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Auckland

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The people and peoples of New Zealand

Dear friends and family,

I have become increasingly concerned over the behaviour of the representatives elected to Parliament and their *factōta*.

- I. New Zealand history has global significance as the first place in which the single-minded Victorian government recognized the nobility, sovereignty, and uniquenesses of other cultures. Our country was founded on an agreement with the *tangata whenua* to respect the dignity and sovereignty of all, and for the public interests to be concerted in the Crown. Recent times have seen the onslaught of those ignorant of or overbearing towards the hard-working backbone of our nation, the descendants of the Māori, the pakeha, and the successive waves of boons to our colourful history.
- II. New Zealanders are in danger of losing their respected status in the global community through the actions of rogues in Wellington. Please, let us work towards maintaining our fine and noble standing.
- III. The domestic situation is becoming increasingly fraught with arbitrary, short-termed decision-making, pandering, graft, and an unwillingness of the elected representatives to act on behalf of the people and their descendants.
- IV. There appear to be a few malfeasants, both in parliament and in key positions in the public service, who are more interested in advancing the interests of their masters and cronies than serving the public. They act with the haughty nature of puppet-masters with no interest in the general well-being of and no good attitude towards the inhabitants of this beautiful country. To engineer and manipulate situations for the sole purpose of destruction of the will and aims of their opponents is unconscionable. A social, civilized compact is much preferred to a return to a brutish reliance on warful dominance.
- V. The elected representatives, as I have witnessed on a visit to the debating chamber, can be reduced to nonsensical jabbering. They appear to be able to argue in circles, first one point, then the opposite, and all without reliance on, and sometimes in direct opposition to, known historical and proven facts.
- VI. With the MMP government there are often fewer than ten representatives rushing through what should be a considered process in which each constituency's needs are ably considered. While I agree that FPP may not provide a good solution, I must stress that, so too, MMP does not provide a good solution either. The system of list members is atrocious, with people not fit to serve able to cozy their inclusion into the debating chamber. We need so few, if any, new laws these days.
- VII. To enact a gross constitutional change such as moving from the Privy Council to a Supreme Court without public referendum is inherently flawed.

- VIII. Just as in the United States of America there is a system of checks and balances so that, for example, the legislature have no executive power, so too in New Zealand, this might be time for change. No longer is it acceptable for representatives who care only about winning the next election to pass laws and then execute policy decisions, and violate parliamentary privilege for those ends.
- IX. After careful and considered, broadly discussed, talks, New Zealand should consider separation of executive and legislature. I would suggest both a Head of State in control of the *sine quā nōn* of the national good, (i) security, (ii) health, and (iii) education, so that they remain beyond political sway; and an executive elected perhaps every six years, with a system of spoils so as to refresh the top public servants. Also to be considered is that the legislature, elected perhaps every three years, and the executive, may not serve successive terms. The elected government, both executive and legislature, must not fall prey to the lobbying and attachments that have affected the United States.
- X. The elected representatives are not the ones to decide the Head of State of New Zealand. In order to prevent future strife, I would well advise all that the natural outcome of a republic is an aristocracy, rule by merit, and various corruptions thereof, should care not be taken.
- XI. New Zealand must honour international law, treaties, conventions, and protocols. To pay lip service and to attempt to cover and obfuscate shortcomings in the system is a short-term optimisation that will eventually lead this nation to nothingness and ruin.
- XII. We are in the midst of a war on terror. Terror is not only the moral deprivation of a suicide bomber, but it is also the continued and successive decisions of those willing to sacrifice the lives and well-being of others for their own material gain. Terror is the encroachment through the exertion of power and control abetted by complacency, banality, and mediocrity.
- XIII. We live in trying times. Our technological advances, treated individually, have lead to a situation in which the actions of man may affect the continued existence of intelligent life on this planet. To stay the course, we need to set an overall goal and make incremental, permanent changes. Many of our citizens are unable to make broad or instant changes and should not be expected to do so.
- XIV. New Zealand is a small, advanced, self-sufficient jewel in the South Pacific that can be a wellspring of hope for the future. Kiwis are a proud people with a proud heritage. Remember Sir Edmund Hillary. Please, respect each other, and respect the rest of the global community. Let us set a goal of peace, longevity, and the ability to live our lives without unnecessary interference from others.

Sincerely,

Vivian McPhail