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Ahorangi Wiremu Doherty: ‘Te Whakaurunga’ kia eke atu ki runga i te rārangi Māori ka haere tonu nga whakatorotoro tōrite ki roto i tā tātou pūnaha pōti

He Māori ahau. Ana, he aha ahau i mate ai ki te ‘whakauru atu’ kia eke ki runga i te rārangi Māori?

He pātai tēnei ki āhau anō, ia wā ka tū he kōwhiringa pōti a-rohe, whānui rānei ki roto i Aotearoa.

He aha i kore ai ngā Māori katoa, kua rēhita nei he Māori rātou ki runga i ō rātou tiwhikete whānau, hei tauira, ma te taunoa kē, ki runga i te rārangi pōti Māori?

Akene pea na te uaua, mai i te tirohanga whakahaerenga ki te wehe ki waho i te pūnaha mai i te tīmatanga?

Tērā pea rānei, na te maha o ngā Māori kua whakamanahia he Māori rātou, ka āhei ki te uru tōtika atu ki runga i te rārangi pōti Māori?

E whakapae ana ahau, ko te pūtake o te raru, ko ngā ‘tōrangapū’, ka mahue ko ngā ‘whakakaupapa’.

I te tū tana o te Pāti Māori, i whakaarahia e au tēnei whakaaro me Pita Sharples – ko rātou i whakaatu he Māori rātou, me piki ki runga i te rārangi Māori. Ki te kore rātou e pīrangi ki te noho ki runga i te rārangi Māori ka whiwhi ana rātou i ā rātou pepa e kī ana ‘tirohia pēna kei te tika ngā kōrero whakauru’, ka tāea e rātou te whakawhiti i tērā wā, ki te rārangi mo te rohe whānui.

Kei te hiahia ahau ki te whakaara ake anō i tēnei take i te wā e whakauru atu ana tātou ki te kōwhiringa pōti 2023 a te rohe whānui, a te Oketopa.

I mua, ka āhei ngā kaipōti e whaimana ana ki te ‘whakauru atu’ kia eke ki runga i te rārangi Māori ka whakauru tuatahi atu ana ki te pōti, ana ka tāea e tātou te tiini ki tētahi atu rārangi i te wā noa iho o te Kōwhiringa Māori, i nā rā, ka huri mai ia rima tau, ono tau rānei.

Mai i te 31 o Maihe o tēnei tau, ka tāea e tātou te tiini rārangi ahakoa he aha te wā, engari kaua i ngā marama o mua i te kōwhiringa pōti, o mua rānei i te huihuinga a te pāremata mo te pōti motuhake pēnā ma te tiini tātou e neke ki roto i te rohe pōti kei reira te pōti motuhake e whakahaeretia ana. Ā tēnei tau, me te kōwhiringa pōti a te 14 o Oketopa, ngā Māori e hiahia ana ki te tiini rārangi me tiini i mua o te 13 o Hūrae.

Ētahi ka kii kua ‘whakamāmātia’ mo tātou kia āhei ai kei runga tātou i te rārangi Māori pēnā tātou e hiahia ana. Engari ki āhau, kaore tērā i nui.

Ki āhau, me māmā ake. Pēnā koe he Māori, ko te kōwhiringa kē, mē ‘puta mai’ kia eke atu ki runga i te rārangi Māori, te aro atu ai rānei, ki te ‘whakauru atu’. He aha i whakauauatia ai te huarahi kia āhei tātou ki to tātou tino rangatiratanga?

I roto i ngā whakawhitiwhiti kōrero mo ‘to tātou tino rangatiratanga’ ka mihi anō hoki, ki ngā Māori kaore i te hiahia ki te piki atu ki runga i te rārangi Māori. Ka mihi atu ki tā rātou i whakatau ai. I ngā pōti kōwhiringa ā-rohe whānui 2020, 52.4 paihēneti o ngā Māori i pōti, i runga i te rārangi Māori¹.

¹ Source: *Report of the Electoral Commission on the 2020 General Election and referendums*. Link: <https://elections.nz/assets/2020-general-election/Report-of-the-Electoral-Commission-on-the-2020-General-Election-and-referendums.pdf>.

Koi rā noa iho, neke atu i te hāwhe o ngā kaipōti. I tēnei tau, 51 paihēneti kei runga i te rārangi Māori².

Kei te tōmuri tātou i roto i ngā kaute o runga i te rārangi Māori. Ana ko te tikanga o tērā, kei te whakakāhore tātou i te āheitanga ki te whaiwaha kōrero mo ngā take e whakaaweawe ana i Aotearoa. Mai rānō ahau i runga i te rārangi Māori – ko te take, ki te whakakaha ake i te reo kōrero mo te Māori i roto i ō tātou rāngai hāpori whānui.

Ko te kaute o ngā Māori kei runga i te rārangi Māori me te rārangi rohe whānui, ka tāpiri me te otinga o ngā kautetanga, ka whakamahia mo te whakatau ēhia ngā Māori me ngā rohe pōti.

Ko te rārangi kei runga tātou, ka whakaaweawetia ko ēhea ngā kaitono pōti ka tāea e tātou te tohu, mai i roto i te kōwhiringa pōti a te pāremata. Ka whakaaweawetia ko wai hei pōti mā tātou i roto i ngā kōwhiringa pōti kaunihera. Te maha tana atu o ngā Māori ki runga i te rārangi Māori, te maha tana atu o ngā rohe pōti ka whiwhi tonu tātou.

