

## TWO BLANKETS AND A FISCAL ENVELOPE

### WHAT IS A FISCAL ENVELOPE?

A fiscal envelope is Treasury language for a settlement fund. It is an allocation of funds from government to settle all Waitangi Tribunal claims. The fund is essentially a trade-off. The government wants to call a halt to Waitangi Tribunal claims. In order to finish all claims government intends to make a one off fund available. This one-off fund is called a 'fiscal envelope'.

### HOW DID IT EMERGE?

When the Labour Party came into power in 1984 Waitangi Tribunal claims were made retrospective back to 1840. This opened a doorway for Maori to investigate and lodge claims against the Crown in respect to lands that were unjustly alienated. The subsequent flood of claims have failed to be addressed adequately, by the Government, with only 405 hectares being returned to Maori. The current Government is now moving to shut down the flood of Tribunal claims.

The Minister of Justice, Doug Graham, has written in the Herald (18 Jan 1994) and has made the following statements. The Tribunal claims will be closed down by the year 2000, that a settlement fund will be provided called a 'fiscal envelope' out of which all remaining claims will draw on. The amount and how the fund is to be allocated will be decided by government.

Doug Graham says that the Tainui and Ngai Tahu claims alone will cripple the state. The argument goes that these claims will cost the state too much. The government is selling off state owned assets all over the place. This is claimed to be one of the costcutting measures necessary. However, justice is not being served and the 'tino rangatiratanga' guaranteed Maori in the Treaty of Waitangi is totally denied through this deal.

### WHY IS THE FISCAL ENVELOPE A RIP - OFF?

Kua riro whenua atu,  
Me hoki whenua mai

Because our tipuna have handed to us the kaitiaki role of these whenua. A cash deal is not what we want. We want land back, it is that simple. The Sealords Deal shows that when there is a settlement like this absolutely nothing comes back to Maori. The amounts of land claimed by iwi are enormous, far in excess of the one billion dollars being offered to Maori in return for relinquishing the rights to claim.

The Tribunal cannot be shut down. Some hapu are only just getting their resources together to begin taking their claims. The Waitangi Tribunal has so far returned very little to Maori. In May 1994 in the Dominion it was reported that only 405 hectares has been returned to iwi.

#### NEGOTIATORS

From the time that Doug Graham made these announcements in January various iwi have been jockeying for position to ensure that they get a substantial slice of the 'fiscal envelope'. Smaller iwi who do not have negotiators at the table do not get a look in.

There have been no consultation between the negotiators and their respective iwi and hapu. It is being talked about behind closed doors just as the Sealords Deal was. In the Sealords Deal 13 individuals signed the Deal on behalf of all the iwi in Aotearoa again this was done without consultation or the mandate of various iwi. The select few who are involved in negotiating this deal are: Sir Tipene O'Regan, Sir Graham Lattimer and Robert Mahuta.

What the Waitangi Tribunal has revealed is how much deception there was in the land confiscations and land transactions of the past. Although very little has been returned to Maori through the Tribunal it is the only forum provided by the State where Maori can take cases.

#### THE MYTH THAT THINGS HAVE IMPROVED FOR MAORI

Although there is talk about business deals improving the lot of Maori these are the facts. They come from the official figures:

Unemployment went from 6% to 20% for Maori over recent years

For non-Maori, it has gone from 3% to 6%.

Only 2% of our kaumatua live beyond the age of 65. (Dept Of Stats 1993)

The top 10% of income earners over the last 10 years have increased their income and the bottom 10% have had their income reduced. (Incomes Monitoring Report 1993) Guess who is in the bottom 10% Over the last ten years poverty has increased for Maori and the high unemployment is taking its toll on our health etc.

THE FISCAL ENVELOPE MEANS THE SELLING OF LAND RIGHTS GUARANTEED TO MAORI IN THE TREATY - PAPATUANUKU CANNOT BE COMMODIFIED. ACT NOW AND OPPOSE THE BROWN TABLE NEGOTIATORS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT.