

17085

P.O. file

KENYA

C0533/408

17085

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Parliamentary Questions
Church of Scotland Mission

Political influence

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	Mr. C. Holtomley		
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*28. Mr. Horabin. — To ask the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, if he is aware that the Church of Scotland mission in Kenya makes it a condition that no teacher in its employ shall belong to certain political associations, and whether he will issue instructions that no grants from public funds shall be made to that mission until it withdraws its claim to influence the political affiliations of such of its employees as are paid, in whole or in part, from such funds: [Wednesday 15th February] LABOUR. PETERBOROUGH.

see for full official statement NO6 send. in X-15709/79. The end class other of letters think of the K.C.A., but it does not say what the first part of the question says. add

(1) We know of the Church of Scotland action as to female circumcision in — see para 38 p 12 of 1979 Native Affairs Dept. report, wh. is not yet published; and we know

that the female circumcision & the Kikuyu Central Assoc. became inter-related but I do not recollect seeing a statement to the effect of the first part of this question.

(2) The second part of the question wd. be difficult to answer & we shall need to go very carefully, if there is ever occasion to answer such a question.

Sfr reply herewith
for con. in All-Parliament
17/2/79
P.T.O.

438. Mr. Horabin. — To ask the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, if he is aware that the Church of Scotland mission in Kenya makes it a condition that no teacher in its employ shall belong to certain political associations; and whether he will issue instructions that no grants from public funds shall be made to that mission until it

withdraws its claim to influence the political affiliations of such of its employees as are paid, in whole or in part, from such funds. [Wednesday 18th February.] LABOUR, PETERBOROUGH.

See for full official statement NOT received in X.15709/59. The emb. does what it can. I think of the K.C.A., but it does not say what the first part of the question says. All

(1) We know of the Church of Scotland action as to female circumcision in — see para 38 of 12 of 1979 Native Affairs Dept. report, which is not yet published; and we know that the female circumcision + the Kikuyu Central Assoc. became inter-involved; but I do not recollect seeing a statement to the effect of the first part of the question.

(2) The second part of the question would be difficult to answer & we shall need to go very carefully if there is ever occasion to answer such a question.

I for truly believe
in caution
All Parkinson
17.2.59
p. 60

The reply which I have
put up after consultation
with Sir C. Bottomley,
may provoke a supplementary
i.e. will not the
Sgt. find out if the
Ch. of Scotland have
improved the condition?
In that case D. Lewis
could, of course, undertake
to make enquiry of the
Governor, but we do
not want to open to do
this?

W.C.S.

accd

Like Mr. Parkinson, I feel
confident that we have not heard of
this particular attitude of the C.O.F.S.
mission.

W.C.S. 17.2.31

Sir C. Bottomley.

P.H.G.

17.2.31

I am surprised as I have a fairly
clear recollection that the mission
has extended to memberships of the
Kikuyu Central Association. I think
this might be looked into again.

10.5. 17.2.31

"Political Association" is
scarcely an exact description
of the K.C.A. P 18/2

Sir Cecil Bottomley.

The Secretary of State asked me to refer
the proposed reply back to you for reconsideration
in view of Dr. Shiels' minute of yesterday. Lord
Passfield will not have time to consider the matter
again this morning, so perhaps you would be good
enough to discuss with Dr. Shiels and, in the event
of any alteration being decided upon, let me have
the file back for the copying of the answer as
soon as possible.

[Signature]

18.2.31.

In enclosure has succeeded
in finding a statement
made by the D.C., Embu,
on p. 7 of the Kikuyu
Province Annual Report
1927-1929 (K 16309/30 H)
which does confirm the
suggestion at first part
of the question, so far as
K.C.A. is concerned, i.e.
all "natives of the
mission" (wh. must
include native teachers)
had to repudiate all
connection with the K.C.A.
So there is this practical
confirmation of the

suggestion - but even so
we do not know - or
I certainly do not
know - what the
position is really.

In the vic. I can
only suggest a reposing
reply as in alternative
of marked X.

