

# THE BACKBENCHER

CHRISTCHURCH, MONDAY 26 AUGUST 2019

## NEARLY THERE!

I remember the first day of the conference like it was yesterday.

It wasn't. It was two days ago. Get a grip.

I hope you have all come into your element during this conference. I have enjoyed watching debate between each of you during the select committees, as well as the second readings!

A reminder about welfare!! It is so important to look after yourselves during this incredible conference. Please take the time to relax, have some water, and talk with your friends. We've had a LOT happen in the three days we have been together here in Christchurch and it's ultra important to exercise self care towards the end of it all.

As always, the Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat game is still on! Get those grams, get those snaps, and get those...books!

I have been looking through the photos folder to get some for this edition, but I must say - start the fireplace as these photos are all LIT. I hope you are looking forward to them being released as much as I am!

Have a productive day!

*Page 1 written by Patrick Hayes*

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Don't forget to keep warm!!

## WISDOM

"Kachow"

- Lightning McQueen

"Be ready to hit that WOAHH"

- You, but I'm disappointed

"Yeeshaw"

- Gregg McKegg

# NEWS

## CONTROVERSY IN CAUCUS

Azaria Howell, The Spinoff  
25 August 2019

Yesterday's press conference was nothing short of controversial, with nail-biting questions leaving MPs on the edge of their seats.

Quizzed- or perhaps grilled- on policy, unity, and reform, no party was safe from the press conference. The topic of nuclear energy was called 'worrying' by the Labour leader.

"I have contempt for what they have done, people who have fought for this [pro-nuclear] movement," the Labour Leader added, whilst shocked that this policy was being debated, "I have no words for them."

The National Party leader responded by saying that the promotion of nuclear power is being debated amongst their party. The party had plans to discuss the 'ending of earthquakes,' as a way to assure nuclear power's safety. Details of this policy have not yet been revealed.

Economic growth and development is the bottom line for the National Party. They vow to remain united amidst controversy, and planned to have an undivided caucus going in to the second reading of the Bill.

Labour still oppose the use of nuclear power, and plan to include these values in the Bill. "These values are what we should be entrenching. Not the divisive policies from the National Party," commented the Labour List MP based in Rangitata.

## PARTIES CONFUSED ON NUCLEAR STANCE

Alex Brown, Newstalk ZB  
25 August 2019

The issue of nuclear power has continued to divide parties.

The Labour MP who earlier broke party lines to speak for nuclear power revised his position and spoke against National's attempts to amend clause 16, which would ensure that New Zealand could embrace nuclear power in the future.

The co-leader of the Green Party stated that Labour's support of nuclear power was "worrying", however the Labour leader dismissed concerns, stating that the Labour MP's initial statements were a mistake.

National continued to argue in favour of nuclear power in the environment select committee. The National MP for Whanganui went as far as to propose devoting resources to eradicating earthquakes so New Zealand could safely host nuclear power plants, stating, "Earthquakes [are an] incredibly important issue we want to end."

However, in a later press conference the National caucus seemed conflicted on where they stood on nuclear power. At first it was said that there would be further party discussion so they could present a "united front" on the matter.

When asked about what resources would be given to "ending earthquakes", they reiterated their previous statement, before saying outright that National had "no plans to use nuclear power in the future."

# NEWS

## ROYAL ASSENT OR IWI ASSENT?

Rose Mason-Collins, Newshub  
25 August 2019

**ANALYSIS** "We have learnt from our mistakes," said the National Representative from Rotorua, referring to the Treaty of Waitangi. Though have they? Many points of debate from day two's Māori Affairs select committee were controversial.

Representatives debated Clause two, which read "This Act shall come into force on the 28th day after the date on which it receives the Royal assent." Many representatives within the committee believed that iwi should have been able to have as much opinion on the constitution as the Crown would. This was included in the amendment that was put forward by Labour, that added a sub-clause reading "Also receives assent from all iwi of New Zealand."

Many MPs, especially those from National, heavily disagreed with this policy as it would require 100% of iwi within New Zealand to agree on the constitution. This would be incredibly hard to pass as obtaining 100% of iwis to agree to the constitution is unreasonable.

Labour recognised that this would be hard but thought that it would be better to have all iwi to agree to a constitution than to repeat the same mistakes made by Pakeha all those years ago. They also claimed that this amendment would prevent iwi from saying "We didn't sign this we are not subject to it." Which happened with the Treaty of Waitangi.

