



If there was an election tomorrow?

From a dispirited academic colleague comes the problem he can no longer address. "If there were an election tomorrow I'd have nobody to vote for." He won't be alone. It was hard enough for so many New Zealanders last time around.

Next time? Labour Party sleaze in the latest May *Investigate* makes depressing reading. This party no more represents the views of conservative (in the best sense) New Zealanders than a National Party now promoting racial tension and separatism and squandering what has amounted accumulatively, over these decades, to billions of New Zealanders' hard earned wage and salary dollars.

New Zealanders are not happy with the ongoing process of paying out Danegeld to neo-tribal part-Maori. Basically corporate groupings, these continue to manipulatively invoke injustices that can apparently be "rectified" only by recycling even land claims well-settled in the past. Alternatively, apparently the excessively self-centred *mana* of radical Maori activists such as those of the Maori Party - by no means representing majority part-Maori - needs the soothing application of media microphones constantly supplied, and, inevitably, the ongoing process of financial payouts taken as *sine qua non* from non-Maori New Zealanders.

For those remembering the real sacrifices many of our people, both European and Maori New Zealanders, made two generations ago to fight for this country - for freedom, for justice, for democracy, for the rights and responsibilities of the individual in a world oppressed by the Nazis, by communism and fascism, it is saddening to reflect how dismayed this past generation would be now, seeing what we have allowed to happen. Does anyone doubt their society's common decency, its belief in the family, in respect for parents, in the values they would want passed on to their children? Their

belief was then that politicians would represent these values to preserve, not undermine, democracy.

What held their society together was an expectation that Western civilisation, underpinned by Christianity, offered a genuine response to totalitarian creeds. They held a belief in the value of each individual expressed in a central message that no other belief system has ever rivalled - summed up by: *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you...* No totalitarian regime - not Islam, with its *Death to the infidel* - nor Communism's imprisonment, torture and death to the dissident have ever come anywhere close philosophically to this essential underpinning of democracy. The central message of Christianity, even given all the operative flaws any institution overseen by individuals will inevitably include, has always been superior to all those lined up against it. In spite of the fact that the churches have got themselves into well-deserved difficulties by their own bureaucratic manipulations, and by departing from their role of passing on Christ's message to the world in favour of sociopolitical meddling - where they have proved singularly inept - Christianity endures. But it is no accident that it has long been under attack.

To the Anzac generation, the notion of the worth of the individual, in a country underpinned by respect for his or her voice, carried a corresponding expectation that individuals would also give of their best to realise their own potential while also caring for those most dependent on them: family, friends, and those others crossing our path - and further acknowledge an obligation to elect worthy representatives to a governing body. This involves seeing that our chosen MPs reflect the values of honesty, courtesy and integrity, to wisely and well represent us while acting accordingly.

Well, it isn't happening, is it? A disintegrating society where adolescents boast about being smashed off their faces; where marriages so often collapse; with sexual ambiguities, flamboyance and shifting alliances that a previous age would have found cause for concern, is a sad reflection on the undermining of much-needed values and social stability. Among the most advantaged and disadvantaged sections of society, at both top and bottom levels, among celebrities, media personnel, and apparently even MPs (should we now be surprised?) drug taking is by no means uncommon, including among teenagers and children shockingly involved by their own parents.

Who could call this other than a sick society, where the values of those who fought and died for us, who believed in the things that God, King and Country represented are now mocked or ignored by activist in-groups? The moves to "get rid of the Queen", or, alternatively Prince Charles; to jettison a national flag proudly carrying our past history - including that of the Anzacs - in favour of a piece of plant; to become a republic and so abandon the safeguards embodied in the Westminster-bequeathed system of government which limits the power of politicians: it is naive to think that these

determined pushes by a few are not part of a far deeper agenda than merely a superficial wish for change.

And, of course, we are the richer for the constant attempts to destabilise our traditions, and our largely British inherited values..? Yes? Apparently not. But at least we still have a democracy. Well, no. So what has been happening? How on earth, for example, did we ever get to the point where, from a new Thought Police, hysterical accusations of so-called hate speech inhibit sober debate about whether the increasingly disturbing promiscuous - or simply amoral behaviour now promoted as socially acceptable - may in fact be highly detrimental to our society?

Two reflections returning keep returning. One is GK Chesterton's : "A tired democracy becomes a dictatorship..." and following this - John Donne's well-known "*No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main...*"

When we abandon our responsibility to act as thoughtful individuals contributing to society we find that those who determine New Zealand's directions themselves no longer act as thoughtful and reflective individuals, but simply become follow-the-leader party hacks. The National Party's capitulation to the edicts of Prime Minister John Key - following on from Helen Clark's all-controlling management of the Labour Party - has seen a significant move towards New Zealand beginning to operate more as a totalitarian, rather than as a democratic, society.

