

David Cunliffe IV.

09:42:52 PATRICK: GOOD MORNING DAVID CUNLIFFE THANK YOU FOR JOINING US, YOU SAW IN TORBANS PIECE THERE WHEN YOU WENT FOR THE LABOUR LEADERSHIP YOU SAID THEY NEED US TO WIN, THEY NEED US TO WIN NOW. THAT WAS SIX MONTHS AGO, THERE'S SIX MONTHS TO GO, YOU'RE NO CLOSER TO WINNING TODAY THAN YOU WERE THEN SO WHAT'S GONE WRONG?

43:09:09 DAVID: THE NOW WAS THE 2014 ELECTION NOT THE 2017 ELECTION, WE WANT PEOPLE TO WIN IN 2014 BECAUSE WE WANT THEM TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITIES AND THE CHOICES TO LIVE A BETTER LIFE FOR THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES. THERE WASN'T AN ELECTION IN 2013 AS YOU KNOW...

43:23:10 PATRICK: YEAH BUT LETS LOOK AT THE POLLS YOU'RE BEHIND ON THE LATEST 3 NEWS POLL, YOU'RE BEHIND WHAT DAVID SHEARER WAS, YOU'RE WELL BEHIND EVEN DAVID SHEARER ON PREFERRED PRIME MINISTER, WAY WAY BEHIND JOHN KEY, WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO DO TO CHANGE THAT?

43:35:17 DAVID: SO LOOK PATRICK POLLS BOUNCE AROUND A LOT AND IN THE LAST WEEK THERE WAS ONE POLL THAT HAD ME AT TWICE THE LEVEL THAN THE OTHER POLLS...

43:45:01 PATRICK: THE POLLS ARE DOWN...

43:45:14 DAVID: SO LOOK, I'LL BE UPFRONT WITH YOU THE POLLS AREN'T REALLY WHERE WE WOULD LIKE THEM TO BE BUT THEY'RE PART OF AN ONGOING PROCESS. WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SEE FROM US OVER THE NEXT MONTH IS THAT WE'RE GOING TO BE ROLLING OUT MORE NEWS ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE, A WHOLE LOT OF NEW POLICY AND I'M AROUND THE COUNTRY TALKING TO COMMUNITIES UP AND DOWN NEW ZEALAND. AND I KNOW I HAVE GOT WORK TO DO AND I KNOW I HAVEN'T DONE EVERYTHING RIGHT AND I'M LEARNING...

44:06:22 PATRICK: AND YOU ARE UPFRONT AND MATT MCCARTEN IS OBVIOUSLY IN TO HELP YOU DO THAT WORK... YES WE KNOW HIS STRENGTHS BUT WE ALSO KNOW HIS WEAKNESSES AND ONE OF YOUR MPS HAS TOLD US THIS WEEK MCCARTEN WAS RUTHLESS AND I'LL QUOTE THE MP "I JUST HOPE HE KILLS THE RIGHT PEOPLE" ... THERE'S A RISK HERE ISN'T THERE?

44:28:06 DAVID: THERE IS AN OLD SAYING THAT MATT KNOWS WHERE SOME OF THE BODIES? ARE BURIED BECAUSE HE PUT SOME OF THEM THERE...

44:32:08 PATRICK: YEAH WELL IT MIGHT BE THAT YOUR BODY ENDS UP DOWN THERE?

09:44:34:23 DAVID: WELL LOOK I HAVE A REALLY GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH MATT OBVIOUSLY I WENT THROUGH AN EXTENSIVE SEARCH AND INTERVIEWED QUITE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND NOT ON MY OWN, WITH A TEAM TO BACK THAT UP AND MATT WAS THE STAND OUT PERFORMER. HE HAS AS YOU KNOW SOME OF SIMPLY THE BEST POLITICAL STRATEGY SKILLS IN THE COUNTRY BAR NONE; HE IS A RESPECTED FIGURE AMONGST THE JOURNALISTIC COMMUNITY. HE'S A STRAIGHT TALKER AND A STRAIGHT SHOOTER...

45:02:05 PATRICK: WHAT WE ALSO KNOW ABOUT HIM IS GOING WAY BACK DIVISIONS IN AUCKLAND CENTRAL TO DIVISIONS IN NEW LABOUR, DIVISIONS IN NEW ALLIANCE, DIVISIONS IN THE MAORI PARTY, DIVISIONS IN THE MANA PARTY... WHEN MATT MCCARTEN TRIES TO HELP TO RULE HE DIVIDES...

45:16:02 DAVID: LET'S TAKE A HISTORICAL CONTEXT THERE... MATT FAITHFULLY BUILT THE ALLIANCE PARTY UP TO A FORCE THAT ALMOST TOOK DOWN THE LABOUR PARTY IN 2003...

45:27:00 PATRICK: AND THEN HE BROKE IT TO PIECES...

45:28:12 DAVID: WELL AFTER ABOUT A DOZEN YEARS WHEN THE ALLIANCE PARTY WASN'T GOING ANYWHERE IT ENDED BADLY, I MEAN NOBODY WOULD DOUBT THAT AND I THINK IF YOU ASKED HIM THE QUESTION HE WOULD SAY THERE WAS THINGS HE COULD OF DONE DIFFERENTLY. BUT THE FACT IS FOR MORE THAN A DECADE OF HIS LIFE. HE FAITHFULLY SERVED A CAUSE THAT WAS BIGGER THAN HIM AND THE VALUES HE BRINGS TO THIS ROLE, LETS LEAVE ASIDE HIS POLITICAL STRATEGY SKILLS, THE VALUES THAT HE BRINGS TO THIS ARE ABOUT HELPING PEOPLE. THEY'RE ABOUT CREATING - OPPORTUNITY? – YES THAT WORD OPPORTUNITY, GETTING A FAIRER DEAL FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STACK AS WHAT HE HAS BEEN DOING ALL HIS LIFE AND WE REALLY CARE ABOUT THOSE PEOPLE. THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE, THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE.

46:05:08 PATRICK: NOW I WANT TO TALK ABOUT GETTING FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE STACK ALL THE WAY UP AND WE SAW YOUR HOUSE THERE, IT'S PRETTY AND I'LL QUOTE YOU "A REASONABLY MIDDLE CLASS ...

46:18:16 DAVID: WELL THAT WAS IN RELATION TO JOHN KEY PROBABLY NOT MY BEST LINE BECAUSE THE FACT IS WE'VE BOTH DONE BLOODY WELL AND WE BOTH STARTED FROM HUMBLE BEGGININGS. MY FATHER WAS A COUNTRY PARSON; HE GREW UP IN A STATE HOUSE. I BENEFITED FROM THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT A GOOD STATE EDUCATION SYSTEM GAVE ME, AND A HEALTH SYSTEM THAT LOOKED AFTER MY DAD WHEN HE HAD A SERIES OF HEART ATTACKS AND NEARLY DIED... BUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US IS THIS, IM NOT KNOCKING THE SALVATION ARMY, I'M NOT STOPPING STATE HOUSING IN MY OWN ELECTORATE. WHAT IM SAYING IS THAT I WANT THE LADDER THERE FOR EVERYBODY ELSE AND MR KEY'S GOVERNMENT IS PULLING THE LADDER UP.

46:53:23 PATRICK: AND NO ONE IS DENYING THAT BUT WHAT YOU ARE ALSO DOING IS, YOU ARE ATTACKING THE PRIME MINISTER FOR LIVING IN A NICE HOUSE, IN A NICE STREET...

47:03:03 DAVID: LOOK IF I HAD MY TIME AGAIN PATRICK HONESTLY THAT WOULD NOT BE A LINE I WOULD USE SO FAIR COP I LEARNED FROM THAT. IT WAS THE CONTEXT OF THE DEBATE IN THE HOUSE WHERE THE PRIME MINISTER WAS DUMPING ON THE SLAVATION ARMY'S ANNUAL REPORT ON POVERTY AND I THOUGHT IT WAS A BIT RICH , THAT'S WHY I GOT TEMPTED AND I SHOULDN'T HAVE, OK...

09:47:19:17 PATRICK: YOU'RE ON 260,000 A YEAR; YOUR WIFE PRESUMELY IS ON AT LEAST THAT, MAYBE MORE?

47;24:24 DAVID: WELL GUESS WHAT, MY WIFES PERSONAL INCOME AND BUSINESS IS NO MATTER FOR PUBLIC DEBATE...

47:31:20 PATRICK: BUT YOU MADE IT PEOPLE'S BUSINESS BECAUSE YOU ARE THE ONE WHO STOOD UP IN THE PARLIAMENT AND ATTACKED JOHN KEY FOR BEING RICH BUT THE REALITY IS THIS, YOU'RE RICH YOURSELF AREN'T YOU?

47:39:19 DAVID: I THINK WE'VE DONE WELL, AND WE'VE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT A GOOD STATE SYSTEM GAVE US AND THAT IS WHY IM DETERMINED THAT THOSE OPPORTUNITIES SHOULD BE THERE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION... LET ME SAY SOMETHING PERSONAL AND SOMETHING I HAVEN'T SAID ON TV BEFORE SO WAIT FOR IT... WHEN I WENT INTO PARLIAMENT IN 1999 I TOOK A BIG PAY CUT, I TOOK A BIG PAY CUT AND I DID SO BECAUSE I CARE PASSIONATELY CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHER PEOPLE.

48:13:12 PATRICK: YOU AND YOUR WIFE ARE IN THE TOP TWO PER CENT...

48:17:17 DAVID: MAYBE, I HAVEN'T LOOKED EXACTLY AT WHERE WE MIGHT BE BUT WE'RE DOING FINE AND WE DID SO BECAUSE,

PATRICK: DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE OUT OF TOUCH?

DAVID: NO BECAUSE I GO TO WORK IN MY ELECTORATE AND I GO TO WORK AROUND THE COUNTRY WITH MY SLEEVES ROLLED UP AND IM DOING THIS FOR OTHER PEOPLE RIGHT

48:32:13 PATRICK: AND THAT'S EXACTLY JOHN KEY WOULD SAY SO WHY WOULD HE BE OUT OF TOUCH BUT YOU'RE NOT?

48:36:17 DAVID: AND I'M NOT MOCKING HIM PERSONALLY BUT WHAT IM SAYING IS WHAT WE STAND FOR IS DIFFERENT. WE STAND FOR THE LADDER OF OPPORTUNITY BEING THERE FOR EVERY KIWI. HIS PARTY JUDGED BY HIS POLICIES, HEY WHO CANCELLED THE TRAINING INCENTIVE ALLOWANCE THAT GOT PAULA BENNETT OFF THE DPB, SHE DID. WHO CANCELLED 500 STATE HOUSES IN THE HELENSVILLE ELECTORATE, THE GUY WHO GREW UP IN A STATE HOUSE THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH? AND THIS WEEK WITH CHILDRENS DAY TOMORROW WHAT DOES THIS GOVERNMENT BRING US, THE OMINOUS NEWS THAT THEY UNDERCOUNTED BY 20,000, THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN GROWING UP IN POVERTY THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

49:13:00 PATRICK: BUT THIS IS ALL ABOUT POLITICS AND YOUR BRAND, YOU DON'T WANT YOUR PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE RICH

49:20:20 DAVID: RUBBISH I HAVE BEEN OPEN ABOUT WHERE I HAVE LIVED SINCE I WAS FIRST IN PARLIAMENT... THE GOOD PEOPLE OF NEW LYNN (**BUT YOU WON'T LET PEOPLE IN...**) THAT IS BECAUSE I HAVE PROMISED ANOTHER SHOW FROM YOUR NETWORK FIRST ACCESS AND I KEEP MY WORD, THAT IS THE ONLY REASON THE NATION WASN'T ALLOWED IN THE HOUSE BECAUSE I ALREADY PROMISED IT TO CAMPBELL LIVE.

09:49:41:06 PATRICK: SO YOU ACCEPT THAT YOU ARE RICH

49:43:09 DAVID: I ACCEPT THAT WE HAVE DONE WELL

49:45:13 PATRICK: OK IF WE CAN LOOK NOW TO WHAT YOUR GOVERNMENT MIGHT LOOK LIKE ON ELECTION DAY. CAN YOU GUARENTEE A PLACE IN THAT GOVERNMENT FOR THE GREENS?

49:54:14 DAVID: WELL THAT DEPENDS ON HOW THE VOTERS DECIDE AND IT DEPENDS ON HOW WE GET ON WITH OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GREENS...

50:00:14 PATRICK: SO IS THERE A PLACE FOR THEM OR NOT (WELL THERE MAY WELL BE) CAN YOU GUARANTEE IT ON THE SPOT?

50:04:06 DAVID: YOU KNOW WHAT, I'VE SAID CONSISTENTLY PATRICK ABOUT POST-ELECTION COALITION NEGOTIATIONS, HERE'S SOMETHING VERY NOVEL, THE PRIME MINISTER HASN'T GOT THIS, WE CAN DO IT AFTER THE ELECTION.

50:12:08 PATRICK: YEAH BUT EVERYONES ASSUMING THAT'S A LABOUR-GREENS BLOC, THE VOTERS ARE LOOKING AT IT; THEY WANT TO KNOW HOW IT'S MADE UP...

50:16:11 DAVID: AND THE NEXT LINE IS TELL ME WHY THE TAIL ISN'T GOING TO WAG THE DOG AND HERE IS THE ANSWER , FIRSTLY BECAUSE WE ARE GOING TO BE THE LARGEST PARTY, THE CORE OF THE NEXT GOVERNMENT AND I'M HERE TO MAXIMISE THE LABOUR VOTE AND TO ENACT LABOUR POLICY.

50:30:05 PATRICK: IN THAT KIND OF GOVERNMENT WHERE LABOUR IS AT THE CORE OF IT YOUR PREDECESSOR DAVID SHEARER PROMISED THE GREENS A PROPORTIONAL CABINET, DO YOU EXTEND THE SAME PROMISE TO THEM?

50:38:19 DAVID: THE PROMISE I MADE IS THAT THEY WON'T HAVE THE FINANCE PORTFOLIO, THAT WE WILL WORK CONSISTENTLY AND WELL WITH THEM IF WE ARE IN COALITION WITH THEM AND THEN WE'LL HAVE AN HONEST AND UPFRONT RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM BUT DO YOU KNOW WHAT, I'M NOT MAKING PROMISES BEFORE WE SIT DOWN WITH OUR GREENS COLLEUGUES IF THAT IS WHAT THE ELECTORATE DECIDES...

50:55:16 PATRICK: SO THAT'S THE CHANGE IN POLICY? YOU WON'T GIVE THE GREENS A FAIR SHARE OF THE CABINET?

50:59:03 DAVID: IM NOT HAVING THE CONVERSATION NO IM JUST NOT HAVING THE CONVERSATION... IM NOT NEGOTIATING COALITION AGREEMENTS WITH YOU ON TV MONTHS BEFORE THE ELECTION.

51:07:11 PATRICK: DAVID SHEARER, HE WAS OPEN, HAD ...

51:10:21 DAVID: DAVID SHEARERS A FINE GUY BUT WE'RE DIFFERENT ROOSTERS I'M NOT DOING IT THAT WAY IM GOING TO DO IT AFTER THE ELECTION IN PRIVATE WITH MY GREEN COLLEAGUES...

09:51:18:02 PATRICK: SO YOU DON'T AGREE THAT IT'S FAIR THAT THE GREENS GET A SHARE OF THE CABINET

51:21:24 DAVID: I NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE PATRICK IM SORRY TO FRUSTRATE YOU ON THIS ONE MATE BUT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE OUR DISCUSSIONS IN PRIVATE WHEN WE HAVE THEM AND THAT'S GOING TO HONOUR THE RIGHT OF THE VOTER TO SAY WHAT THEY THINK FIRST. BECAUSE AT THE END OF THE DAY IT'S NOT ABOUT ME, IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU, IT'S NOT ABOUT THE GREENS IT'S ABOUT THE FOLKS OUT THERE WHO NEED A JOB, WHO NEED A GOOD SCHOOL

(PATRICK: NO ITS ABOUT THE VOTERS?) WHO NEED A HOSPITAL AND WHO HAVE THEIR SAY AND WE WILL PUT TOGETHER A GOVERNMENT OF THEIR DREAMS.