This amendment was passed by the committee.

## NZ FIRST SECURE SLIM MAJORITY

Xyryll Gayagoy, Radio New Zealand  
25 August 2019

An amendment was proposed by NZ First MP in the Justice Committee yesterday by NZ First's Leader to amend Section 8 (1), to keep the voting age at eighteen.

Green Party MP was eager and quick to stand firmly against this amendment. With many global issues such as climate change that affect the youth in the future significantly, Greens believe that "young people are more likely to vote for the green party" because they think they have fairly acknowledged the youth's voice and concerns.

Unfortunately for Greens, the amendment only passed by a close margin. When asked during the press conference whether NZ First's motive for support of raising the voting age is due to the main voters for their party are of an older demographic, NZ First Leader comprehensively responded, "No."

## OLD MAN RELEASED WITHOUT CHARGE

Patrick Hayes, The Backbencher  
25 August 2019

An elderly man arrested in the Parliamentary precinct early yesterday afternoon has been released from police custody.

The man, whom Backbencher has refused to name, appeared shaken outside Christchurch Central Police Station this morning but is otherwise unhurt.

# NEWS

## A UNITED CAUCUS... UNLESS?

Grace Prodanov, NZ Herald  
25 August 2019

**OPINION** Despite representatives pointing fingers at the supposed disunification of opposing parties, press observed nearly all parties beginning to fracture across multiple committees.

This was obvious in Education and Workforce, where on the surface NZ First and Labour agreed on many fronts, including that "National are contradicting themselves left and right. They don't even know what they're doing," but when out of earshot of each other, these MPs then proceeded to throw each other under the bus when questioned about the strength between coalition parties: "yeah we've heard straight from [an NZ First MP] they will be voting with National."

This two-faced nature between and within parties shows no number of chants against an opposing party can compensate for the breakdown of alliances within party lines. Greens have simply been "delightfully wholesome to each other," according to Greens co-leader, although who knows what this 'wholesome' front may be hiding, while the only party unwaveringly unified over the past three days has been ACT, whose views have stayed consistent across the conference.

No matter how unified the parties say they are, the truth will surely be reflected in the results of the bill later today.

## SONG AND DANCE WOWS CHAMBER

Ananya Shamihoke, The Backbencher  
25 August 2019

Representatives across the floor have raised the roof of the chamber this morning with a rousing rendition of Toto's "Africa".

While Parliamentary expertise on the actual words of the song was questionable at best, the palpable enthusiasm nearly made up for it.

Members of the press began "Africa" still somewhat shellshocked by the events that took place during Party Time, where CAs subjected them to the strange and confusing world of "edgy volunteer humour". Our thoughts and prayers are with them, and we wish the press a successful recovery from this ordeal. Kia kaha.

## UN YOUTH CONTINUES TO BE A MEME

Ella Thorpe, The Backbencher  
25 August 2019

**ANALYSIS** The frequency of memeworthy content at UN Youth NZ events is either concerningly or admirably high. The commitment of representatives in continuing this trend, through memes is a credit to the organisation. Although some contributions are of arguably better quality than others, it really is the thought that counts.

# HOROSCOPES FOR 26 AUGUST

## ♈ Aries: March 21-April 19

Your fiery passion will lead to some heated debate in the Committee of the Whole House. Remember that others have that passion too, and give them a chance to speak as well!

## ♉ Taurus: April 20 - May 20

Your stubbornness will lead you to not budging on a crucial vote. Can you live with the knowledge of going against your party? Can you? CAN YOU?

## ♊ Gemini: May 21 - June 20

You look around and notice out of the corner of your eye, another representative wearing the same thing as you. This person is now your twin. Bond over your mutual love of Carly Rae Jepsen and oversized hoodies.

## ♋ Cancer: June 21 - July 22

You're a water sign, and you know what that means. Fill up those drink bottles and CHUG CHUG CHUG! Afterwards, feel free to brag to any CAs you see!

## ♌ Leo: July 23 - August 22

There's a hunger for power grumbling in your stomach (as well as a hunger for goofy slab). Feed that hunger by contributing as much as you can in Party Time!

## ♍ Virgo: August 23 - September 22

Stand your ground and don't stray from the party. Your roots are firmly planted, and if you stray too far, you face turning into Jami-Lee Ross.

