

East Coast and Rangiriri would have to reflect Maori aspirations. All parties must provide voters with work and shelter. Beyond that it will be the cultural imperative that will force politicians to face up to our "other needs".

STATUS QUO

In view of the overwhelming and continuing Maori vote for Labour, it is debatable whether special representation is of any advantage today. As long as all the Maori members of parliament are Labour, Maori are virtually shorn of power and positive participation when a National government is in power. This has long been one of the reasons advanced by the National Party for the Maori voter to switch his allegiance during Labour's long period in opposition. Neither party has yet chosen a Maori as a candidate for a "safe" seat in a Pakeha electorate. Nevertheless, Maoris have been nominated for marginal electorates and three Maori candidates won election at the 1978 elections (Couch, Austin and Peters). National capitalised on this to argue that separate representation is no longer valid. As far as Labour is concerned, four in the hand

(and, if possible, eight), are worth more than a likely sixteen in the bush. Alternatively, National would prefer to rewrite the rules so that both parties start with none in the hand and scramble for the sixteen in the bush. So the status quo is favoured by a segment of Maoridom as a means of guaranteeing ethnic representation.

REAWAKENING

There may well be a reawakening of Maori political interest and a greater willingness to consider the prospects of integrated representation. Under the new electoral rules, it will be interesting to see how many Maori decide to go onto the general roll. My contention is that if they did so in large numbers, Maoris would increase their political effectiveness, since the presence of significant numbers of Maori constituents would force members of Parliament to become more knowledgeable about, and pay more attention to Maori views and interests. Within Maoridom it would be difficult to see Maori members and traditional leaders supporting such a move. The parliamentary representatives would resist any moves which could

possibly affect their own positions of influence, patronage and power in the Maori world. The abolition of the Maori seats would put them out of a job, or at least force them to scramble for nomination with other perhaps better-qualified candidates for the newly-created seats. The Ratana Church, Kingitanga and other traditional organisations have built up a series of networks whereby consultation and participation in the decision-making process with Maori members is virtually guaranteed.

Abolition and the urban bias of newly created seats would shift the focus from their more conservative and rural-orientated views to the more radical and progressively minded urban Maori. It seems likely, therefore, that initiatives for abolition will have to come from urban-based organisations. In association with the trade unions, they will presumably be the groups who will provide likely candidates for the new seats. Traditional voting patterns will be affected in that constituents will be influenced to vote more along ethnic and class lines and it is this combination which will produce the "maverick" vote.

NATIONAL MAORI CANDIDATES



Awarua

Rex Austin MP

50, married, educated Southland. M.P. for Awarua from 1975. Community service with Lions International, past member Southland Hospital Board, member Southland Regional Development Council and Federated Farmers. Has won several farming awards including White Memorial Cup and Wreford Reid Memorial Cup; International Exchange Student in USA 1953; Member of the Parliamentary Select Committees on Maori Affairs, Island Affairs and Petitions, currently chairman of the Maori Affairs Select Committee.

Hunua

Winston Peters MP

36, married with one child. Educated Auckland, primary and secondary school teacher then barrister and solicitor. Northern Maori elec-



torate chairman 1976-77, Hunua electorate 1977-78, candidate Northern Maori 1975, Dominion Councillor 1976-78. Member advisory committee on Polynesians and the law, vice-patron of Auckland branch of I.H.C.

Auckland Central

Dorice Reid

38, Rarotongan, widow with no children. Educated Rarotonga and

Auckland. Present occupation airline sales representative. Community work with Pacific Islanders Housing and Welfare Association, foundation member of PACIFICA, president Cook Island Advisory Committee.

Sports and cultural activities: Whitianga Gun Club, Auckland Met. Gun Club lady champion 1977-79; Auckland Interline Club, Regional V.P. World Airlines Clubs Associations 1978-80; director and Cook Islands Cultural Competitions chief judge 1978-80; director and choreographer South Seas Sensations 1970-73. Part-time interviewer for S.P.T.V. 'Pacific Viewpoint' programme 1978-79. Host for Radio Pacific's 'Pacific Peoples' programme.

Pencarrow

Willard Karaitiana Amaru

45, married with 7 children. Educated Tolaga Bay and Victoria University. Present occupation N.Z. Forest Service, was land agent and manager of Armoured Freightways. Candidate for Southern Maori 1975 and chairman Petone branch national party 1976. Community service on Wainuiomata Intermediate School Committee, Scout leader, Maori Warden and 1974 Young Maori Man of the Year Wellington