Pēnā te katoa e tohu ana he Māori rātou, i runga i te rārangi Māori, ana me te whakauru mai ma te pōti, ka nui kē atu ngā mema Māori ka uru atu ki te Pāremata.

Ka titiro atu ahau ki te National Congress of American Indians, i whakaūtia i te tau 1944 – he rōpū taketake ake nei, nui katoa, me te maha o ngā māngai o ngā rōpū American Indian me ngā Iwi taketake o Alaska e kawea ana mo te painga o ngā kāwanatanga ā-rohe me ngā hāpori.

He wawata tiketike i tēnei wā, ki te kōrero mo te Whakakotahitanga o ngā Iwi Māori, he āhua rite ki te tauira a te National Congress of American Indians, engari ka tae ana ki te pūtake, koi rā to tātou matakū nē? Te whakaaweawetia e pā ana ki ngā kaitono pōti?

Ki āhau, ko te kaupapa kē, ko te tino rangatiratanga o te Māori. Kaore tatou i te tokoiti ki roto ia Aotearoa. Ko tātou te iwi taketake o Aotearoa ana he whai wāriu hoki te reo o tēnā, o tēnā.

He tere tātou ki te tīpako e hia ngā Māori, ngā tāngata rānei o ngā moutere, ka tae mai ana ki te kōrero mo ngā tauanga whakahē. Engari ka tae ana ki te whakaputa i ngā painga mo te Māori, ma te homai kia nui ake ngā kaitono pōti ā-rohe, mea rawa ake, me 'whakauru' tātou kia Māori anō tātou.

Kua whakatūhia mai anō he taiapa hei whakawhiti mā tātou, ana e whakapono ana ahau, kei te whakaaweawetia te āhua ka pēhea te mahi a te Māori i roto i ngā tōrangapū, ana e hia o tatou mahi ai i roto i ngā tōrangapū.

Kaore ngā Māori i whakahautia ki te whakauru atu ki te Pakanga Tuarua o te Ao – i uru atu rātou i runga i te hiahia. Ma te whakauru ki roto i ēnei āhuatanga, e kitea atu ai e ngā rangatira Māori, tae atu kia Apirana Ngata, te maha o ngā Māori ka haere. I te mutunga, tata ki te 16,000 ngā Māori i rēhita ki te haere ki te Pakanga Tuarua o te Ao, ana, tae rawa ki te mutunga o te pakanga i te tau 1945, ko te Rua Tekau mā Waru tētahi o ngā rōpū ope taua i whakanuia whānuitia me te rākai i ngā peka o te hunga ope taua o Aotearoa.

Kua whawhai mātou mō Aotearoa, kua whawhai mātou i raro i te ingoa o te Karauna – kāore he kōrero. Ana he aha ai, ka tae ana ki ngā kaitono pōti i roto o te Pāremata, kei te rongō tonuhia e mātou ēnei kareāroto, he kirirarau tuarua ana me whakauru atu, anā rā, 'kia' Māori ai?

² Source: Electoral Commission. Link: <https://elections.nz/stats-and-research/enrolment-statistics/enrolment-by-general-electorate/>.

Kua kōrero ahau i mua, kia hāngai te titiro ki te whakawhanake pūnaha mātauranga e hopu ana i te mātauranga me ngā pukenga tūturu ki te Māori me te ao Māori. Ki te whakatinana i tēnei arā noa atu ngā rauemi e hāngai ana ki tēnei e tutuki ai te ōritetanga mo te Māori ki roto i te mātauranga.

He rite tonu te āria e pā ana ki te akiaki kia nui ake ngā Māori kia uru atu ki roto i ngā mahi tōrangapū, ana mo ngā tau e tū mai ana mo tēnei motu. Me takahuri e tātau ngā pūnaha ana ka titiro hāngai ki ētahi mea nui ake ki te akiaki i ngā Māori kia piki ki runga i te rārangi Māori kia eke panuku ai tātou ki te ōritetanga i roto i te ao tōrangapū.

He āhuetanga kei ētahi tāngata, pēnā he Māori koe, kaore koe e hiahia ki te Pākeha me ngā whakahaerenga ture. Kaore koi nei te āhua,

He Māori ahau. Ana, tū whakahīhī ana ahau he Māori ahau. Engari kaore ahau e whakaparahako i ngā whakahaerenga ture, Ana kaore hoki ahau e whakaparahako i te Pākeha, Tino whakahīhī ahau ki taku taha Pākeha. Mōku, ko te ōritetanga te mea nui.

I tēnei wā, kei te tautoko mātou i te pūnaha pōti, ko te ngako ki te whakapiki i ngā tōrite. Kei te hiahia mātou i roto i te hāngai o te titiro ki te Māori, ki te tauawhi kia piki ake ngā kaitono pōti mo te katoa, me te akiaki tonu i ngā Māori kia pōti.

E whakapono ana ahau, ma te uru atu o ngā Māori kei te māaurau me uru tōtika ki runga i te rārangi Māori, ana me hoatu he huarahi ki te 'puta mai' i te rārangi Māori, ka mahue atu te 'whakauru atu' anō i te wā tuatahi, me haere torotika ki te āwhina kia tutuki ai tēnei.

- Ko Ahorangi Wiremu Doherty te Tumuwakahaere o Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi.