

'Liberal Pakehas' to blame for race problems

WELLINGTON

Opposition MP Simon Upton drew applause from both sides of Parliament yesterday when he slammed what he termed "liberal Pakeha guilt" and "the angst-filled elite," as one of the biggest stumbling blocks to improvement in New Zealand's race relations.

Mr Upton said the academic community had purveyed a misleading and damaging vision of biculturalism and sought to impose on Maori and Pakeha an erroneous version of both races' individual cultures.

He said biculturalism was a product of western intellectualism — "egalitarianism with a cultural coating."

"To pretend it can be conjured from the words of the treaty is simply to impose one particular western political theory on to them. There can be no such privileged reading of the treaty, no such capture by the torch-bearers for one particular ideology."

Mr Upton gave as an example a draft statement of principles proposed for Hamilton Teachers'

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Training College. This said that biculturalism must be reflected in the college programme, saying: "It is the right of every person within the Hamilton Teachers' College to be enriched in an environment which acknowledges and celebrates the dual heritage of the treaty (of Waitangi) partners."

Each division, the principles stated, must provide "compulsory programmes upon entry for all staff and students to bring about attitudinal change and develop awareness in relation to racism," addressing "the issues of biculturalism."

"Well, I'm all for enrichment but I didn't know that this right to enrichment was in fact an obligation to be brain-washed. But that is apparently what it entails. Compulsory attitudinal change."

In his address-in-reply speech to the House, Mr Upton spoke of "the intellectual elite, a lost tribe to be found wandering in the



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corridors of academia while the world at large leaves Marxist fantasies to the pages of history and to the tombstones of its countless victims.

"The idea that a common identity can be extracted from an egalitarian sameness is a culturally derived notion, and it is antithetical to much that is central both to European culture and to Maori culture as well.

"As one Maori father said to me, 'You (meaning politicians and social engineers) have destroyed my parental authority. By making my 16-year-olds eligible for the dole, you have given them the freedom to leave home and the means to buy cigarettes, booze and worse.'

"And I'm sure many Pakeha parents would echo the thought. These guilt-ridden, faded radicals offer no moral leadership. In its place we merely find a shallow tolerance which, when challenged, can only respond with intolerance."

Mr Upton said guilt-ridden liberals appeared not to have noticed the lack of success of attempts to impose culture.

"Haven't they noticed what happened to Marxism in Eastern Europe? Haven't they got their minds around the cultural genocide and environmental rape perpetrated in the name of social progress? Haven't they heard of the demise of local authorities in England whose absurd imposition of class theories and minority rights led to the popular revolt at the ballot box?"