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: MAJOR GOVERNMENT

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WINAI THABTHONG : THE BUDDHIST MONKS AND THEIR INFLUENCE OVER VOTERS. THESIS ADVISOR : ASSO. PROF. PORNSAK PHONGPHAEW, Ph.D.

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The purpose of this research is to study the monks' influence over the election of the Member of the House of Representative by examining especially in area of Amphur Pohpratabchang, Election Area 1, Pichit. The objectives of this research are to study the role and behavior of the monks, as the local leader. To study factors which encourage his personal behavior, the circumstances that support his behavior as well as his performance while acting as the canvasser for the candidate by studying the procedure and performance as the canvasser. This study using the survey research during the year 1996-1997 among the villagers and monks with the hypothesis that as the local leader, the monks have behaved and had influences towards the voting by which his leadership was formed base on his personality, sacred articles and his acting as the developer monk. The circumstances are the consideration, personal relationship, political interests which are persuaded ground to the canvasser. His performance is always shown by referring to the consideration, close relation and the good qualification of the candidate.

From this study, it can be summarized that in the past, the monks have played the role of local leader, accepted by the villagers, in every election by acting as the developer monk, with his good personality and his special ability or his knowledge in every matters to create the faith among villagers. His role and behavior have been shown in a form of canvasser, helping the candidate apparently. This is to say that the behavior appeared in a form of chatting with villagers, both direct and indirect, regarding the consideration received or to be received. Chatting directly means speaking with the villagers by themselves. Chatting indirectly means saying to the representative of the community leader. Moreover, his behavior showing to the villagers for their understanding was done by keep praising and showing that he is very well acquainted with such candidate. The major factor that persuaded the monk to perform his role and influence over the election as the canvasser is the consideration or reward. The minor factor is the personal relationship with the candidate. The monk is not interested in politics enough for being the canvasser.

ภาควิชา.....ปกครอง

สาขาวิชา.....ปกครอง

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ลายมือชื่อนิสิตร.....ว.ท.ท.

ลายมือชื่ออาจารย์ที่ปรึกษา.....

ลายมือชื่ออาจารย์ที่ปรึกษาร่วม.....