

Co-Governance = The Death of Free Speech

by Robert Stanmore

"I disapprove of what you say but I will defend to the death your right to say it". This famous saying is attributed to Voltaire and has been used in the two centuries since as one of the foundation blocks of free speech in a democracy. Voltaire was a product of the Enlightenment, when Western civilisation reached one of its highest points. The Maoris were never part of the Enlightenment. Indeed while he and others were thinking, writing and uplifting, the tribes in distant New Zealand were engaged in constant inter-tribal warfare, involving barbarism and savagery when they would just as easily eat a neighbour as a fish.

Thanks to the introduction of British law in 1840 and British settlers thereafter New Zealand was brought into the civilised world and for several generations enjoyed the right of free speech as so beautifully explained by Voltaire.

The co-governance movement is directed by the tribal elite who, claiming that their primitive "tikanga" should prevail over our time tested English common law, seem to want to drive the country back into the dark ages which preceded 1840.

Their attitude to free speech has been on display at almost every Anti Co-Governance meeting where, contrary to Voltaire, they have shown that free speech, never part of their culture, will be one of the victims should they ever be given the whip hand over the rest of us - as co-governance would clearly give them. This veto over all legislation would become the national equivalent of what they now exercise at Julian's meetings - the "thugs veto".

Nobody exercises the thugs' veto more thoroughly than the ruffians who turn up outside Julian's meetings to silence him, to intimidate the attendees and to try to prevent them from reaching the venue - what Mike Butler in his blog of 3rd September called "bully boys and girls", some of the latter being veritable she-elephants capable of crushing a slim man to death.

As Mike Butler stated, these are directed from local tribal elites, who stand to gain so much from co-governance. In Hawkes Bay the local chief iwi bully boy, Bayden Barber (nice English name!) sent in the roughs to do the dirty work of violating the right of free speech of Julian and those who turned up to hear him. It seems that all this thuggery is directed from the maraes.

In the 1970s to 1990s the Gaelic Football clubs in Southern Ireland were the main recruiting ground for I.R.A. terrorists and it seems that in New Zealand the maraes are a similar recruiting ground for thugs with a hatred of the white man, a disdain for basic democratic rights such as free speech, and a thrill at the possibility of violence.

Mike Butler suggests that these turnouts of up to 200 and 300 screaming protesters is being co-ordinated by the National Iwi Chairs Forum, a lead advisor of which is the loud-mouthed Bill Hamilton, and I'm not prepared to say that he is wrong.

So, why is the tribal elite so frightened of Julian's meetings and the truths that he espouses? Because, as a result of this traitorous Ardern-little Hipkins government selling out all other New Zealanders to the tribal elite in so many respects (He Puapua, Three Waters, Maori Health Authority), the tribal elite now believe that they are on the point of grabbing full control over New Zealand through "co-governance" and therefore anyone who dares to point this out - like Julian - must be silenced - by violence if necessary. What they refrain from doing, because they can't, is to refute by rational argument the points that Julian makes.

Whatever the Stop Co-Governance movement says in its lectures or brochures must be damned as "racist" in the form of a generalising smear tactic. Take Buddy Mikaere, "iwi leader" in Tauranga and probably the greediest man in the Bay of Plenty as he puts his hand out for his tribe every time that the Tauranga City Council has a property to dispose of. Mikaere lodged a complaint to the Electoral Commission over the Anti Co-Governance booklet, calling it "racist" and "full of misinformation" - broad brush smears that fail to cite a single sentence in the 28 page booklet that is "racist" or "misinformation".

Mikaere knows all about "misinformation" as he engages in it himself. In 2018 he wrote a "history" book on the Battle of Gate Pa. On the back cover it said that "more than" 50,000 acres were confiscated by the government as a result of the battle. That is not true. It was LESS THAN 50,000 acres. So, either his research was shoddy or he was being deliberately deceitful. It was certainly "misinformation". That the Bay of Plenty Times continues to give front page space to this clown tells us all that we need to know about it and the New Zealand Herald stable to which it belongs.

The Anti Co-Governance movement is more than overdue. At last the ordinary citizen is being told the truth about the perils of co-governance and that is why the tribal elite is so frightened. That is why they send their thugs to try to close down the meetings, blow their whistles, destroy booklets and engage in violence. It is a preview of where free speech will be should New Zealand ever have the poison of co-governance inflicted on it. Every protest is a picture of what life would be like under co-governance. Never was a word more mischievously misused. There is nothing "co" about it. Just an end to our democracy and long held right such as free speech.

Robert Stanmore is a co-author of the book, "Free Speech Under Attack", published by Tross Publishing.