



THE NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY

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THE Third Session of the Thirty-sixth 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

It is four years since I first addressed you in Parliament assembled. My term as representative of Her Majesty the Queen in this, the country of my birth, is now drawing to a close. No greater honour could have been bestowed on me and no commission could have given me greater pleasure. When my wife and I depart later this year we shall leave behind many friends, but take with us memories of a beautiful country and a warm and friendly people whose loyalty to their Queen is second to none.

Honourable Members, my Ministers have welcomed the signs of relaxation of tension and the improvement in the relationships between the Great Powers, the United States, the Soviet Union, and the People's Republic of China. They regret that areas of instability persist in Asia. They are concerned that the conflict in Indo-China has erupted with renewed aggression by North Vietnam. My Government will continue to support the efforts being made to bring an end to the war and to achieve a settlement which preserves the freedom of choice of the people of South Vietnam.

My Government was concerned also by the failure of the United Nations to grapple seriously with the situation in East Bengal and it joined in the humanitarian initiatives taken to promote a peaceful settlement. It has recognised the new State of Bangladesh and will continue a substantial programme of economic aid to that country.

The recent visit of President Suharto confirmed the close and friendly relations that have been developing between New Zealand and Indonesia. It has strengthened my Government's belief that New Zealand has a constructive part to play in Asian regional affairs and that this contribution is welcomed by the countries of the area.

My Government shares the concern expressed in many countries, particularly those in the South Pacific, about the continuance of nuclear tests. It has at every opportunity expressed its opposition to such tests. My Government will continue to take all practical and effective steps to deal with this situation. It is seeking to enlist the support of other countries on this issue at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment now in session at Stockholm and will continue to take and support initiatives in the United Nations designed to proscribe all nuclear testing wherever it may occur.

My Government is developing still further its close associations with Australia and with the island nations of the South Pacific, both bilaterally and through organisations such as the South Pacific Forum. In furtherance of this objective the Governor-General of Australia and Lady Hasluck came to New Zealand at the Government's invitation and my wife and I paid a return visit to Australia, the first such exchange of State visits by Governors-General of these two Commonwealth countries. My Prime Minister has also accepted an invitation from the Prime Minister of Australia to make an official visit to Australia later this month. My Government looks forward to closer co-operation among the countries of the Pacific Basin, and will this year for the first time have its own representation on the Pacific Coast of South America.

My Ministers have approved a further substantial increase in overseas aid appropriations, and will continue to work steadily towards internationally accepted targets for such aid.

Honourable Members, New Zealand is entering a new era in its overseas trade, an era which offers great opportunities as well as challenges. The entry of Britain into an enlarged European Economic Community will be accompanied by a new effort on the part of the members of GATT to reduce trade barriers throughout the world. This could be very much in the interests of New Zealand. My Ministers will spare no effort to turn these opportunities to New Zealand's advantage.

Buoyant overseas earnings and a substantial increase in capital receipts have increased the level of official overseas reserves to a record level. The main threat to balanced economic growth has been inflation. The stabilisation measures announced by my Prime Minister on the 27th of March 1972 have eased the pressure on both wages and prices.

My Government believes that the way is now open for an increase in the real growth of the economy. Positive steps have already been taken by my Government to encourage an expansion in economic activity, which because of the disruptive effects of inflation, has been at an undesirably low level. It released more funds from private savings banks and trustee banks for investment in the private sector, particularly for housing. It has deferred a substantial amount of company tax and provision will be made for this to become a permanent reduction. Simultaneously with the stabilisation measures promulgated in March my Prime Minister announced further measures designed to stimulate spending. It is a primary objective of my Government to ensure that the potential for economic growth is fully realised as soon as possible.

My Government has accepted the targets for growth in New Zealand manufacturing presented to the National Development Conference. To assist in achieving these targets my Ministers will continue to promote the diversification and growth of efficient manufacturing industries, so enlarging job opportunities for the growing labour force, providing a greater range of goods for both producers and consumers in New Zealand and extending the range of New Zealand's exports.

During last year my Government made a major contribution to maintaining the productive capacity of the sheep industry, which had been threatened by a combination of depressed wool prices, a reduced lamb schedule, and higher costs of production. The Stock Retention Incentive Scheme provided much needed financial assistance and helped to check the decline in sheep numbers. The return of more prosperous conditions in the sheep industry, including a very substantial increase in wool prices and more recently in lamb prices, has relieved the position considerably.

The Wool Board and other elected representatives of the farmers have recently endorsed a scheme for the establishment of a corporation to acquire and market New Zealand's wool. This is now being discussed by wool producers, and subject to its general acceptance by them my Ministers will submit for your consideration a Wool Marketing Corporation Bill to implement the scheme.

Earnings from dairy exports have reached record levels and this welcome return to prosperity after several poor trading years will enable the industry to build up its reserves and expand and further diversify its productive capacity.

