

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 387-C  
40-C

From

The Director of Public Instruction, Bengal,

To

J. R. Barrow, Esq., M.A.,  
Principal, Presidency College.

Calcutta, the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1930.

Sir,

I have the honour to invite a reference to this office circular No. 24, dated 12th July 1930, on the subject of your considered opinion on the desirability of imposing on absentee students fines at an increased rate whenever no satisfactory reason is adduced for absence during a hartal, picketing or strike and to submit your reply without further delay.

Kindly treat this matter as very urgent.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

*[Signature]*  
for Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

*Draft - Check*

*File with the draft - (fanc) you*

*Today - Mr. 28/7*

*[Stamp]*  
K.B.  
25.7.



Circular No. 24.

CONFIDENTIAL.

From

The Director of Public Instruction, Bengal,

To

All Inspectors of Schools; Inspectresses of Schools; Principals of Government Arts and Training Colleges; Principal, Bengal Engineering College; Principal, Ahsanullah School of Engineering, Dacca; Principal, Government School of Art; Principal, Government Commercial Institute; Principals, Calcutta and Chittagong Madrasahs and Superintendent, Hooghly Madrasah.

Calcutta, the 12th July, 1930.

Sir,  
Madam,

I have the honour to state that in view of the frequent occurrence of strikes hartals and picketting in educational institutions, an enquiry has been made as to whether the penalties for absence due to political excitement levied on students are sufficiently deterrent. I have therefore to request that you will be so good as to furnish this office at a very early date with your considered opinion on the desirability of imposing on absentee students fines at an increased rate whenever no satisfactory reason is adduced for absence during a hartal, picketting or strike. Suggestions are invited as to the amount of fine, if it is considered that an increase is desirable.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,  
Madam,

Your most obedient servant,

H. E. Stapleton,

Director of Public Instruction,  
Bengal (Offg.).



From

J. R. Barrow, Esq., M.A., I.E.S.

Offg. Principal, Presidency College.

To

R. Wolfenden, Esq., M.B.E., M.Sc.

Assistant Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

Dated Calcutta, the 28th July 1930.

Sir,

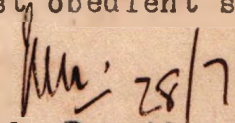
With reference to your confidential circular No. 24 dated the 12th July 1930 and subsequent reminder regarding the levying of fines for absence during strikes, hartals, etc., I have the honour to say that occasional absence for trivial causes has never been regarded as much of an offence in Bengal. It is, I believe, usual in schools to demand a fine of two annas ; in this College, at any rate, no fine is ordinarily exacted. Hence students have formed a habit of staying away lightly and this makes <sup>the</sup> ~~a~~ task of those who wish to organise hartals comparatively easy. It would be a lengthy business to try and ~~alter~~ this tradition.

The existing fines, where fines exist, are certainly not deterrent, but there are obvious difficulties in the way of increasing them by rule, since a good deal of violence is frequently employed by picketers and it would be unfair to penalise small boys for failure to attend, when possibly they were afraid of being molested. Of course, the problem would be solved if the general student population were ready to insist on its right to freedom of action, but it is no use hoping for too much. I think that the Inspectors of Schools, or the Headmasters in consultation with their Managing Committees, or the Principals of Colleges must be left to inflict special fines on special occasions as they think fit.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

  
Principal, Presidency College.



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

No. 706 T. Misc., dated Darjeeling, the 27th June 1930.

Memorandum by—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Education Department.

Minister-in-charge : Hon'ble Mr. K. Nazimuddin, C. I. E.

Copy forwarded to the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, for information and for communication to the officers subordinate to him.

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Nos. 604-05 P.S.—D., dated Darjeeling, the 25th June 1930.

Memorandum by—The Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Political Department.

Copy forwarded to the Inspector-General of Police, Bengal, and the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, for information and necessary action and for communication to the officers subordinate to him.

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Nos. 606-20 P.S.—D., dated Darjeeling, the 25th June 1930.

Copy forwarded to all departments of Government for information and for communication to the heads subordinate to them.

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Nos. 599-603 P.S.—D., dated Darjeeling, the 25th June 1930.

From—W. S. HOPKINS, Esq., C.I.E., O.B.E., I.C.S., Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

To—All Commissioners of Divisions.

I am directed to address you on the subject of the conduct of Government servants in relation to the present civil disobedience movement and its allied movements. These movements are political movements and their aim and object is the subversion of Government established by law in British India. Under rule 23 (1) of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules a Government servant shall not take part in, or subscribe in aid of, any political movement in India, and Government servants are, therefore, forbidden to have any share in, or give any support to, the present civil disobedience movement or its allied movements.

H. E. STAPLETON,

CALCUTTA,

*The 30th June 1930*

*notes*  
*7/7/30*

*notes*  
*7/7/30*

*100/2/17/30. all c.*  
*9/17*

*Rec'd 7/7/30*

*W. J.*

*H. W. J.*



2. But apart from this general prohibition Government servants must realise that the exhibition of any sympathy with such movements is entirely incompatible with their duty as Government servants. Instances have occurred recently which make it clear that this has not been recognised by some Government servants, and I am directed to draw your attention to certain matters in this connection.

3. It should be impressed upon Government servants of all ranks that attendance at political meetings in support of the civil disobedience movement or its allied movements is incompatible with their position as Government servants, whether their attendance is that of active participators in the conduct of the meeting or as spectators. For in the latter case, even if attendance is due to innocent curiosity and not for the purpose of showing an active sympathy with the promoters of the meeting and with their policy, the presence of Government servants at such meetings is apt to be misunderstood.

4. Government servants of all grades must also recognise that the wearing of the tri-coloured swaraj emblem in any shape or form is incompatible with their position as servants of Government established by law in British India and is forbidden. For these are the emblems of a movement whose object is the subversion of the Government which they serve and indicate their sympathy with that movement.

5. The attention of all Government servants should also be drawn to the fact that they are held responsible for not only their own conduct, but also for that of their family and dependants. This responsibility has become all the more serious since the Congress and its allied associations have adopted the policy of using women picketers, and instances have come to the notice of Government where wives and daughters and other female relatives of Government servants have taken a prominent part in such picketing. Information has also been received of objectionable conduct by the sons and other male dependants of Government servants, and I am to request you to impress upon all Government servants that they will be held responsible if cases of misconduct by their family or dependants come to the notice of Government. It is the duty of every Government servant to see that those dependant upon him do nothing incompatible with his position as a loyal employee of the Government in whose service he is.

6. Steps should be taken to bring to the notice of all Government servants their responsibility in these and other respects and they should be warned that if they disregard the orders they will render themselves liable to disciplinary proceedings. The officers in charge of departments should be directed to take immediate action against any Government servant whose conduct contravenes these orders, and they should have no hesitation in suspending such Government servants pending formal proceedings against them, should such a step appear to them to be desirable.

7. I am to add that the Government of India have requested that immediate information shall be sent them of instances of contravention of these orders on the part of any public servant employed under the Central Government. Should any instance of such misconduct come to the notice of any District Officer or of yourself, immediate steps should be taken to report the facts to this Government so that the matter may be at once brought to the notice of the Government of India.