51:47:07 PATRICK: AND IT'S ABOUT THE VOTERS WHO FOR THE FIRST TIME ARE VOTING FOR A BLOC WHERE THE LEADING PARTY, IF ITS YOU, MAYBE SMALLER THAN THE OPPOSITION AND MAYBE WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE GREENS. YOU NEED TO BE TRANSPARENT WITH THEM. HOW WOULD THE CABINET WORK?

52:01:17 DAVID: BECAUSE OF COURSE IT IS THE LARGEST COALITION THAT IN THE MMP GETS TO GOVERN, YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT AND WE WILL PUT TOGETHER A COALITION THAT WILL GIVE NEW ZEALANDERS AN OPPORTUNITIES THAT THEY NEED FOR A BETTER LIFE, THAT'S WHAT WE PROMISE.

52:15:22 PATRICK: IF WINSTON PETERS IS THERE, IF THE NUMBERS FALL THAT WAY AND PART OF THE PRICE OF GETTING HIM TO GO WITH THE LEFT IS TO HAVE THE GREENS OUTSIDE OF THE GOVERNMENT, IS THAT A POTENTIAL OPTION FOR YOU?

52:27:21 DAVID: WELL AGAIN LET ME GIVE YOU THE SAME, THIS MAY NOT BE WHAT YOU WANT TO HEAR PATRICK BUT IT IS WHAT IM GOING TO SAY... WHAT THE VOTERS WANT IS THE RIGHT TO DECIDE WHO GOES TO PARLIAMENT.

52:37:23 PATRICK: WHAT THE VOTERS WANT IS TO SEE TRANSPARENTLY HOW YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL WORK.

52:41:18 DAVID: TRANSPERENTLY WE CAN WORK WELL WITH THE GREENS, WE CAN WORK WELL WITH WINSTON PETERS AND WE CAN PUT TOGETHER A GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS ACROSS THE CENTRE AND THE LEFT.

52:48:15 PATRICK: DO YOU RULE OUT THEN BLOCKING THE GREENS IF THAT'S WHAT WINSTON PETERS WANTS, IF THAT'S THE PRICE FOR WINSTON PETERS NOT TO GO WITH NATIONAL, WILL YOU RULE OUT BLOCKING THE GREENS?

52:58:04 DAVID: AND IM GOING TO GIVE YOU THE SAME ANSWER AS I GAVE YOU LAST TIME YOU TRIED TO GET ME TO CONDUCT A COALITION NEGOTIATION ON TV MONTHS BEFORE THE ELCTION, SORRY NOT GOING THERE.

PATRICK: SO YOU MIGHT?

DAVID: SORRY NOT GOING THERE IM GOING TO HAVE THE DISCUSSIONS IN PRIVATE WITH MY PARLIAMENTARY COLLEAUGUES, THE WAY THE CONSTITUTION REQUIRES

PATRICK: SO NO GUARANTEES TO THE GREENS THAT WILL SURPRISE THEM

DAVID: OH YOU CAN TURN THE QUESTION ROUND, YOU'RE GOING TO GET THE SAME ANSWER PATRICK WHICH IS IM GOING TO HAVE THE COALITION DISCUSSIONS AFTER THE ELECTION, THE WAY THE CONSTITUTION SEES FIT, WITH THE PEOPLE THE VOTERS GIVE US.

PATRICK: NOW LOOKING AT WINSTON PETERS AS WELL, A BOTTOM LINE FOR HIM, THE SUPER AGE NOT MOVING FROM 65, YOUR POLICY IS FROM 67, WOULD YOU WALK AWAY FROM PETERS TO TAKE THE RETIREMENT AGE TO 67?

DAVID: WELL THE INTERESTING THING ABOUT THAT DEBATE, I MEAN IT'S PRETTY SIMPLE WE'RE ABOUT ACCORDING TO THE TREASURY, ABOUT TWO HUNDRED BILLION DOLLARS SHORT AS A COUNTRY BY 2050.

PATRICK: BUT IM ASKING YOU...

