160 to £185, and the amount of trust income which may be disregarded where no parent is living will be increased from £320 to £375.

## POSTGRADUATES

Rates of grant for postgraduate students are now being reviewed in the light of the new rates for undergraduates. An announcement will be made as soon as possible.