

# Jim Anderton: Why I support the Electoral Finance Bill

Page 1 of 3 [View as a single page](#) 5:00AM Tuesday December 18, 2007

Electoral Finance Bill 3rd reading speech

Read what Jim Anderton said in the debate on the Electoral Finance Bill:

I want to address this debate because I represent the only party in this House that did not breach the electoral expenditure rules and laws at the last election.

So it sticks in the throat a bit to hear so many people striking a high moral tone, when their own hands are not clean in this matter.

The National Party cannot get up in this House and demurely claim it is interested only in democracy, when it flouted the electoral laws at the last election.

It cannot claim to be pure, when it has a record showing that it set aside the electoral laws that didn't suit it.

Only one party didn't flout the law, and I am leading it in this House.

We didn't use public money to pay for our ads.

We didn't run a GST rort.

We didn't try to use public money voted for one purpose to pay for our own purposes.

The Progressives were undoubtedly disadvantaged because we opted to play within the rules.

I haven't come into this Chamber and trumpeted that we are alone in obeying the rules, because we did only what was right.

But it sticks in the throat to hear the National Party pretending it cares about democracy when its record is sleazy and opportunistic.

So do not get on your high horse in here about democracy, until you have clean hands.

This Bill makes a simple choice about our democracy: Who should own our democracy  big money, or the people of New Zealand?

You can't have it both ways.

Where the anonymous, big money goes, the interests of the people come second.

I want to ask everyone who is opposed to this Bill a question: Why should anyone be allowed to do what the Exclusive Brethren did in my electorate at the last election?



Jim Anderton supports the Electoral Finance Bill

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They came into my electorate on the Friday before the election that Saturday.

They bought a full page ad in the local newspaper.

The ad told lies about me. They distributed that false advertisement to every household.

The address given for the ad was fake.

The people behind it tried to remain anonymous.

But we found out they were church people!

This was an ad published the day before the election, when it was far too late to respond in reply.

This was an attempt to buy an election with money, instead of with truth and with ideas.

I want to know: how is that fair?

How is that democratic?

How is it fair and democratic that people who don't identify themselves can spend as much as they like to sway the result of an election?

I support the Electoral Finance Bill because elections should not be decided by the largest wallet.

[Next page](#)

**Pages:** [1](#) | [2](#) | [3](#)

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