

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINET
BY THE HON. THE PRIME MINISTER

Amendment to the Regulations Governing
School Passes

On the 3rd May, 1962, the General Secretary of the General Transport Union referred the following decision taken by the Committee of his Union to the Commissioner of Police:-

- i) that the issue of children's bus-passes should be limited to school-children under sixteen years of age;
- ii) that passes should be controlled and signed by the General Secretary of the Union;
- iii) that every pass should bear a photograph of the person entitled to use it;
- iv) that passes should be checked yearly with regard to the age of the holder;
- v) that passes should be issued by the Union under the control of the Superintendent of Traffic.

2. On the 13th August, 1962, while the General Transport Union's submissions were still under consideration by the General Purposes Committee of the Traffic Control Board, the General Secretary of the Union informed the Commissioner of Police that unless a reply to the Union's representations was received by the 31st August, 1962, the Union's members would be requested to ignore all passes.

3. On 31st August, 1962, the Commissioner of Police replied to the General Secretary of the Union rejecting the 'ultimatum' contained in his letter of the 13th August and warning him that the Police would be bound to take action to ensure that the law was enforced. The Commissioner's letter also conveyed the views of the Traffic Control Board on the Union's representations. These views are:-

- i) that passes should be issued to all school children, but that only those issued to students over 18 years of age should contain a photograph of the holder, since in the case of the under-18s, the possibility of misuse is much smaller as most of them would still be attending school in any case, and it would not therefore be entirely justifiable for parents of students under 18, who are necessarily much more numerous than parents of older students, to be made to incur the additional expense of having their children's photographs taken;

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- ii) that the control and signing of passes by the Union cannot be agreed to, although the Union would be informed of the number of passes issued yearly;
- iii) that once the Compulsory Education Act makes school attendance compulsory on all children up to the age of 14 years, all such children are entitled to a pass as required by this Act, and it therefore makes little material difference whether the passes carry a photo of the holder or not. As a precaution against abuses or irregularities, such passes would bear the date when the holder reaches the age of 14 years;
- iv) that the passes of students between fourteen and eighteen years of age should be changed every year and, if possible, should have different colours for each year; alternatively the year of the pass's validity should be shown on the document, as in the case of car licences.

4. As he informed the Union, the Commissioner of Police has now submitted draft amendments to the First Schedule of the Code of Police Laws (Chapter 13) to give effect to the above recommendations of the Traffic Control Board. The amendments, which have been vetted by the Board's Legal Member, are attached. Opportunity has also been taken to provide for certain consequential amendments in order to ensure that students under 18 shall surrender their passes on reaching that age. A new pass, with a photograph affixed would subsequently be issued if needed. Also included is an amendment to extend the issue of passes, valid only during the times when workmen's fares are operative, to apprentices employed not only in H.M.'s Naval Base, but also in other Service Establishments and with private firms, and by specifying an age limit (19 years) under which workers may be designated as "juveniles" and thus entitled to a pass during workmen's fare hours. The Commissioner of Police recommends that these amendments be published at the earliest possible date in order that the necessary arrangements to replace existing School Passes may be made before the new Regulations come into force on the 2nd January, 1963.

5. In connection with a Police suggestion that such passes should be issued by the Department of Education, the Hon. Minister of Education states that he finds no objection to the proposal provided that the Police provide the Education Department with a sufficient number of valid passes, which will be accepted by bus conductors.

6. The Union do not agree with the Board's recommendations. Briefly the Union's argument is that whilst they are not against the issue of passes to school-children to enable them to travel cheaply, they claim that there have been a number of cases of false passes, or of passes being used by children other than their holders, and that the purpose of their contention that

each pass should bear a photograph and be controlled by the Union is to put a stop to such abuses. The Union argues that parents save money as a result of these passes and should not grudge the small sum required for two photos, one for the pass and the other for the application form.

7. The amendments to the regulations proposed by the Traffic Control Board should largely eliminate the possibility of the misuse of passes, although 'prime facie' there may be some force in the Union's argument that all passes should bear a photograph of the bearer, since as things stand, there would appear to be nothing to prevent a young-looking fifteen-year old, who has left school, from making use of a pass belonging to a thirteen-year old schoolboy. Such cases, however, should not be frequent.

8. Hon. Ministers are asked whether they agree that the Governor be advised to make the amendments to the regulations as recommended by the Traffic Control Board.

12th November, 1962.

CODE OF POLICE LAWS (CAP. 13)

Code of Police Laws (First Schedule) (Amendment)
(No.) Order, 1962.

Date of commencement: 2nd January, 1963.

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 81 of the Code of Police Laws, the Governor has amended the First Schedule thereto by the following order:-

Citation and commencement.

1. (1) This order may be cited as the Code of Police Laws (First Schedule) (Amendment) (No.) Order, 1962, and shall be read and construed as one with the First Schedule to the Code of Police Laws, hereinafter referred to as "the principal law".

(2) This order shall come into force on the 2nd January, 1963.

Amends paragraph 3 of Tariff B of the First Schedule to the principal law.

2. Paragraph 3 of Tariff B of the First Schedule to the principal law shall be amended as follows:-

(a) For the words and figures "4 p.m. and 5 p.m." in sub-paragraph (1) (a) thereof there shall be substituted the words and figures "3.15 p.m. (3 p.m. on Fridays) and 4.30 p.m.";

(b) immediately after sub-paragraph (2) thereof there shall be inserted the following new sub-paragraph:-

"(3) An application for a Day School Pass in respect of a student over eighteen years of age shall be accompanied by two photographs, 1½ by 2 inches in dimension, of the student to whom the application relates, and one of such photographs shall be affixed to the relative pass."

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Substitutes paragraph 4 of Tariff B of the First Schedule to the principal law.

3. For paragraph 4 of Tariff B of the First Schedule to the principal law there shall be substituted the following:-

"4. (1) Children or students in possession

of a pass specified in the last preceding paragraph shall surrender such pass to the Commissioner of Police through the Head of the school or educational establishment to which they belong immediately they cease to attend such school or educational establishment or, if the holder thereof is under the age of fourteen years, on having attained such age.

(2) The passes referred to in paragraph 3 shall likewise be surrendered to the Commissioner of Police through the Head of the school or educational establishment and a new pass in lieu thereof shall be issued whenever the holder is no longer residing at the address shown on the pass or is attending a school or educational establishment other than that indicated therein.

(3) The passes referred to in paragraph 3 shall -

- (a) in the case of students under fourteen years of age, be valid from the date of issue until the holder reaches the age of fourteen years, and the date of expiry of the pass shall be indicated thereon;
- (b) in the case of students over fourteen years of age but under the age of eighteen years, be valid for the scholastic year of issue and it shall be renewed annually at the end of each scholastic year."

Substitutes paragraph 5 of Tariff B of the First Schedule to the principal law.

4. For paragraph 5 of Tariff B of the First Schedule to the principal law there shall be substituted the following:-

"5. During the periods when Workmen's Fares are operative, the following shall be entitled to pay half fares in respect of the ordinary fares for motor-omnibuses:-

- (a) Apprentices employed in Her Majesty's Naval Base in possession of a pass issued by or on behalf of the Flag Officer, Malta;

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- (b) Apprentices employed at other establishments of Her Majesty's Services or with private industrial firms, and who are in possession of a pass issued by or on behalf of the Director of Emigration, Labour and Social Welfare;
- (c) Industrial workers under 19 years of age in possession of a pass issued by or on behalf of the Commissioner of Police:

Provided that passes issued by the Commissioner of Police under this paragraph shall continue to be valid up to the date of validity indicated thereon."

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