

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

The undermentioned administrative appointments have been made:—

Broadcasting (appointed by the Governor-General): Mr. W. Yates, Director, succeeding Professor J. Shelley.

Government Printing: Mr. R. E. Owen, Government Printer, succeeding the late Mr. E. V. Paul.

Internal Affairs: Mr. A. G. Harper, appointed Under-Secretary on the retirement of Mr. J. W. A. Heenan.

Maori Affairs: Mr. T. T. Ropiha, Under-Secretary and Maori Trustee, succeeding Mr. G. P. Shepherd.

Public Trust—

Mr. H. W. S. Pearce, Public Trustee, succeeding Mr. W. G. Baird.

Mr. G. E. Turney, Assistant Public Trustee, succeeding Mr. C. J. Playne.

Mr. D. R. White, Assistant Public Trustee, succeeding Mr. H. W. S. Pearce.

Stamp Duties: Mr. F. R. Macken, Acting Commissioner of Stamp Duties and Secretary of Land and Deeds, succeeding Mr. J. Caradus.

Valuation: Mr. C. G. S. Ellis, Valuer-General, succeeding Mr. F. H. Waters.

RESEARCH IN PROBLEMS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

In recent years there has been a need for research in all fields of human activity. Organization has now reached a point so complex that the wide tolerances and rough-and-ready measurements of previous years have ceased to be sufficient. Under an intelligent form of democracy, where the Government plays such a large and direct role in setting the course of economic and social affairs, public servants must interpret the facts objectively and impartially. Greater accuracy through effective research has become indispensable.

The Commission is concerned with the efficiency of the methods and organization used in carrying out public policy. It must be its constant aim to review past and present administrative methods and achievements and to be always on the lookout for improvements. The Commission already has its own research officer to keep it up to date on present-day facts, but from a broad viewpoint there is need for an impartial body which can undertake critical constructive research into problems of administration. The Institute of Public Administration has made a modest beginning in organizing study groups to analyse particular problems, but its members are nearly all full-time public servants lacking the time and the detachment from everyday problems to devote the necessary energy to research. The Commission therefore welcomes the proposal to establish a Foundation for Social Research similar to the New Zealand Council for Educational Research. It hopes that, if set up, such a Foundation will include amongst its activities research into problems of government.

LEGISLATION RECOMMENDED

We have recommended that clear legislative authority be given to the Commission to move from security positions in the Public Service persons with communist or like affiliations, and that they should have the right of recourse to the Public Service Board of Appeal against dismissal or reduction in salary.

The Commission has recommended that, having regard, *inter alia*, to the setting up of the Government Service Tribunal, the provision in the Public Service Amendment Act, 1946, for Public Service Association representation on the Commission should be repealed.

As to appeal rights, our recommendations have been the subject of some misunderstanding, if not misrepresentation. We have not suggested, and do not suggest, any change in the procedure for filling, or in the rights of appeal concerning, positions