THE NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY

Published by Authority

WELLINGTON: THURSDAY, 11 JUNE 1964

THE First Session of the Thirty-fourth Parliament of New Zealand was this day opened by the Governor-General, when His Excellency was pleased to make the following statement of the causes of the calling of this session of Parliament together:

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

Two months ago it was my privilege to convey to Her Majesty the Queen the congratulations of the Government and people of New Zealand on the birth of Prince Edward. This joyful event has provided the occasion for the people to demonstrate once again their unswerving loyalty and devotion to the Crown and also their deep personal affection for Her Majesty and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

The bonds of human understanding linking us all to the Royal Family have been further strengthened by the happy coincidence of the birth of children to Princess Margaret, Princess Alexandra, and the Duchess of Kent.

It was with a full sense of concern and regret that the people learned earlier this year of the illness of Her Majesty the Queen Mother and of the cancellation of the tour of New Zealand she was then about to undertake. News of her complete restoration to health has been received with profound relief.

Since I last addressed you I have been able to see much of New Zealand, its people, and its island territories. Throughout my journeys here in New Zealand, and more recently in the Cook Islands, Niue, and the Tokelaus, I have been warmed by the generous and friendly way in which my wife and I have been received. We were also given an hospitable welcome by Her Majesty the Queen of Tonga and by the authorities in both Western and American Samoa, and in Tahiti.

In the international sphere, as a result of the rupture of the Communist world by the dispute between the Soviet Union and Communist China, the dangers confronting the free nations have changed in character but not in dimension. As a consequence the greatest threat to peace and security is now presented less by direct confrontation of the great powers than by other conflicts in which they may become involved.

This is particularly the case in South-East Asia where turbulent events in Malaysia, Vietnam, and Laos, endangering both security in the area and world peace, have continued to demand the close and active attention of my Ministers.

The formation of Malaysia, which was warmly welcomed in New Zealand, has met with mounting hostility from Indonesia, leading to a most dangerous state of tension. My Government hopes that a settlement of the issue, involving acceptance of Malaysia, will be possible through negotiation. New Zealand's support for Malaysia remains firm and unequivocal and has been clearly voiced by my Prime Minister both in the SEATO Council and during his recent visit to South-East Asia.

My Ministers have decided that further military assistance should be given to the development of the Malaysian Armed Forces. This will be in addition to the contribution of the three Armed Services to the Commonwealth Strategic Reserve already stationed in Malaysia.

In the closest consultation with New Zealand's allies my Government has continued to assess the need for further steps that might be taken to strengthen and maintain the ability of the free nations of South-East Asia, many of them small countries like New Zealand, to resist subversion and armed attack. It has arranged the dispatch, in a non-combatant role, of an engineering detachment to the Republic of Vietnam.

This concern for the rights of small nations underlies my Government's support for the principle of collective defence and also for the work of the United Nations. New Zealand has maintained its full contribution to the cost of the United Nations' peacekeeping operations and, at the request of the Secretary-General, has provided a police unit for service in Cyprus.

Conscious of the imperative need to reduce world tensions and of the fearful hazards of the arms race, my Government last year directed that New Zealand should become an early signatory of the limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. It has frequently made known its opposition to the prospect of renewed nuclear testing, particularly in the South Pacific.

In the field of national defence you will be asked to consider legislation to implement the decision taken by my Ministers that the three Service Departments and the Armed Forces should in future form part of a unified Ministry of Defence, with greater central control and co-ordination of policy and administration.

The purchase of modern weapons and equipment for all three Services is being sustained. At the same time a substantial re-organisation of the Army will provide a national logistic framework to support and maintain fighting forces in the field overseas. Cooperation with New Zealand's allies in preparations for collective defence will, however, remain the central feature of my Government's defence policies.

Next month my Prime Minister will attend a meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers in London. This gathering of leaders from an expanding and changing multi-racial association of nations will provide a valuable opportunity for an exchange of views on world problems and questions of mutual interest.

In accordance with the wishes of the people of the Cook Islands you will be asked to consider a Constitution Bill containing the provisions needed for the exercise of full internal self-government by the Cook Islands Legislative Assembly next year, together with transitional arrangements. Consequential changes in the existing law will be included in a Cook Islands Amendment Bill.