I am sorry that the
ref. now discovered by
Mr. Sutwood was not
found yesterday. We had
looked at what seemed
likely papers known
to Mr. Allen myself.
It wd. help in these
cases if members of
Parliament wd. be
more vivid, like, e.g.,
Sir R. Hamilton; in
giving longer notice of
questions. - Acc. Parkin

W.S.
18.2.31

18.2.31

Mr. Visiter
Re. C. Bottomley

It is quite true that in the Educational
Department Report for 1929 there is the statement
(page 29) to which Mr. Horrabin refers in the
Supplementary Question. I may say that it would
have helped very much if Mr. Horrabin had given a
clue, when he asked his Question, as to the source
of his information. Had the Department been given
reasonable time in which to deal with this and
other Parliamentary Questions this week, we might
have tried looking through the Education Department
Report, as well as the various despatches and other
papers which we did look up. But I would like to
point out that it is physically impossible in the
time available to make adequate research to answer
some of these difficult Parliamentary Questions.
Last Tuesday there came three Questions, two of which
were rather troublesome, to be answered on Wednesday.
Notice of these was presumably given on Monday and
we do not get them in the Office at all until Tuesday
morning; then there are all the processes of regis-
tration and the looking up of papers etc. I found the
three Questions here when I got back from the
Committee on Closer Union. There was, of course, no
question of getting out to lunch. But, by hustling,
draft replies were sent on early in the afternoon.
It must be remembered that replies to Parliamentary
Questions have to be got through three busy people,
viz: Sir C. Bottomley, Sir S. Wilson and Dr. Shiels,
in time to reach the Secretary of State himself by
5 o'clock the same day, as, owing to Cabinet meetings
on the Wednesday, the Secretary of State cannot
generally deal with Parliamentary Questions on

Wednesday

Wednesday morning. I am sorry that the Department did not find the reference in the Education Department Report, but whatever may have been the case in 1929 we do not know what ~~is~~ is happening today. So the Answer given by Dr. Shiels to the original Question can fairly be defended.

I have put up a draft despatch to the Governor of Kenya, for consideration.

I send through no Vischen with special ref. to para 4 of the opp. despatch.

A.C. Parkerson
20.2.31

I think Mr. Fagan, some time or other could give an account of the actual position in Kikuyu Province, but he left Kenya some time ago and we can get fuller and more recent information by asking for it. ~~in the~~ I have nothing to add to the draft despatch.

Hamm Vischen

21.2.31

It is nothing short of an abominable section of the General Division (such as I suggested 4 years ago)
shd

I don't think any branch of the Fed Dept could ever be expected to know of every statement in every report received from a colony!

J.H.G.

which would be charged with
visiting all points of considerable
interest on every subject, and
could prevent the sort of thing
from happening occasionally -
and I doubt if such a section
could have been ^{of the order} in this instance.

The best course for the future
will be to ask the Member to
state his authority - either
in the Answer or before if adequate
notice is given.

23.2.31

Dr Shiels

Sec of State

(through Dr Shiels)

I am sorry if the reference was
not traced in time: but fortunately
no great harm seems to have been

done.

J.H.G.

26.2.31

Notes: I quite understand! done.
It was had back! And I was
sure I had seen it in some
official document. No
harm is done and I shall
pass on the hint to the
Hon. Mr. Fagan as more
time. T.S.P. 25.2.31.
At once.

? quite as proposed to Fagan

J.H.G.

Noted by Mr. [unclear]
Notes by Mr. [unclear]

No. 620 -- (w/c Q & A No. 1) on main file - done. 2/10/31

20/2 et seq. as
Partly cancelled -
ms. as to inadequacy
notice in advertisements

See
r.c.v.v. 2/13

" & " Pierolls
no to note *[Signature]*

Genl. Division
may have to see

Please let me have
the papers when
the reply is received
[Signature]

EXTRACT FROM OFFICIAL REPORT OF

18 FEB 1931

KENYA.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND MISSION.

33. Mr. HERRABIN asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is aware that the Church of Scotland mission in Kenya makes it a condition that no teacher in its employ shall belong to certain political associations, and whether he will issue instructions that no grants from public funds shall be made to that mission until it withdraws its claim to influence the political affiliations of such of its employes as are paid, in whole or in part, from such funds?

Dr. SHIELS: No, Sir. I am not aware that this is so, but my Noble Friend will inquire of the Governor of Kenya as to the position, and on receipt of the Governor's reply, I will communicate with my hon. Friend.

Mr. HERRABIN: Is my hon. Friend aware that the point is dealt with in the report for 1929 of the Director of Education in Kenya, and, in these circumstances, will he draw the attention of certain Free Church representatives in this country to this acceptance of what is apparently public money by a Protestant church without public control?

Dr. SHIELS: My hon. Friend does not perhaps realise that his proposal is rather a dangerous one. If the lever of educational grants is used for a question of this kind, it might be used in some directions that my hon. Friend would not approve. The main consideration for these grants is the educational efficiency of the institutions to which they are given.

Mr. ORMSBY-GORE: Is it not a fact that the cause of the difference of opinion between the Church of Scotland Mission in Kenya and one of the political associations in the Kikuyu country is connected with a particularly barbarous practice affecting outrages on women?

copy. Gov on main file - 27 Feb 1931

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*b
END*