

*Private Financial Affairs.*—Here again, a higher standard is expected of the public servant, as any doubts about his financial position may impair the efficiency and work of a public servant. Ownership or part-ownership of any concession, land or house property in Malaya without the consent of the Chief Secretary is forbidden. No officer may lend money at interest to any other officer or to any person residing in, possessing property in or carrying on business in Malaya. Officers are forbidden to sign promissory notes or acknowledgments of indebtedness in any form either as principals or sureties except in favour of the Government or a registered Co-operative Society. Any officer who does not inform his Head of Department immediately of any pecuniary embarrassment is liable to dismissal.

Borrowing in order to meet the daily running costs is folly for a large organisation and it is folly for an individual officer. If you would like to be ready to meet any unexpected event, illness, or some sudden large expenditure, then join one of the Thrift and Loan Co-operative Societies: when you need any help, they can give it to you on fair and reasonable terms. If you have been unwise enough to get in the hands of a moneylender, pluck up your courage and tell your supervisor or the Chief Personnel and Welfare Officer who will be able to help you.

*Political Activities.*—There is some division of opinion about whether public servants should participate in politics. On the one hand, it is argued that active participation in politics not only destroys confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the public service, but is fraught with dangerous consequences that may affect the tenure and status of officials. This view emphasises that the public service is unique and that official neutrality is a prime condition of a permanent and an efficient public service. The other view is that public employment should not deprive an official of his ordinary civil rights, and secondly that the exclusion of officials from active politics restricts the field from which the community might choose its representatives.

Both sides would agree that it is inadvisable for any public servant to do anything likely to cause the general public to think that information given or services rendered were in any way affected by political considerations. There is general agreement also that the senior official, whose responsibility it is to advise on the formation of policy, or any officer aspiring to senior status, should so act that his loyalty to whatever Government may come to power in the course of time may not come under suspicion.

This idea of the separation of politics from administration derives from the British Act of Settlement, 1701. From this Act, which precluded paid officers of the Crown, other than Ministers, from sitting in Parliament, there developed in the course of time, the principle of separating the political offices, filled by popular election, from administrative offices, filled by appointment. No member of Parliament may be appointed to a permanent administrative post without resigning his seat, while no public