

Proposed Motion on the Position of Civil Servants

There are some indications of misgivings in official places about Civil Servants being members of the Radical Statistics Group. In order to allay suspicions of the possibility of leakage of confidential information, and of breaches of the principles of conduct required from civil servants, I propose that the Annual General Meeting of the R.S.G. on 21st February, 1976 adopt the following motion:

"This Annual General Meeting of the Radical Statistics Group declares that it shall be the policy of the Group to accept fully the obligations as civil servants of those of its members who are employed in Government service, and to recommend all its members also to do so. These obligations comprise those laid down in the Official Secrets Acts, the general principles of conduct laid down in the Pay and Conditions of Service Code, and special rules laid down for particular staffs."

If this motion is passed, I suggest that the Secretary write to John Boreham of the Central Statistical Office informing him of it, and seeking his assurance that civil servants are permitted to be members of R.S.G. without being discriminated against in any way. Hopefully the position of Civil Service members and potential members of the Group can be protected in this way.

(The principles of conduct are concerned with such things as "retaining a proper reticence in matters of public and political controversy".)

Stephen Shenfield