DAVID: YEAH SO POINT ONE, POINT TWO JOHN KEY AND HIS MATES KNOW THIS THEY'RE JUST NOT BEING STRAIGHT UP WITH THE PUBLIC, WE ARE AND I THINK WE'RE GETTING A LOT OF CREDIT ACROSS NEW ZEALAND FOR HAVING AN HONEST CONVERSATION AND SAYING THERE HAS TO BE A WAY TO SOLVE THAT PROBLEM, RAISING THE AGE TO 67 IS ONE WAY OF DOING IT. IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT, YOU GIVE PEOPLE A LONG LEAD TIME.

PATRICK: ANSWER MY QUESTION

DAVID: SO WERE NOT TALKING 22...

PATRICK: YEAH I KNOW AND WE UNDERSTAND THE ARGUMENTS BUT IF YOU'D ANSWER MY QUESTION, IF WINSTON PETERS MAKES THAT A PRICE, KEEPING IT AT 65 WOULD YOU WALK AWAY BECAUSE YOU BELIEVE THAT 67 IS THE WAY TO GO?

DAVID: AGAIN... EVERYTIME YOU ASK ME TO CONDUCT A COALITION NEGOTIATION BEFORE THE ELECTION IN PUBLIC AS OPPOSED TO IN PRIVATE

PATRICK: IT'S POLICY, ITS ONE OF YOUR CENTRAL POLICIES...

DAVID: I AM THE LEADER OF THE LABOUR PARTY PATRICK, MY JOB IS TO MAXIMISE THE LABOUR VOTE, WE HAVE A POLICY OF MAKING SUPERANNUATION SUSTAINABLE SO ITS HERE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO COME AND EVERY NEW ZEALANDER CAN COUNT ON IT. THAT INCLUDES BEING FISCALLY SUSTAINABLE, IF PEOPLE HAVE DIFFERENT IDEAS ABOUT HOW TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL THEN WE CAN TALK THROUGH THAT... BUT I AM NOT GOING TO DO IT BEFORE THE ELECTION AND I'M GOING TO DO IT IN PRIVATE, NOT IN PUBLIC.

PATRICK: DO YOU ACCEPT THOUGH THAT 67 MIGHT BE ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS TO GO, IF NOT THE FIRST ...

DAVID: I TELL YOU WHAT I ACCEPT, I ACCEPT THAT SUPERANNUATION IS WORTH KEEPING AND WE WANT IT TO BE THERE FOR ALL NEW ZEALANDERS AND WE'RE GOING TO MAKE IT SUSTAINABLE, WE'RE GOING TO MAKE SURE ITS FAIR TO ALL, SO IF SOMEONE CANNOT KEEP WORKING BECAUSE THEY'RE 65 AND THEIR BODY'S BUSTED THEN THERE IS GOING TO BE A WAY THAT THEY WILL BE NO WORSE OFF THAN THEY ARE TODAY.

PATRICK: BUT NATIONAL DOESN'T WANT IT, NZ FIRST DOESN'T WANT IT, THE GREENS DON'T EVEN HAVE IT AS THEIR POLICY. DO YOU ACCEPT THIS THING MIGHT BE DEAD IN THE WATER BEFORE IT EVEN GETS OUT OF THE BOX?

DAVID: NO I DON'T BECAUSE AT THE END OF THE DAY THE NUMBERS DON'T LIE AND WHOEVER IS IN GOVERNMENT, AND I TELL YOU WHAT HERE'S SOMETHING NEW, I DON'T THINK THE BEST WAY THROUGH THIS GIVEN THAT IT IS A 50 HUNDRED YEAR PROBLEM AND THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE TWENTY DIFFERENT GOVERNMENTS IN THAT TIME, IS THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME KIND OF CROSS PARTY ACCORD ON THE LONG-TERM PROBLEMS OF SUPERANNUATION

PATRICK: WELL YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET ONE WITH WINSTON WANTING IT AT 65, NATIONAL WANTING IT AT 65...

DAVID: I'M HERE TO TALK ABOUT LABOUR POLICY NOT NZ FIRST POLICY MATE, SO IF YOU ASK ME A QUESTION ABOUT LABOUR POLICY I WILL GIVE YOU A GOOD STRAIGHT UP ANSWER.