## ♎ Libra: September 23 - October 22

There's a lot of fruit on offer at afternoon tea today, so make sure you get one of every fruit to stay in equilibrium.

## ♏ Scorpio: October 23 - November 21

It's the last day and it's understandable if you're a little emotional! Remember that Welfare is always around for a chat!

## ♐ Sagittarius: November 22 - December 21

It's your lucky day! Keep an eye out for loose change floating around on the floor. If you don't see any coins, pick up some goofy slab crumbs instead!

## ♑ Capricorn: December 22 - January 19

You're really rocking that lanyard today! Try and style it in new and exotic ways to show off just how stylish you are. You go girl!

## ♒ Aquarius: January 20 - February 18

Those that are an Aquarius are very humanitarian, so maybe if you're faced with grabbing the last goofy slab, let your friend have it instead!

## ♓ Pisces: February 19 - March 20

Signing your placards at the end of the conference is a tradition and you are going to have your placard COVERED thanks to the amazing friends you've made this weekend.

*Horoscopes written by Tyler Proctor*

## CAN I GET AWAY WITH PUTTING THIS IN AGAIN

**RED:** Welfare

**ORANGE:** Press facs

**YELLOW:** Logistics

**GREEN:** Media

**BLUE:** Conference Assistants

**PURPLE:** National Executive

**PINK:** Organising committee

**BLACK:** Representatives



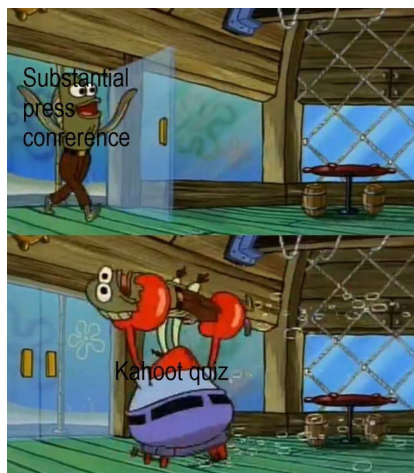
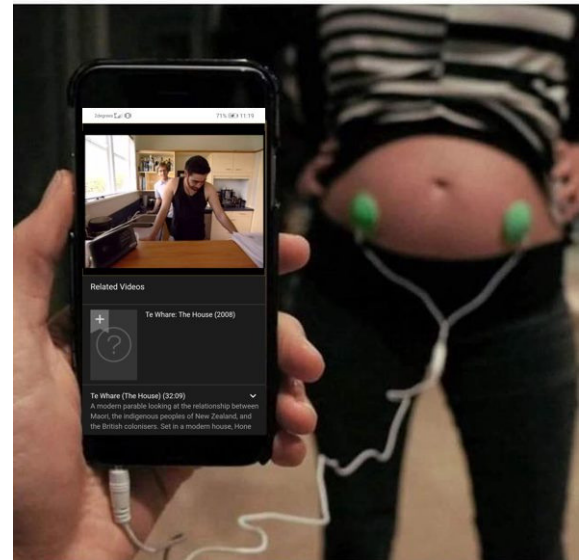
# IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU? NAY. ALL ABOUT ME-ME!!



NZ First: We want to raise the voting age  
Press: Is that cause your voters are old?



Shh... I told her it was Mozart.



"A Labour MP contravened their own parties wishes yesterday by choosing to support the use of Nuclear power." - Backbencher Day Two

The rest of the Labour Party:



Greens: "We are a small party and can't always get everything we want"  
NZ First:



NZ MODEL PARLIAMENT:  
HAS GOOD FOOD FOR LUNCH

REPRESENTATIVES:



# WONDERS OF THE LOGISTICAL WORLD



*The Sydney Opera House*



*The Beehive, Wellington*



*The Great Wall of China*



*The Pentagon,  
Washington DC*



*The Eiffel Tower,  
Paris*



*"A banana boat sails down the Nile to deliver marble slabs to the great pyramid at Giza."*

## FOOD REVIEWS



### SUBWAY SANDWICH

This snack sized delight is nutritious, delicious, and not facetious. It's good for you. A crowd favourite.

*Written by Patrick Hayes*



### GOOFY SLAB

A silly boi but a tasty one. A desert to last you those long cold Christchurch days - so long as it is not frozen itself.



### ORANGE SLICE

A classic. Get the team around because it's half time! We're down a few points but have these and we'll take home the trophy!