

Editorial

By the time of this magazine being read, disciplinary action may already have been taken against the Secretary of Maori Affairs, Tamati Reedy and Deputy Secretary, Neville Baker for their part in the 'loans affair'.

The governmental policing body, the State Services Commission met on January 20th to decide on action after tabling a report on Christmas Eve which found both the Secretary and his Deputy had displayed serious lack of judgment in handling overseas loan discussions for \$600 million whilst not having authority to do so.

Dr Reedy told the Commission the loan money was earmarked for the economic development of the Maori people.

The Commission in its report spoke of extenuating factors for the public servants involved and said there was not the slightest doubt over the personal integrity of the two permanent heads concerned. However it said the issue had brought to light some weaknesses in the structure and systems within the Department of Maori Affairs, and it would be reviewing these.

Acting Commission chairman, Don Hunn said the review of the department should not be seen as coming purely from the 'loans affair', as it is the ongoing job of the Commission to review the efficiency and economy of departments, including their permanent heads. Mr Hunn told Maori Affairs Wellington staff that such discussions had been underway before the 'loans affair'. He said this involved looking at Maori Affairs departmental papers over the past two years and talking with people.

Mr Hunn saw the report by the Ministerial Review Committee on the department as being a key document in any reshaping of Maori Affairs. This review, carried out at the request of Koro Wetere, was given to him sixteen months ago.

Acting Secretary and Maori Trustee, Bruce Robinson told staff that there had not been agreement from the Maori Affairs Minister to implement all the recommendations, though discussions were ongoing. The review came out in favour of corporatising the department. Mr Hunn said the Ministerial Review, completed in September 1985, was the 'big picture' of economic development for Maoridom, while the Commission's role was more one of reviewing procedures on a daily basis.

However the Prime Minister, David Lange has set up a three person panel to advise him on any restructuring needed in the Department of Maori Affairs. Denise Henare, Sir Hepi Te Heu Heu and Kara Puketapu, all former Board of Maori Affairs members, are expected to report to the PM before Parliament resumes in early February.

All these events haven't been watched idly by Maori people. Apart from messages of support from Maori Affairs staff and other people, the 'loans affair' has become a hot topic at hui around the country. Many Maori have felt betrayed by a 'Pakeha jackpot', of charges of incompetence

being levelled at Maoridom wanting to break out of economic dependence. Some have gone further and spoken of the binding nature of Pakeha rules and regulations which reinforce monocultural dominance.

A major hui at Hoani Waititi marae in West Auckland, called for the resignation of the State Services Commission chairman, and a guarantee from the Government that Tamati Reedy and Neville Baker would not be fired. They said the cause of the loans scandal was the refusal of the Government to implement the recommendations of the Ministerial Review Committee. They said that should be done straight away.

The Maori people must be consulted before any wholesale restructuring of the Department of Maori Affairs comes about. The Prime Minister's three member panel has said it will consult with kaumatua before reporting to the PM, but is this enough?

Likewise the State Services Commission has told Maori Affairs staff in Wellington it'll get back to them with something on paper about the review. Consultation is also taking place with the Board of Maori Affairs, the body statutorily empowered to assist with running the department.

But in the end the Maori people, the client group of Maori Affairs, may well have the least say after all the reviews, overviews and reports have been compiled.

The statutory obligations of the Department of Maori Affairs may be seen as 'having the best structure and organisation to deliver the best service to the Maori people'.

I believe that objective is what Tamati Reedy and Neville Baker were working to in negotiating an overseas loan for the development of their people. They were working from the heart.

PM Unveils Moriori Statue

WAITANGI. 29th DEC 86. Chatham Islands. The Prime Minister, Rt Hon. David Lange, has unveiled a statue in the Chatham Islands to commemorate the Moriori people. The ceremony conducted by a minister of the Ratana Church, Mr Rino Tirikatene, was held at the Moriori land reserve at Manakau. Attending the ceremony were some 500 people, a Ministerial party included the

Hon. Koro Wetere, M.P., Hon. Dr Peter Tapsell, M.P. Hon. Anne Hercus, M.P. Kaumatua were flown in on a chartered flight especially for the unveiling. Descendants of Tame Horomoana Rehe arrived from all parts of Aotearoa to witness the memorial to their tipuna. In his speech the P.M. said, "I commend the work of the Tommy Solomon

Memorial Trust Foundation. I salute the efforts of all of you who have strived to make sure that the Moriori people of these islands do not pass forgotten into history but stay in our memory as they were in reality".

The statue sculptored by Marinus Van Kooten, portrays the likeness of Tame Horomoana Rehe in his prime at the

age of 45. Tommy Solomon as he was known locally died in 1933, he was the last full blooded Moriori.

The statue after the unveiling was hongied by a mokopuna, great granddaughter Keri Louise Hamilton of Kohurau. The P.M. then walked the short distance to a brief service at the grave site of Tame Horomoana Rehe. He then returned to Whakamaharatanga marae to attend a hangi with invited guests and members of the Solomon family. The hangi provided by Chatham Islanders, catered for 700 people. The P.M. had earlier attended the powhiri at the Whakamaharatanga Marae and had listened to the whaikorero of the tangata whenua.