

Copy of letter No. 8852-G-50/1-4952, dated the 23rd December, 1950 from the Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab, to all Heads of Departments, etc.

**Subject :—Instructions regarding Public Parties and Farewell Entertainments in honour of Government servants.**

The attention of Government having been drawn to instances in which provisions of rule 4 of the Government Servant's Conduct Rule relating to attendance at entertainments held in honour of a Government servant himself or in any other Government servant or any person who had recently quitted the services of Government had been disregarded, I am directed to say that it appears that instructions in this behalf issued in the pre-partition Punjab are not being observed presumably because they have not been re-issued in this State. The policy of the State Government in this behalf continues, however to be governed by those instructions and I am to enclose for your own information and guidance and that of other Government servants under your control a copy of the Press communique dated the 4th May 1937 on the subject.

2. I am to request you to ensure that these instructions are understood by all concerned and strictly obeyed.

### PRESS COMMUNIQUE

The following communique is issued for the information of the general public :

1. The Government Servant's Conduct Rules lay down that a Government servant shall not except with the previous sanction of the Government attend any public meetings or entertainment held in his honour. This is the general rule but at the same time, subject to the provisions of any general or special order of Government a Government servant may attend a farewell entertainment of a substantially private and informal character held as a mark of regard to himself on the occasion of his retirement or departure from a district or station. In 1927 Government issued a special order on the subject and directed that no Government servant could attend any farewell entertainment held as a mark of regard to himself, unless the previous sanction of Commissioner or Head of the Department had been obtained for the holding of the entertainment.

2. The position, therefore, is as follows :—

The prohibition against a Government servant attending any public entertainment in his honour is absolute, Government itself, and not a Commissioner or a Head of Department can grant exemption from this prohibition. Further, a Government servant may not attend any farewell entertainment held as mark of regard to himself, whatever its nature may be without the previous sanction of his Commissioner or the Head of Department.

3. There have been occasions lately when Government has granted exemption from the general prohibition against public entertainments. The position has been carefully reviewed. If public parties are occasionally permitted, the result is that when permission is refused, it is taken not only as a slight on the Government servant concerned but as an affront to the would-be-hostes. Government does not wish to be put in the position of being accused of either slighting its official or of affronting members of the public, and on the other hand, has no intention of giving general permission for public entertainments in honour of its servants. It has, therefore been decided as a matter of practice the sanction of Government will not be given to Government servants to attend public entertainments in their honour. Requests by Government servants for permission to attend an entertainment, will as formerly, be made to Commissioner or the Head of the Department. The decision of the Commissioner or the Head of the Department will be final, and Government will not interfere.