

To vote corrupt, inept, anti-farming or lunatic?

I'VE just driven from coastal Wairarapa to Hamilton and back and the ubiquitous election hoardings were visual pollution and meaningless.

We had photos of smiling Prime Minister John Key with the slogan "working for New Zealand".

I'd probably prefer that to be "working for Auckland", because I can't see much evidence of the Key-led Government working for anything in Wairarapa.

Then we had the Labour slogan "vote positive". I didn't realise we had a positive political party in NZ and hadn't considered voting for it.

My dictionary has 17 meanings for positive, with most being distinctly negative when put in a political context.

NZ First's slogan "its common sense" appealed to me more as an oxymoron when applied to the election than the political statement the party wanted.

The Greens' "love NZ" had me confused. My dictionary says love means "having a great attachment to and affection for" and I didn't get the impression the Greens regarded the rural sector in that manner.

And so the hoardings went on.

I have a problem this election because I can't decide where to cast my party vote.

To me National is corrupt in hacking the Labour computer and

The Greens are interesting, but I wouldn't vote for them because of their continual put-down of the farming sector.

They have some policies I don't mind but then they have a lot that I do.

I won't be supporting Internet Mana, although it does deserve credit for putting a touch of humour, entertainment, and drama into the campaign.

So my problem, and I've never been in this bind before, is that a week out from the election I don't know which party to support.

I believe it is everyone's duty in a democracy to vote, but do you support corruption, ineptitude, an anti-farming group, or the lunatic fringe?

Alternative View



Alan Emerson

the use of Cameron Slater's Whale Oil website.

One of the hackers, Jason Ede, was paid by the taxpayer at the time of the hacking, to support Key on the ninth floor of the Beehive.

I don't believe he was working alone and unsupervised.

He has a job now with the National Party, which tells me that despite possible utterances to the contrary he enjoys the party's support.

The relationship between Slater and Key is well established.

As any journalist knows, it is unusual to get Official Information Act (OIA) requests in the 20-working-day guideline. They generally take much longer.

So the turnaround to Slater, sometimes in minutes, indicated to me a manipulative, corrupt Government.

The Prime Minister's two-fingered

The candidate vote in the Wairarapa is easy. National has a businessperson from out of the area, although he has a house and business interests here. Labour has a bright, enthusiastic young person and NZ First has put up a recycled hack.

The Greens have a candidate who comes over as a good, moderate person but my problem there is with the rest of his crew.

Having completed a careful analysis my candidate vote is going to Keiran McNulty, a 30-year-old Labour candidate who is standing for the electorate and is not on the list.

He comes across to me as the candidate who will represent the electorate best.

salute to the electorate over the terms of reference for the inquiry is witness to that.

On the other side Labour comes across as inept.

A simple example is Key's statements regarding Nicky Hager's book Dirty Politics as being a left-wing conspiracy.

It isn't. Simply it was a right-wing conspiracy exposed by a left-wing journalist and if Labour didn't have the wit to put that one right it doesn't deserve to be in government.

With all the debate on the economy why isn't Labour highlighting the ballooning national debt we're being crippled with?

When National came to office the national debt was less than \$10 billion.

Now government debt is \$71b. As one commentator put it, we've borrowed \$27 million every day since the Government took office.

If you haven't the wit to argue that you can't be very bright, so the Labour media strategists and campaign team should all be given a one-way ticket to West Africa.

The thought of the Winston Peters or Colin Craig parties being part of any coalition government fills me with horror.

I have a problem taking either seriously but I see them both getting into Parliament.

I find Act and UnitedFuture a joke.

As for the party vote I remain confused and more than a little sceptical.

I'll need to make my mind up because I will vote and urge you to as well.

In a democracy it is the only say we have.



WORKING FOR NZ? I can't see much evidence of the John Key-led Government working for anything in Wairarapa.