PATRICK: I WILL ASK YOU ONE, YOU SAID YOU WANT TO BUY BACK ASSETS IF YOU CAN, WINSTON PETERS WANT TO DO THE SAME, 30 PER CENT OF GENESIS IS SITTING RIGHT THERE

DAVID: YOU REALLY HAVE A THING ABOUT WINSTON PETERS THIS MORNING HAVEN'T YOU

PATRICK: WELL YOU WILL AS WELL IF HE HOLDS THE NUMBERS.

DAVID: YES BUT I WILL DO IT AFTER THE ELCTION

PATRICK: WILL YOU LOOK AT BUYING BACK THAT 30 PER CENT OF GENESIS

DAVID: WELL IM GLAD YOU RAISED GENESIS BECAUSE WHAT A SHAMBLES HONEST TO GOODNESS ME. FIRST THEY SAW THE REFEREDNDUM, TWO THIRDS OF NEW ZEALANDERS TWO TO ONE SAID NO MORE SALES, AND THEY SAID THEY'D CARRY ON.

PATRICK: IT'S ABOUT LABOUR POLICY

DAVID: YEAH IT'S ABOUT LABOUR POLICY AND FORGIVE ME FOR CHUCKLING A LITTLE BIT BUT THEY DON'T EVEN THINK THAT THEY CAN POSSIBLY GET AWAY FIFTY PER CENT OF THE SHARES BECAUSE THE LAST TWO ELECTRICITY COMPANIES THAT THEY SOLD WERE SUCH DOGS, THEY ARE THE WORST PERFORMING SHARES ON THE SHAREMARKET AND THEY'RE GOING TO BRIBE NEW ZEALANDERS WITH TAX PAYERS MONEY TO GET THE SHARES AWAY. HOW ILLOGICAL IS THAT

PATRICK: YOU TOLD ME TO ASK YOU ABOUT LABOUR PARTY POLICY. YOU WENT AROUND THAT ELECTION CAMPAIGN FOR LEADERSHIP THAT YOU WOULD BUY BACK THE ASSETS, THERE'S THIRTY PER CENT OF GENESIS SITTING RIGHT THERE. WOULD THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT BUY IT BACK?

DAVID: FANTASTIC THIRTY PER CENT OF GENESIS, FIFTY PER CENT OF MERIDIAN, FIFTY PER CENT OF MIGHTY RIVER POWER AND KIWIS WANT THEM STATE OWNED AND THEY WANT TO MAKE SURE WHAT'S LEFT STAYS...

PATRICK: IS LABOUR GOING TO BUY THEM BACK?

DAVID: WE MAY WELL BUY SOME BACK, I AM COMMITTING TO BEING A FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE PRIME MINISTER AND PART OF A FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT. SO AGAIN WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE WHEN WE GET THERE HOW BAD THE BOOKS ARE, WHAT WE CAN AFFORD, WHERE WHEN THE BEST DEALS COME UP

PATRICK: WILL YOU OR WON'T YOU

DAVID: WHY WON'T YOU BUY X ASSET ON Y DATE FOR Z DOLLARS OF MONEY. YOU KNOW THAT I CANNOT POSSIBLY ANSWER THAT QUESTION PATRICK AND IT WOULD BE ABSOLUTELY IRRESPONSIBLE TO DO SO. HERE'S WHAT IM SAYING PLAIN AS ANYTHIHNG, SURE WE ARE GOING TO PROTECT THE EXISTING STATE ASSETS, WE WOULD LIKE TO BUY SOME BACK, WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO DO SO, WE WILL LOOK FOR COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES. IM NOT GOING TO EXPROPRIATE PEOPLES SHARES FOR NO PAYBACK, WE'RE NOT GOING TO NATIONALISE IN THAT SENSE. WE'LL LOOK FOR SOME OPEN MARKET OPPORTUNITIES AS THEY COME AND WE WILL LOOK TO STRENGHTEN THE CROWN'S NET ASSET BACKING.

PATRICK: AS SOON AS POSSIBLE?

DAVID: AS SOON AS AFFORDABLE

PATRICK: THANK YOU DAVID CUNLIFFE.