In addition to these developments, which match the political advancement of territories in other regions of the world, my Government will continue to make substantial financial contributions to the economic and social well-being of the Cook Islands, and of Niue and the Tokelau Islands. It will also continue with a programme of assistance to Western Samoa and with its support for the economic progress of developing countries through the United Nations, the Colombo Plan, the Commonwealth Educational Aid Scheme, and other projects.

It is now widely recognised that, if economic development is to be soundly based, financial aid and technical assistance must be reinforced by the removal of obstacles to the expansion and free flow of world trade. My Government will support measures to secure this objective and will also intensify its efforts to ensure that commercial markets will be open to New Zealand's exports. To this end my Minister of Overseas Trade and my Minister of Agriculture have attended the meetings of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; and in the "Kennedy" round of tariff negotiations the New Zealand representatives have urged that the removal of obstacles to trade in agricultural products must go hand in hand with measures to promote the marketing of industrial goods.

During the past year higher prices for primary products, coupled with the incentives for farm investment introduced by my Government, have laid a firm basis for the steady increase of pastoral production. The 10-year livestock target recommended by the Agricultural Development Conference has been accepted by my Ministers who will continue to give the most careful consideration to the further recommendations of the Conference. Both the State Advances Corporation and the Marginal Lands Board have been provided with additional funds for advances to farmers for development and, in the case of the Board, for the amalgamation of uneconomic farms.

You will be asked to consider a Bill to consolidate the Meat Act and its amendments and to clarify the existing law. This step will complement measures already put in hand to ensure that New Zealand's exports meet the higher standards now being demanded by importing countries.

Negotiations are proceeding for the establishment of an Export Payments Insurance Scheme to provide a means for exporters to insure against commercial and political risks in overseas markets. An Industrial Design Institute will also be established to promote the improved design of goods for the export and domestic markets. My Ministers expect to submit legislation on both these matters for your consideration.

In the confidence that the work of the Fishing Industry Board will lead to a significant increase in export receipts, while also bringing worth-while benefits to the domestic consumer, my Government is reviewing the measures which should be taken to enable the industry to exploit the full resources of the waters adjacent to New Zealand.

The tourist industry has already demonstrated its ability to earn substantial amounts of foreign exchange and the building of more hotel and motel accommodation of a standard suitable for overseas visitors will therefore continue to receive the close attention of my Ministers. Steps are also being taken to promote better amenities in tourist centres where the resources of the controlling authorities are limited.

For the New Zealand economy the past year has been one of rapid growth. Good prices have been received for the major exports, particularly wool, and export income has reached a record level. This welcome rise in overseas earnings has been in part offset, however, by increased expenditure on imports.

Internal demand has been running at a high level, retail sales are well up, manufacturers are meeting a ready demand for their goods, and building permits indicate that the construction industry is also sharing in the expansion of the economy.

My Ministers recognise that, to maintain a steady rate of economic growth, it is essential that demand should not reach too high a level. They have therefore taken steps to reduce excess spending by means of the "wool freeze", increased deposits on hire-purchase sales, and through internal loans coupled with firm monetary policy. You will be asked to amend the Wool Proceeds Retention Act to provide for the withdrawal of money received from wool growers during the season just ending.

Monetary and fiscal policies will continue to be directed towards balanced growth and higher living standards. My Government attaches particular importance to saving and will encourage investment, especially in those sectors of the economy which can produce more goods for export. Legislation to authorise the trading banks to operate savings branches will be submitted for your consideration.

Another measure will deal with the introduction of decimal currency in 1967 and provide for the appointment of a Board to organise the changeover to the new system.

The public accounts for last year show an overall surplus after taking account of all transactions. Estimates of expenditure for the current year, together with related financial proposals, will be submitted to you at an early date.

In the context of its policy of encouraging sound industrial development my Government will press on with the planting of new forests. It is in particular examining proposals which will lead to the establishment in the South Island of large-scale industries, parallel to those of the North, directed towards the full utilisation of an expanding supply of timber.

To ensure that there will be adequate reserves of power in the years ahead my Ministers have approved a five-year programme for the investigation of the hydrology and site conditions of all likely sources of hydro-electric power.

It is gratifying that scientific techniques are now being more widely employed in farming, industry, and forestry and in the proving of mineral resources and other fields. My Ministers welcome the decision of the newly established National Research Advisory Council to prepare a comprehensive report on priorities in research and on the possible need to modify or expand the present scientific establishment.

