

CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

DATE: 31st March, 1987

INTRA-OFFICE MEMO

REF. NO.: _____

MEMO TO: FR. DOYLEFROM: NORM LALORRE: DOVETON*Confidential file file*C O N F I D E N T I A L

The situation at Doveton is becoming very explosive. Fr. Searson has been to a staff meeting in which he attempted to get staff to attend 8.30 Mass during the week. Whilst on paper this may not seem significant, what annoys staff is:-

- (i) they believe Fr. Searson uses 'blackmail' in that he says e.g. "if you were loyal to me you would attend Mass". He has used, in regard to loyalty, a comparison of the situation re Howard and Peacock to the situation of staff and himself. There must be loyalty to the leader. I don't know whether the other implication is, if you're not loyal you go.
- (ii) the attendance at Mass was one of the issues that infuriated staff towards the end of 1986, and they believed that he agreed to drop the matter, but more importantly he would drop the emotional coercion that he is presently using.
- (iii) younger teachers feel threatened in obtaining future references.

Whilst not related to the present situation the attached letter, is a good example of the emotionalism used by the P.P. (especially Par. 1). I believe the staff have reached a stage where they may approach this Office to bring their complaints and concerns direct to us.

There are other issues between the staff and Fr. Searson that they may also want to draw to our attention.

Should I alert Monsignor Connors to the present situation?

SIGNED: _____

N. A. Lalor