

any doubt on the integrity of civil servants - of smuggling secrets to the leader of the Opposition is gradually fading away. We should realise, however, that the sordid colonial practice of giving away Government secrets would still have continued if the Opposition had won the 1965 General Election. In other words, their infernals would have been among the first to betray them.

My appeal to all civil servants to serve honestly and faithfully any elected Government of Lesotho is based on the principle I have mentioned, which transcends immediate partisan interests. In consequence, no Government - whether the present one or any other - would have grounds for complaint. This will enable the Public Service Commission to protect all civil servants from political victimisation by the Government in power.

For purposes of emphasis, I repeat my statement that I am pleased to see the response of many civil servants to my plea to refrain from political partisanship. As head of the public service, I will be delighted to see the hold-outs finally falling in line with the rest. This will enable me to defend them against all political charges, from whatever source. What I ask of civil servants is nothing more than efficiency, honesty, complete loyalty and integrity in the discharge of their responsibilities.

For the sake of economy and efficiency, however, all the redundant and inefficient workers will have to go. We cannot afford to keep dead wood in the service.

To underline the Government's localisation programme and to show the Opposition's lack of approbation, I wish to cite an example: the Government has appointed a Mosotho to a very high position - that of Cabinet Secretary. In this post he heads the civil servants' roster, regardless of colour. The Opposition has failed in all its public pronouncements to mention this fact. Instead, they engage verbally and through their newspapers in destructive criticism and character assassination, whose basic purpose is to incite the nation to rise against Government. Indeed, it has been their declared objective since the General Election to bring about the downfall of the Government in the shortest possible time.

Now they are reviving their rebellious tendencies under the guise of contesting the by-elections in the three constituencies whose members have unfortunately passed away, and also the General Elections of 1970. In addition to their revolutionary utterances devised to bring about the overthrow of the Government, they have engaged in a policy of systematic vilification not only against the Chief Electoral Officer, but also against other civil servants.

Let me.....