THE PURGE CONTINUES

Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says with the recent departure of the Chief Magistrate from the NT you get the feeling that this is all part of the ongoing cleansing by this Government of anything that looks or feels like the previous Government.

He said we shouldn’t forget what happened at the beginning. The Government firstly announced the Renewable Management Committee made up of party faithful and friends, then they filled up the 5th floor of Parliament with ex CLP Parliamentarians and the odd ex candidate. There’s Steve Dunham, Jodeen Carney, Barry Coulter, Tim Baldwin, Phil Mitchell, and Jo Sangster.

Gerry said like all good purges, out went the old and in came the new (who were actually old) and all the Departmental CEO’s were given the boot, although some returned after they had served their penance.

Gerry says it reminds him of those Stalinist countries of the past who would overthrow the previous administration and purge (eliminate) anyone or any sign of what went before and quashing any dissent; simply because they had the power to do so.

He says the SMART Court and the BDR are two classic examples. There removal was political not factual but because it was the idea of a previous Government it had to go. The Chief Magistrate had tried to convince the Attorney General otherwise but to no avail. Proper evaluation of these important programmes never happened; it was just part of the CLP purge.

He says another classic example of a purge getting down to minute detail is the change of the term Growth Towns. The government has renamed them Major Remote Towns – same places different title. It made them feel better.

Now CLP folk are on the Planning Commission, the Development Consent Authority and Heath Boards. Do you blame people for being a little cynical about the independence of these bodies?

Gerry said there is now a touch of arrogance (we can do what we like) around the place which is the main reason CLP lost power back in 2001.

It seems that some never learn from the lessons of history.
Cessi foro gallinarum sed surgo