

No such thing as biculturalism — MP

By Simon Collins

Wellington. — A senior National Party front-bencher, Mr Simon Upton, has warned Maori people that special welfare schemes for Maoris must be wound up as soon as land grievances are settled.

Mr Upton, the MP for Raglan, told Parliament last week, that there was no such thing as "biculturalism".

He attacked pakeha liberals who felt guilty for what previous generations did, accusing them of forgetting values such as excellence and achievement in an excessive "tolerance" of Maori practices.

"Maori culture, like mine, has its dark side too," Mr Upton said in a speech which he said had taken him 40 hours to write.

"Some of the mechanisms used to shame people into conformity in-

volve some pretty rugged psychological pressure."

He conceded that the Tainui people, for example, could legitimately claim compensation for the confiscation of the Waikato lands last century.

But he added: "The quid pro quo, of course, is that the special welfare sticking plaster schemes must be wound up.

"If the settlement is a generous one, it should provide the resource base required to mount any special programmes," he said.

"Otherwise, Tainui must front for social services like any other citizens."

He said "liberal pakeha guilt" was "one of the biggest stumbling blocks to race relations

"These guilt-ridden, faded radicals offer no moral leadership. In its place we find merely a shallow tolerance which, when challenged,

can only respond with intolerance," he said.

As an example, he quoted from a document produced by the Hamilton teachers College stating that "equity involves the provision of unequal resources for certain groups so that fairer outcomes can be achieved for all".

The document says all staff and students of the college will have to undergo compulsory programmes "to bring about attitudinal change and develop awareness in relation to racism, biculturalism, Treaty of Waitangi."

This, said Mr Upton, was "brainwashing." As far as he was concerned, there was "no such animal" as biculturalism.

His speech was applauded by MPs from both sides of the House, including the Leader of the House, Mr Hunt, and the Minister of Maori Affairs, Mr Wetere.

New Zealand Herald Service.



Mr Upton