



**On Air Now: Tim Dower**

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## Political Report for Thursday, April 19, 2007

19/04/2007 10:04:02

The political bogey at the moment is undoubtedly the Exclusive Brethren, that religious sect that does not even vote and in fact by its own admission is unworldly, shunning radio, telly and even newspapers which it sees as evil.

It is easy to identify a car belonging to the sect, the dashboard has a gaping hole in it which used to house a radio. Their places or worship resemble a windowless power sub station.

Even though they eschew power they have got plenty of it in this place, even though no one wants anything to do with them. They are clearly anti-Labour which they got at through a pamphlet attacking the socks and sandal wearing Greens during the last election.

They would prefer a centre right government but the Tories want nothing do do with them either essentially because they have been so politically tainted. The mistake The Brethren made was to circulate anti-Green pamphlets without putting their names to them. But is that any worse than the anti abortionists circulating their pamphlets without acknowledging the Catholic Church?

A breathless Labour Party president's minder delivered to the press gallery what she says was proof that the church and not a group of individuals was behind the pamphleteering at the last election. Mike Williams produced a church document that was written in 2003 and bore the names of a couple of the million dollar pamphlet men as proof of the church's involvement.

It was telling its members how to lobby MPs to affect change in policy, like patching up our differences with Uncle Sam, encouraging immigration to make the country more prosperous and to increase the old age pension.

The document simply reflects the aspirations of many, but it also espouses a totally unrealistic expectation. It tells us the Brethren take a special interest in Government as being of God.

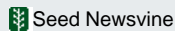
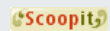
Perhaps it is time they tuned into the radio, watched telly or started reading the newspapers!

Barry Soper

Political Editor

Newstalk ZB

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