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## Union wants one law for all

Wednesday, 25 August 2004, 9:59 am

Press Release: Engineering Printing and Manufacturing Union

Union wants one law for all

A major union is to ask Parliament to rescind the right of Exclusive Brethren employers to bar union officials from their workplaces.

The Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union will lodge a late submission with the select committee considering changes to the Employment Relations Act asking that sections 23 and 24 of the act be repealed.

The move follows an attempt by the church to get the clause widened, and comes in the wake of the union being refused access to a South Auckland site to talk to workers whose Exclusive Brethren employer had banned them from speaking their own languages in the tea room.

National secretary Andrew Little said that sections 23 and 24 were being used to over-ride the basic rights of workers.

“This employer’s wish to impose his religious practices on the workplace is costing the workers their rights,” he said.

Under section 24 of the act, an employer who can prove he is a practising Exclusive Brethren may get an exemption certificate which effectively bars union officials from visiting.

At the moment, the clause applies only to individuals, and exemption certificates cannot be issued to companies.

A group of Exclusive Brethren has asked Parliament to widen the clause to include companies, and to allow Brethren employers to be free to “state their religious beliefs as they relate to their employment status” to employees and prospective employees.

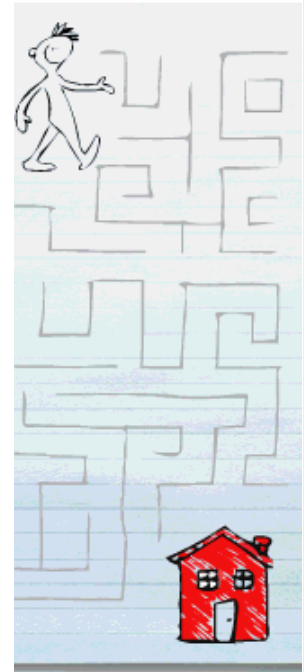
Members of the group say that their belief in the “divine principles governing the master-servant relationship” means that the employing of unionised labour is in conflict with their consciences.

Mr Little said that clauses 23 and 24 were a hang-over from the old days of compulsory unionism, and were designed to protect the rights of workers, not employers.

“They allowed workers who were Exclusive Brethren to get an exemption from being forced to join a union,” he said.

“That is quite a different thing from allowing employers who are Exclusive Brethren to deny non-Brethren workers the right to be visited by unions.”

The union is also considering challenging in court the exemption certificate

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### Politics Wire

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11:06 am | Global Peace And Justice Auckland

#### NZLC Accpets Responsibility For Misinformation

25 Feb | New Zealand Lotteries Commission

#### No Civil Union Licence Applications Before April

25 Feb | Department Of Internal Affairs

#### Shocking contrast in response to world emergencies

25 Feb | Oxfam

#### Service & Funeral for Private Ashley Goodwin Sat.

25 Feb | New Zealand Defence Force

#### Brash Statement Lacks Understanding

25 Feb | New Zealand Nurses Organisation

#### Ramifications of Metals collapse

25 Feb | Engineering Printing and Manufacturing Union

#### Garth George and Tolerance

25 Feb | Happy Clappers

#### Poll Finds Clear Majority For Tail-Docking Ban

25 Feb | RNZSPCA

#### Public Picnic on Private Pakeha Property

25 Feb | Temporary Account 01

### A response to Sandra Paterson from GayWatch

25 Feb | Temporary Account 01

### Birdbrain Logic Laughable

25 Feb | Federated Farmers

### Maxim - Real Issues No.

145

25 Feb | Maxim Institute

### Indymedia Film Screenings

#### kick off for 2005

24 Feb | Indymedia

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#### Accident In Unimog

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More 

given to Fort Richard Laboratories in South Auckland.



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## New Zealand Politics

### Hide Asks PM To Distance NZ From Robson's Comments On Scoop -

ACT Leader Rodney Hide today said Prime Minister Helen Clark must distance herself and New Zealand from her former Minister Matt Robson's attack on the United States. See... Clark must distance NZ from anti-American tirade

### Brash Says A National Government Would Strip "Vague" Treaty References

National Party Leader Don Brash says the next National Government plans to strip references to the vague 'principles of the Treaty of Waitangi' from public service employment contracts. See... Public servants and the 'Treaty principles'

### Former Corrections Minister Robson Fronts Up At Ngawha -

Progressive MP Matt Robson, in the Far North today at the handover ceremony of the Northland Regional Prison at Ngawha, is full of praise for the local community's leadership and commitment to early intervention and rehabilitation. See... Progressive praises re-offending commitment

### Govt Policy Forces Students To Work And Not Study -

New Education Ministry figures suggest that students don't have enough time to devote to their studies, the Green Party says. See... Too much work, not enough study

**Burton Writes To Reassure Fire Brigades** - The Minister Responsible for the Fire Service Commission has today written directly to Fire Brigades around New Zealand to counter what he describes as "cynical election year misinformation" on the part of some opposition MP's. See... Burton moves to quash "misinformation".

ALSO:

- Nats - Labour's fire brigades backdown hailed

**Govt's Beehive Bulletin Is In** - Social Development and Employment Minister Steve Maharey this week announced plans for a simpler, fairer benefit system that is about moving people from dependency to work. See... Beehive Bulletin Fri, 25 Feb 2005

**Traffic Tickets Rise Almost 200% In Five Years** - The number of traffic offence and infringement notices issued by police has skyrocketed 199 percent since Labour came to office, ACT Deputy Leader and Police spokesman Dr Muriel Newman revealed today. See... Traffic fines up

199 percent under Labour

**Shirley Urges That An Inquiry Into Wananga Be Made** - "Its not a question of a ministerial inquiry or the appointment of a commissioner, it is clear we now need both," ACT MP Ken Shirley said today. See... Commissioner & inquiry into wananga both needed

**Vehicle Pre-Registration To Provide Info On NZ Fleet** - Changes to the motor vehicle pre-registration process will result in better information on the New Zealand light vehicle fleet, Transport Minister Pete Hodgson said today. See... Better vehicle fuel efficiency data on the way

**Kakapo Are At It After Three Years Of Celibacy!** - Kakapo are breeding again after a three year wait, Conservation Minister Chris Carter announced today. See... Kakapo breeding for first time in three years

**PM Delivers Pro-Export Speech To Business Leaders** - I have come because of the great importance the government attaches to exporting, and to encouraging our up and coming and innovative small and medium sized companies to take advantage of the many opportunities which exist offshore. See... PM Speech To Go Global Conference  
ALSO: Helen Clark: Address at Villa Maria Winery Opening

**Dunne Says Tertiary Loan Rates "Criminal"** - The Government's decision to hold the student loan interest rate at 7 percent is "almost criminal" when its annual interest take has quadrupled to \$160.8 million in the past three years, United Future leader Peter Dunne said today. See... Dunne: \$160m Govt grab is profiteering off debt

**United Wild At ACT For Refusing Anti-Child Porn Vote** - Marc My Words - 25 February 2005 "in my view Stephen Franks of the ACT party has completely misrepresented the recent Films, Videos and Publications Classification Amendment Act." See... When the only censorship is against the truth

#### **NZ Army To Conduct Broad Review Into Driver Training**



The New Zealand Army today announced that it would conduct an Army-wide review into driver training. The review will be benchmarked, to ensure that the New Zealand Army is conducting driver training to world-class standards. See... Army-wide review into driver training

#### **OTHER RELATED NEWS:**

- Background - Fatal Accident In Unimog
- NZ Military Return Home From Banda Aceh
- Top French Honour for NZ WWII Veterans

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