Parliament's infamous anti-smacking legislation has turned out to be a very valuable reminder of this. Launched by a reputedly neo-Marxist MP from the far Left movement of environmental extremism; latched onto by a dominating socialist feminist, and inexplicably endorsed by a determined National Party leader - although nationwide polls showed that the country overwhelmingly rejected this fascist imposition on fair-minded and concerned parents - it essentially bought the New Zealand Parliament into full and final disrepute. Not one of the two major parties' MPs had the courage or integrity to stand up to be counted as individuals on this issue: they simply folded up and did as they were told. Only ACT's minority party MPs opposed it. One to watch? MP John Boscawen, quickly placing a Private Members Bill in the ballot to amend the legislation. A day or two after the overwhelming referendum result, his Bill was pulled from the ballot. Within about four hours, with unholy haste, John Key came out and said the National Party would not be supporting it.

Who is this John Key...? That day put the final touch to any belief that we have even a representative democracy. MPs did not attempt to represent their electorates, which were overwhelmingly opposed to the legislation. They represented their own interests, their own chances of promotion within their parties, ministries, career paths in the hands of leaders expecting to be obeyed.

We owe so much to other people. In the way so many important touchstones in our lives are supplied by others comes a reminder sent to me by my sister, reflecting on what has happened to this tired country, that "people believe in their vote only when they believe it counts, and when they have the opportunity to understand the importance and implications of what they are voting for" - precisely the reason that Switzerland is the most successful democracy in the world. The Swiss owed a great deal to the United States Declaration of Independence, but improved upon it. In their refusal to have other than a genuine, direct democracy, they insisted, as individuals, on reclaiming their power from the control of politicians. The *100 Days* concept they added they to their constitution has become the linchpin of their true democracy, *their insistence that no matter what legislation their Parliament passes, a one hundred day waiting period ensues while the country decides whether or not it wants it.* The Swiss people either let such legislation stand, or exercise their prerogative of raising 50,000 votes to insist on a binding referendum. The Swiss parliament commonly refers to the Swiss population as sovereign. The people themselves are just that.

Why should we New Zealanders be expected to settle for less than that idea whose time has at last well and truly also come to us here? Worldwide now, countries have become totally disenchanted with their governments and are looking for ways to rein in the same abuses of power that we have seen both National and Labour indulge in these recent years, particularly also in relation to the scandalous vote-buying of radical Maori activists within the bullying minority Maori Party pushing its anti-democratic demands.

Thinking of Anzac Day, and of my father's generation, of how horrified they would be at our now our undemocratic, socially sick society, brings home how almost totally disenchanted now are mainstream New Zealanders, still there as a silent, if disturbed majority. Peaceful, well-meaning, both part-Maori and Euro-New Zealanders are now finding themselves under-represented and disenchanted. It is said that each generation has to re-fight the battles - not of their fathers but of their grandfathers - to safeguard a democracy, and that war will be continually mounted against it.

Internal war will do very nicely, as we are seeing happening in New Zealand at present. I reflect how as part of the Anzac generation, my own children's grandfather stood as in the 1950s for the Labour Party MP in St Albans in Christchurch against the Communist takeover of the Lyttelton waterfront, then later lost his faith in the party to which he had been drawn because of the humanitarianism of Prime Minister Peter Fraser in his concern for working class New Zealand. Later he saw it as a party that had lost its core values, no longer representing other than a well-heeled socialist push for control of the country's directions with its liberalised attack on family values, and its essentially corrupt welfare handouts subsequently doing so much damage to a once proud and independent working-class. Inevitably he found himself in the position of so many

New Zealanders today, equally as disillusioned and disenchanted at the abandonment of principle by a National Party now also wedded to a self-serving pragmatism.

Again, it is from my sister that there comes his tired reflection – tired because he fought all his life for the values that he saw essential to be preserved for any society to survive – and today's clouds over New Zealand society were already gathering ahead by the time that he died... “Communism doesn't need an army for it to creep into the country. All that it needs are people to be worn down with the burdens in their own lives, so they lose the will to fight.” Communism in New Zealand, of course, today takes the form of that neo-Marxism long infiltrating our institutions - in particular our education bureaucracy, determining not only what will be taught in schools with the politicisation and radicalisation of courses, but including our colleges of education and our universities, particularly within the Arts Faculty courses.