In order to create an additional source of capital for industry a Bill will be submitted to authorise the establishment of a Development Finance Corporation. Another measure will protect New Zealand's exclusive right to explore the continental shelf and to exploit the resources which may be found there.

In view of the ever-growing demands being made on the road transport industry, and in order to strengthen the financial position of the National Roads Board, you will be asked to enact legislation to implement my Government's decision that the remaining twopence of the fiscal tax imposed on petrol in 1958 should be transferred to the National Roads Fund.

My Ministers are convinced that modern and economic shipping services are of vital importance to the continued welfare of all sections of the population and that, if increased freight rates are to be avoided, there must be a substantial improvement in the turn-round of overseas ships in New Zealand ports. They have therefore appointed a special committee to consider, in the national interest and with a full appreciation of the views of all parties, the report on shipping, ports, transport, and other services prepared by committees appointed by the New Zealand Producer Boards and the British shipping lines.

In the field of housing my Government has further developed its policy of encouraging home ownership by introducing higher loan limits for those with suitable unencumbered sections and by lending for the purchase of existing houses. The building of rental houses for those who need this type of accommodation is being continued.

The increasing deterioration of the older areas in the large cities, together with the need to rebuild depressed localities, has been causing increasing concern to my Ministers. They have accordingly appointed a committee, drawn from the Municipal Association, interested professional bodies, and Government, to recommend action to meet the problem of urban renewal.

A consolidation of the State Advances Act and its amendments will be submitted for your consideration and also a Bill to redefine the objectives of the building societies movement and to provide the framework for its future growth. It will be the purpose of another measure to give relief to those residential ratepayers whose homes are situated in well developed commercial or industrial districts and whose rates reflect the enhanced valuation of land in such areas.

The construction of houses for Maoris is proceeding at a pace beyond what was planned. More and more Maoris are moving from substandard homes to accommodation of good quality in areas offering better employment for themselves and better education for their children. This gratifying evidence of the determination of the Maori people to improve their own living standards is apparent also in the increasing number of young Maoris applying for assistance from the Maori Education Foundation.

My Ministers are deeply sensible of the problems of adjustment arising from the marked trend towards urbanisation in Maori life. Emphasis will be placed on creating, among employers and the community generally, a better understanding of the special difficulties facing many Maori workers in their process of social readjustment.

My Government contemplates further amendments to the law relating to Maori land with the object of reducing the complications arising from multiple ownership and enabling some benefit to be secured from land now lying idle.

The problems which young people have to meet today have recently been the subject of intensive discussion at a Youth Forum convened at the instance of my Prime Minister. Very careful consideration is now being given to the resolutions adopted by this widely representative group.

While continuing to accord high priority to educational needs at all levels my Government has embarked on a massive programme for the expansion of the facilities for higher education in the universities, the teachers' colleges, and the technical institutes in order to meet the demands for skill in the years ahead. A Bill will be introduced to consolidate the existing law relating to education.

To ensure that the right to the equal protection of the law is made effective through access to legal representation in Court proceedings, irrespective of the means of the individual, my Ministers are preparing a scheme of legal aid in civil cases for persons with limited financial resources. This will be discussed with the New Zealand Law Society before legislation is submitted to you.

You will be asked to consider an amendment to the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act to enable industrial unions to engage in welfare activities and to give their members a simple method of obtaining redress when a union fails to observe its rules. Bills will also be introduced to establish a system of superannuation for farm workers and to revise the Wages Protection and Contractors' Liens Act.

My Ministers are considering whether legislation should be enacted to create a reserve power to intervene if, to the detriment of the general welfare, overseas interests should move to acquire a dominating influence in New Zealand companies.

Discussions will be initiated this year on the basis of future representation in Parliament and at a later date you will be advised of the procedure to be adopted in the further study of this question.

An Extradition Bill will be submitted to you to replace the United Kingdom legislation which at present defines the law applying in New Zealand on this subject. A National Military Service Amendment Bill will propose a different system of registration under the principal Act. Further measures to be introduced for your consideration will include a consolidation of the Milk Act; a Bill to make up to date provision for the care and treatment of alcoholics; a consolidated Plumbers and Gasfitters Registration Bill; and a consolidation of Parts I, II, and IV of the Social Security Act.

I commend these matters to your careful consideration and I pray that Divine guidance will attend your deliberations.

Price 6d. BY AUTHORITY: R. E. OWEN, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND—1964