

S.C.M.P. 7 June 1985

Call for data protection¹⁷⁻¹⁸

By **STANLEY LEUNG**

Consultants have urged the Government to require the ERP's operating authority to report to a special committee regarding access to the system.

The project director of Transpotech Ltd, Mr John Dawson, told a lunch meeting of the Hongkong Management Association yesterday the "appropriate committee" would have to record in detail all access to the system.

Mr Dawson said ERP, like any computer system holding personal information, needed adequate data protection.

He said ERP would need its own ordinance to specify permitted access to the system.

The ordinance should also allow an individual to sue for damages in case of infringement on personal privacy.

The accounting system for ERP is in essence a medium sized public utility accounting system with between 200,000 and 300,000 account holders.

Payments are received through the treasury system, and names and addresses of vehicle owners are received from the vehicle licensing system.

Mr Dawson also said that

under ERP, the average cost of motoring by the 1990s would be increased by about one per cent.

Heavy users of the urban road network would pay more than average and those with moderate use or less would be better off.

Speaking after the lunch, Mr Dawson said the Government virtually owned the copyright of everything done in the pilot stage.

He said Transpotech was trying its best to help the Government protect information copyright.

On whether any country has approached the firm for ERP information, he said it was difficult to disclose details openly.

But he said similar studies were being carried out in Hawaii but he did not know their conclusions.

Mr Dawson also noted that the present traffic situation has improved.

But he stressed that as ERP would take three years to implement, traffic conditions by then would not be the same.

Meanwhile, the Transport Branch has produced a leaflet summarising the consultation document on the ERP pilot scheme.

It contains items of special interest to motorists.