Honourable Members, my Ministers are concerned that unemployment has increased. Productive employment is being provided on a temporary basis with Government departments and local bodies for unemployed persons and other measures have been adopted to stimulate demand in the short term. A longer-term solution to the problem will be provided by the economic growth which the government is promoting. My Government has also established a new employment service, initially in the Auckland region. Its aim will be to provide an advisory service to workers and employers.

The employment problems of Maoris and other Polynesians are receiving my Government's special attention. There has been a steady expansion of the special vocational courses for young Maoris and other Polynesians from country areas. The scope of the Maori Trade Training Scheme has been enlarged and the number of girls and boys taken on pre-employment courses has been increased. A special vocational course for city girls and boys has now been introduced.

My Ministers have been considering proposals for a review of the existing law on industrial relations. At the same time the Employers' Federation and the Federation of Labour have been holding joint discussions on the form the new industrial legislation should take. The parties have reported to the Government on the results of these discussions. My Ministers propose to introduce a Bill which will revise entirely the present industrial legislation. Its provisions will take into account the views of the Employers' Federation and the Federation of Labour.

My Ministers have carefully considered the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into Equal Pay and the views of interested parties on those recommendations. An Equal Pay Bill will be introduced this Session which will substantially adopt the Commission's main recommendations. There will be some consequential amendments to other legislation.

The Accident Compensation Bill introduced last Session and referred to a Select Committee for study during the Parliamentary Recess will be proceeded with this Session. The new comprehensive scheme for compensation for injured workers and victims of road accidents will represent a significant advance in social legislation.

Honourable Members, following a comprehensive revaluation of the teaching profession and consequential improvements in salaries and conditions of service, there has been a marked improvement in the recruitment and retention of teachers. This will enable my Minister of Education to make further progress in reducing class sizes.

My Government has approved the holding of an Educational Priorities Conference to commence in August this year. The conference will review existing policies, consider proposals for further development and, taking full account of their financial and other implications, recommend priorities for the next decade. The Advisory Council on Educational Planning has agreed to act as the steering committee for the conference.

It is also proposed to introduce this Session, legislation to provide for the establishment of a new university at Albany, north of Auckland.

My Government has decided that a National Housing Commission should be established as recommended by the Commission of Inquiry into Housing and appropriate legislation will be introduced during the Session. My Ministers will also be giving attention to other recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry.

New legislation to establish a Ministry of Fuel and Power and to define its structure and functions will be introduced during the Session. The new ministry will be responsible for co-ordinating the development of New Zealand's energy resources.

You will be asked to consider a Clean Air Bill which will implement the recommendations of the Board of Health Committee on Air Pollution.

Changes are required in the administrative structure of the Health Camps Federation. Accordingly you will be asked to consider a Bill to revise and consolidate The King George V Memorial Children's Health Camps Act 1953.

My Minister for Local Government is discussing with the local authority associations the future development of the structure of local government. If these discussions are successful and agreement is reached on the reforms needed to make local government stronger and more effective, you will be asked to consider appropriate legislation.

You will also be asked to consider Bills revising and consolidating the Fire Services Act 1949 and the National Art Galleries and Dominion Museum Act 1930.

My Ministers will submit for your consideration a Bill to protect the investor in syndicates. The measure will provide for the supply of more information to potential investors and will clarify the relationship between members and between the syndicate and the manager.

Legislation will also be introduced to put into effect certain of the recommendations contained in the Interim Report of the Special Committee to Review the Companies Act.

A Bill concerning hijacking and other offences relating to aircraft will be submitted for your consideration.

You will be asked to consider a Bill providing for the more effective enforcement of fines imposed on offenders and among other measures for your consideration will be a Bill to enable breeders of new varieties of plants to obtain proprietary rights in their innovations.

Honourable Members, my Government is concerned at the increase in crimes of violence, especially common assault, which follows similar trends in other parts of the world. A further increase in the ratio of police to population has been approved. My Ministers recognise, however, that the solution to this problem does not lie solely in strengthening the forces of law and order, necessary though this is. The problem of antisocial activity is as complex as society itself, and my Ministers believe that it must be treated with understanding and firmness.

My Government will continue to improve community welfare services through the efforts of both statutory and voluntary agencies, in order to assist those who need help. The Department of Social Welfare will initiate programmes for further co-operation with voluntary welfare organisations. My Government believes that the spirit of voluntary service, which is so much a feature of the community life of this country, deserves appropriate support and it notes with pleasure the increasing contribution being made by young people to this work.

The Royal Commission on Social Security reported to me in March. My Government accepts the principles set out in the report and is currently undertaking an intensive study of all of its 110 recommendations. You will be asked to consider amendments to the legislation arising out of implementation of recommendations in the report as well as validating increases in social security benefits and certain war pensions and allowances which have been approved and paid since the last Session of Parliament.

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

