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NATIONAL NEWS



Moore lashes former Labour colleagues over election bill

Mon, 17 Dec 2007 10:58a.m.



Former Labour Prime Minister Mike Moore

The Government's Election Finance Bill is likely to backfire next year with several people or groups likely to challenge the its election campaign finance law, former Labour Prime Minister Mike Moore says.

It is the second time the former Labour leader has had a crack at the Electoral Finance Bill, which is set to be passed into law tomorrow.

This time around Moore said the bill, which requires third parties wishing to run campaigns in election year to register and puts a cap on how much they can spend as well as extending the spending period right back to January 1, was wrong in principle and would not work.

He said Labour appeared "traumatised" by what happened with the Exclusive Brethren after their initially secret spending campaign during the last election and the secrecy of its subsequent activities snooping on senior MPs' private lives.

As a result it was treating the Brethren in the same way the National Party treated Communists in the 1950s, he said.

"In the 1950s censorship was introduced to try and save society from the Communists."

"They are now using a sledgehammer to smash a few nutters and it's wrong in principle and substance, but it will do the opposite of what's intended," he said today on Radio New Zealand.

"All sorts of people you haven't thought of will be hooked into this."

Moore said the bill failed to resolve problems and left all

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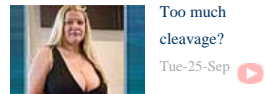


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 07:30p.m 60 Minutes
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 11:15p.m Sex And The
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kinds of questions about who could wage a campaign and within what parameters.

As a result people would seek to open to question and ultimately to challenge it.

"There are a lot of people out there who just for the sport of it are going to test this law and have a go, just for the pure hell of it. It can't work," he said.

"I think we can guarantee there will be court action after the next election.

"I think our friends and brothers and sisters have managed to put in their minds that it's the Brethren that are behind everything that goes wrong.

"In our minds we are treating the Brethren like the National Party treated the communist party in the 50s, where during the lockout in '51 censorship was introduced - anything to save society from the communists."

He said Labour appeared to have painted itself into a corner.

In August, Moore lashed out at Prime Minister Helen Clark saying she was using the "politics of personal destruction" of Sir Robert Muldoon.

In an opinion piece in The New Zealand Herald, he also said there were "menacing changes" to electoral law to outlaw legitimate funding that could be considered political in an election year.

Today, Moore criticised the Electoral Finance Bill again, telling Newstalk ZB the bill was fatally flawed.

He said the bill was wrong in principle and in substance and the restrictions were unprecedented in the free world.

After debate was dragged out last week, the Government is bringing Parliament back for one day, on Tuesday, to pass the bill into law.

National, which has fought vigorously against the legislation, yesterday leapt on other critical comments Moore made on the bill over the weekend with Leader John Key saying Moore's outspokenness meant Labour should dump the bill.

"For him to say it is 'fatally flawed', 'wrong in principle and substance' and will do 'the opposite of what its authors expected' is a stunning indictment of what Labour is doing," Key said.

It was not usual for former prime ministers to put their necks on the block in this way, Key said.

New Zealand First and the Green Party are supporting the bill, giving the Government the numbers it needs to get it

■ Man caught throwing puppies off bridge Mon 12:07p.m.

■ Leaders take different views on polls Mon 6:16a.m.

■ DoC urges sailors to leave pets at home Sun 10:44a.m.

■ Council of Trade Unions supports Napier port workers Sun 9:12a.m.

■ Senior lawyer supports the release of pack rapist Sat 7:49a.m.

■ Ten arrested after out of control Wellington party Sat 7:22a.m.

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passed.

Moore's criticism comes as Southland mayor Tim Shadbolt said he would spend \$300,000 on a campaign against Labour's move to cut \$6.2 million from Southern Institute of Technology.

The National Party said the newspaper advertisements asking for people to support Southland's bid to get more funding for its polytech would be covered by the Government's campaign finance law.

But Green Party co-leader Russel Norman said National was wrong, as the ads did not mention elections, voting, or attack any political party.

- NZPA



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NEWSVINE

Unknown white powder causes scare at Auckland University



A threatening letter accompanied by an unidentified white powder caused a scare at an

Auckland University building this morning.



Bain's legal defence team's cash problems still

unresolved

Mon, 17 Dec 2007 12:31p.m.

David Bain's retrial for the murder of his family has been stymied by a lack of cash to fund his defence properly, says supporter Joe Karam.



Grief pokies cause outweighs benefits, says gambling foundation

Mon, 17 Dec 2007 12:27p.m.

Pokie machines attract too much crime to be a valid form of community fundraising, says the Problem Gambling Foundation.

Man caught throwing puppies off bridge

Mon, 17 Dec 2007 12:07p.m.

The SPCA is reminding pet owners to de-sex their animals after a man was caught throwing seven dogs off a bridge.



Other National Stories




- Mon 11:59a.m. Family feud over body to go to court
- Mon 11:32a.m. Two arrested as domestic violence flares in Flaxmere
- Mon 11:09a.m. Man who stabbed victim in face jailed for at least 5 years
- Mon 10:58a.m. Moore lashes former Labour colleagues over election bill
- Mon 10:40a.m. Police hunt Mongrel Mob after violent car theft








- Mon 9:55a.m. Pickets continuing at Port of Napier
- Mon 9:50a.m. Police seeking help from gay community over murder
- Mon 9:40a.m. Many people using internet to research medical conditions
- Mon 9:22a.m. Bus crash amputee may sue
- Mon 8:57a.m. Depositions hearing in Nia Glassie case

- Mon 8:52a.m. Tourist in court charged with murder
- Mon 8:28a.m. Second stabbing at Paremoremo in a week
- Mon 8:11a.m. NZ First to decide what to do with rejected money
- Mon 8:08a.m. Accuser's punishment may not appeal to Mallard
- Mon 6:57a.m. Four charged after man beaten to death in Te Puke
- Mon 6:45a.m. Blue leaves red and green behind in xmas election poll ▶
- Mon 6:16a.m. Leaders take different views on polls ▶

- Sun 6:00p.m. Kid's water safety campaign launched today ▶

- Sun 5:18p.m. Lucky trio rescued from an abandoned mine 
- Sun 4:50p.m. Resort reopens after March flooding 
- Sun 4:22p.m. Tainui and Crown sign agreement to clean up Waikato River 
- Sun 2:07p.m. NZ man killed in Afghanistan vehicle crash
- Sun 1:27p.m. Shipton considering appeal against rape conviction
- Sun 1:19p.m. Juveniles in violent attacks worry police

- Sun 10:44a.m. DoC urges sailors to leave pets at home 
- Sun 10:37a.m. Abusive onlookers delay rescue
- Sun 9:12a.m. Council of Trade Unions supports Napier port workers 
- Sun 8:54a.m. Warring partners could get new weapon for court battles
- Sun 8:45a.m. Father rescues daughter from out-of-control boy racers
- Sun 7:46a.m. PPTA warns teachers against Correspondence School
- Sat 6:22p.m. Cambridge's Victoria Bridge turns 100 years old 
- Sat 5:43p.m. Police disappointed at number of drunk drivers 
- Sat 5:25p.m. McNamara's victim speaks out on his early release 
- Sat 12:03p.m. Activist: Parole sends wrong message about rape
- Sat 11:47a.m. Women's Refuge Boss: Better treatment for McNamara than most

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