

PRIME MINISTER, YOU STILL DON'T GET IT.

WE, YOUR PEOPLE, ARE ANGRY. WE DEMAND FAIR ELECTIONS.

We do not want to be gagged one year in three by the most repressive election law in any English-speaking Western democracy.

Your Electoral Finance Bill is so bad that even your Labour-appointed Chief Human Rights Commissioner, the former trade unionist Rosslyn Noonan, described the original Bill as having "a chilling effect on the right to freedom of expression."

We're angry with you, Prime Minister, for trying to fool the people that the redrafted Bill has allayed her concerns.

We heard you brazenly say to Mike Hosking on Newstalk ZB on 19 November, "I think you will find that every issue that the Human Rights Commission raised has been addressed."

Well, let's see. Let's look at the Chief Commissioner's main points and see how your Justice and Electoral Select Committee addressed them.

Point one. The Human Rights Commission called for the Bill to be withdrawn.

Your response? Never mind human rights. Ram the Bill through.

Point two. The Chief Commissioner said in her oral submission to the select committee on 18 October that "it is essential that any changes be subject to the widest possible public scrutiny."

Your response was to subject the changes to the narrowest possible public scrutiny - by refusing the Commissioner's call for another round of public submissions.

Point three. The big one. The restriction that muzzles the government's critics for longer than in any similar democracy...

On 18 October, the Human Rights Commission said that it was "essential ... the present regulatory period [for election advertising] of 3 months is retained and not extended to a potential 11 months."

And what was your way of addressing this vital issue that makes the New Zealand government the most anti-democratic of its type in the world?

To completely ignore your own Human Rights Commission's recommendation and extend your gagging order to 11 months.

Why are you doing this, we wonder.

The select committee's report reveals that, under questioning, Ministry of Justice officials could not offer committee members any rationale for the extended regulated period. To have done so would have meant embarrassing the Government.

Quite so.

If this is your idea of addressing every issue, Prime Minister, we're just going to have to show you our displeasure again!

When 2000 citizens marched down Queen Street on 17 November, you dismissed us as "not indicative of

WHO AM I?

My name's John Boscawen. I'm just an ordinary Kiwi who loves his country. I'm a member of ACT.

I've made some money, yes, but I'm not super-rich.

I've never done anything like this in my life, but when I see our democracy under attack I feel I've got to do something.

To give you an idea of the scale of campaign that will be illegal next year, I've already spent

more money alerting the public to this sinister Bill than its proposed third party limit of \$120,000.

(That's about a quarter of what expatriate Owen Glenn gave to Labour in 2005 - and I support his right to keep doing so.)

Why am I doing this? Because I love my country and I can see that this Bill, if passed, will change New Zealand forever. We must not let that happen.

If you never go on another protest march in your life, please march with me on Saturday.

March against the Electoral Finance Bill this Saturday

2.00pm: Assemble at Auckland Town Hall.

2.30pm: March down Queen Street.

3.00pm: Rally at Queen Elizabeth Square/Britomart.



a groundswell."

Well Aucklanders, what do you think of that?

So many of you have told us that you couldn't make our last march because of morning sport (we made the mistake of mixing politics and religion) that we're hitting the streets again this Saturday afternoon.

If you care about free elections - whatever party you support - come to the Auckland Town Hall this Saturday 1 December from 2.00pm and march down Queen Street with us at 2.30pm.

And show Helen Clark, Winston Peters, Jeanette Fitzsimons and Peter Dunne that elections are not owned by the governing parties, but by the people they serve.

WHY WAIT TILL SATURDAY? MARCH TO YOUR COMPUTER NOW!

Email the leaders of the parties who are colluding to take away your right to speak freely on how our society is run.

Tell them to do the right thing: honour the Human Rights Commissioner's recommendations *in full*.

Helen Clark: pm@ministers.govt.nz

Winston Peters: wpeters@ministers.govt.nz

Peter Dunne: pdunne@ministers.govt.nz

Jeanette Fitzsimons:

jeanette.fitzsimons@parliament.govt.nz

Or write to them all at: Freepost, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

Labour supporters: Do you want National pointing the finger of corruption at the Clark government all election year - like a never-ending Pledgegate? Do you want the media howling about Labour bias and dirty tricks? Don't put your great party's reputation for fairness at risk. Tell Helen Clark it's time to do the right thing.

Green supporters: Do you want to be accused of hypocrisy for speaking out against human rights abuses in far-off lands, while having the Human Rights Commissioner speaking out against you at home? Think how that will damage your proud brand.

NZ First supporters: Do you want to trample on the proud values of our senior citizens who marched off to war in defence of free speech? If not, march with us and let Winston Peters know it's not on.

United Future supporters: See all of the above.

Authorised by:
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SO WE'RE MARCHING FOR DEMOCRACY AGAIN THIS SATURDAY.