As for Communism itself, we only have to watch the long march of China down through the Pacific, its controlling bids for Australian and New Zealand resources, and the attempt at present to actually buy up New Zealand land that, given the weakness of our Overseas Investment Office - may eventually become Communist- overseen - if not quite yet in fact actually Chinese-government owned territory. For there is no Chinese foreign investment company, Hong-Kong fronted or not, that operates without the tacit permission, if not the actual involvement of the CCP - the Communist Chinese Party that controls the oppressive and totalitarian Chinese government. China is now colonizing us commercially, while the government sleeps on. Will the loss of our land follow - given its indifference?

Moreover, the apparently virtual free rein been given to the Minister of Treaty Negotiations, Chris Finlayson, to exclude majority New Zealanders from any say on the huge handouts being made by his office to the wily and manipulative, radicalised tribal élites - has now been matched by the culpably underhand behaviour of the National Party, concealing for a month from the country at large its decision to send Maori Party MP Pita Sharples to endorse the totally undemocratic and dangerous Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Add to these extraordinary usurpations of power the endorsing of the wasteful and damaging Emissions Trading Scheme and the complete ignoring of the well-endorsed referenda New Zealanders have mounted in recent years. The pattern is clear. We have no democracy. We have an oligarchy, a now virtually despotic government, a political class in opposition not representing, but in opposition to the majority of New Zealanders.

Things are not going to change – not if left to the major parties which will simply stage the same acts around election times, make the same promises, look earnestly into our television screens, shake the same hands, smile the same charismatic smiles, folksy and self-deprecating.

But yes: things *are* going to change, thanks to two strong movements which will inevitably increasingly capture the imagination of New Zealanders. The notion of binding referenda to provide for political initiatives from New Zealanders themselves is one. Equally, if not more importantly, to precede this with its considerable potential to rein in politicians' dominance of the country and to obviate the need for binding referenda, is that idea whose time has come - the *100 Days - Claiming Back New Zealand* provision as illustrated on our website - www.100days.co.nz Our core group is committed to achieving this, apolitically, with no allegiance to any political parties, and with no fringe group political backing..

It's a simple aim? To restore democracy to New Zealand.

What is now needed? To work one step at a time to implement that *100 days* hold on parliamentary legislation which the Swiss achieved 150 years ago, so that New Zealanders themselves will in future control the directions of the country, their will expressed by calling for binding referenda after this scrutiny period , if 50,000 New Zealanders are concerned at the provisions of any proposed legislation.

What is not yet needed? Not yet the premature downloading of voting forms and the surveying of parliamentarians to record an almost inevitable degree of opposition to the limitation of their powers, their decision-making - in favour of it belonging where it should - in the hands of the people of this country.

Because it will at last set limits to the creeping power of the state, the *100 days* moratorium on the inappropriate passage of legislation to which the country is deeply anti-pathetic, political opposition will not only be vigorous, and disparaging - it will be deeply hostile.

The most important thing that individuals can do in the meantime is to spread the word, and to send others to our website, which will be constantly updated - and to remember that *nothing ultimately can withstand an idea whose time has not only come - but one which has proved singularly successful in its simplicity and efficacy in the most successful democracy in the world.*

Attempts to disparage and ridicule the concept of the binding referenda will inevitably follow. The *100 days* moratorium on the enactment of an appropriate legislation has already begun with Prime Minister John Key and former Leader of the Opposition Don Brash's maintaining that binding referenda do not work, instancing California's use of binding referenda as proof. These embarrassingly under-informed arguments not only ignore the fact that binding referenda are successfully used in many places elsewhere, but that California's problems stem from quite different sources. Two worthwhile analyses of why this State has got itself into the mess it has will be found at

www.100days.co.nz listed as articles. Do the misuse of power and financial corruption sound familiar?

The notion of **100 days** is going to become a familiar one to New Zealanders in the days ahead, with individuals sending others to the website. *The most important reminder of all is that to every objection that can be mounted to this notion there is a solution, which the Swiss found long ago.* We do not have to have the superior system of representation from the bottom up, rather than top down, which the Swiss long insisted on. The **100 days** moratorium to stop inappropriate political activism is simply enough, to deter the tail wagging the dog, the compromises and deals that betray the electorate, is enough. Its main strength is the warning it gives against radical activism. With it in place, the anti-smacking legislation could never have been passed.

The Swiss people long fought intellectually and politically for what they have achieved. For more information highlighting their achievements and their relevance to us today updates will appear on this site - as will relevant analyses and comparisons from a well-informed Swiss-based source.

It is no wonder that the Swiss people achieved what they have - independence, peace, prosperity - and a successful accommodation of four different languages and peoples - in effect a genuine democracy. There is quite simply no reason why we cannot have the same. But we will have to fight for it, as each generation must fight to safeguard democracy. We must not let the Anzac generation down...

And if there was an election tomorrow - who would you vote for?

Keep watching this site

www.100.co.nz

The evolving **100 days** - *Claiming Back Democracy movement*

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