



“Actions Speak Louder than Words”

Rt. Hon Winston Peters, Leader NZ First

Address to: Hibiscus Coast Grey Power AGM,
St Johns Catholic Church Hall, Centre Way, Orewa
2pm 28 May 2010,

Thank you for your invitation to speak to you.

For many years now Orewa, as a venue, has had a political ring to it ever since Sir Robert Muldoon launched the political year with his January Rotary Club speech. Years after Sir Robert’s annual performance here another National Party leader kicked off his campaign for higher office with a speech to the same Orewa Rotary Club on 27th January 2004.

With barely an exception his party celebrated that speech and committed themselves to making its’ themes a political reality. It’s important that 6 years on we remind ourselves of what that leader said here and put that political template against the present reality.

Dr Brash spoke of “the essential notion of one rule for all in a single nation state”. He set that aspiration against a “racial divided nation, with two sets of laws, and two standards of citizenship, that the present Labour Government is moving us steadily towards”. He evoked Hobson’s expression “he iwi tahi tatou. We are one people”. He said “ I believe in plain speaking”.

Further, he said “in parallel with the Treaty process and the associated grievance industry, there has been a divisive trend to embody racial distinctions in to large parts of our legislation, extending recently to local body politics. In both educational and healthcare, government funding is now influenced not just by need – as it should be – but also by the ethnicity of the recipient”.

Don Brash bemoaned “radicals who claimed that sovereignty never properly passed from Maori in to the hands of the Crown, and thus ultimately in to the hands of all New Zealanders, Maori and non Maori”. He said such radicals were living “in a fantasy world”.

That Orewa speech criticised the State Owned Enterprise Act 1986 and in particular the revised Section 9 which states that “nothing in this act shall permit the Crown to act in a manner that is inconsistent with the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi”. He deeply regretted those Governments both Labour and National that had included references to the “principles of the Treaty” in legislation and even the Cabinet Manual requiring Ministers to prepare bills that complied with these principles. He agreed with those at that time who had pointed out that those principles were nowhere defined.

Dr Brash assured his audience when he said “we need proper leadership on the issue and the next National Government will provide it. One principle above all others guides my thinking: The Treaty of Waitangi should not be used as the basis for giving greater civil, political or

democratic rights to any particular ethnic group”.

On the Foreshore and Seabed proposed law he was highly critical arguing that “the simple option was to legislate to establish the Crown ownership that almost everyone believed already existed. Instead, the Government has come up with a convoluted notion called ‘public domain’. On the face of it, it sounds good. But it leaves room for much more than just limited recognition of ‘customary rights’, and in fact embodies vast powers, including the right to a Maori veto”.

Dr Brash shared his nightmare with the good people of Orewa foreseeing resulting corruption, Maori gaining a new role in the management of the entire coastline, taxpayer funded consultants, lawyers and hui to ‘build capacity’ to take part in this process. The nightmare included: “it is astonishing that the government could establish such a conflict-ridden model. It is an absolute recipe for disaster”..... “it is unconscionable for us to be taking that separatist path and this Labour Government deserves to be defeated on that basis alone”.

He promised to “remove divisive race-based features from legislation”, and “special privileges for any race” and the “basis for government funding based on race” and “remove the anachronism of the Maori seats in Parliament.

Dr Brash’s audience were imbued with the glowing prospect of Hobson’s, now Brash’s dream “we really will be one people”.

No doubt all of you here remember that speech. It galvanised the media not because anything he said was original but because he had said it. The speech was given enormous publicity. In other words a country at the crossroads had miraculously discovered a new flag bearer. Hereafter, under a National Government it was going to be “Kiwi not Iwi”, “One Law for All” and any other slogan that the National Party’s Australian spin doctors could inoculate the population with.

I said at the time that it is one thing to steal a man’s horse outside a saloon but quite something else staying on its back riding out of town.

There is nothing so antiseptic as the words “I told you so”. But ladies and gentlemen, I did. National went all the way to the 2008 election repeating Dr Brash’s mantra even under its new leader Mr Key.

A year later in 2005 Dr Brash titled his speech, same club, same venue “ Whatever happened to Personal Responsibility” Obviously that question must be foremost in the public’s mind today as under National it remains demonstrably unanswered.

That was the promise but what is the performance. We’ve had lots of pre sales talk and no after sales delivery. It’s like a very bad second hand car purchase experience.

Since Nationals coming to power NZ now has two flags, one for Maori, chosen at 22 hui at which less than 1000 people attended in total, and another flag for the rest of us.

We’ve had an insulation program for Maori homes on the East Coast and Northland, two of the warmest areas in New Zealand, whether you are Maori or non Maori. We’ve got a new Whanau Ora Social Welfare delivery system, which its’ Minister said would be for Maori only but which Mr Key says it is for you as well. We have the prospect of local body special Maori seats if as Mr Key says “that is a local body’s choice”.

And now under National’s proposals the 200 mile exclusive zone of the Foreshore and Seabed is to be despite Dr Brash’s warning designated “Public Domain” with nobody owning it. In other words the Seabed and Foreshore Act of 2005 which settled the matter to the

satisfaction of coastal Maori so much so that even the Maori Party between 2005 and 2008 refused to campaign on it for fear of electoral retribution from Coastal Maori such as Ngati Porou.

We are next year to have a Rugby World Cup with no less than three television stations, two taxpayer funded, giving free to air coverage and one other channel providing blanket coverage as well. In an editorial, October 21st 2009 the New Zealand Herald described the deal as “a winner for all involved”. ...“three free channels plus Sky equals saturation”. Really. The taxpayer has stumped up over \$37 million per annum for Maori TV and for this Rugby World Cup deal a further \$3 million. Maori TV’s rugby audience will be 40, 000 at most and probably much less. At 3 million for Maori TV Rugby World Cup coverage that’s \$75 per viewer. So you tell me: what’s free to air about that?

Just in case your head is not spinning enough already, in the last budget we are to have two release from prison units for Maori because the Government says that by some penal magic it is a sounder way to go. As with the other race based initiatives under this Government no evidence what so ever is provided to support the policy.

Conclusion. The irrefutable conclusion of all this is that New Zealand faces a bleak prospect of division and disunity. That prospect is bad for you regardless of your ethnic background. Hundreds of millions more dollars are going to be spent under this administration in an endeavour to placate a Maori Brown Table elite while the mass majority of Maori, particularly those at the bottom, will get nothing. In the 21st century when we as a country should be striving for unity and the strength to face together an increasingly difficult world as one country, we will not be.

Is there any wonder that politicians are held in such low esteem by the public for if keeping ones promise is, as Dr Brash said, a personal responsibility as well as a political one then this National administration has failed miserably. It had no reason to do a deal with a race based party which believes implicitly in Maori having the rights to “be a self governing and independent state”..... “that sovereignty was never ceded in the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi”.

Remember, this was all about leadership, a test which the present administration massively fails.

Our Prime Minister was a currency trader. His idea from his training is to cut a deal, any deal, regardless of principle or stated policy. Like the moss eradication aid “just spray and walk away”.

It is to be hoped that over the next 12 months all of us here today will seriously reflect on what is going on in the Beehive and clarify in our minds what is meant by the word ‘Nationhood’. That after all was the title of the Orewa Rotary Club speech of January 2004. When you get that clear I hope you will vote accordingly.

After all as the good book says “By their deeds you will know them”

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