



THE NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY

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THE Second Session of the Thirty-eighth Parliament of New Zealand was this day opened by Her Majesty the Queen, when Her Majesty 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

I am delighted once more to be among my people in New Zealand to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of my Accession.

I am, as always, greatly touched by the respect paid to the role of the Crown in your Constitution and by the warm regard shown for me personally.

My husband and I much appreciate the arrangements which my Ministers have made to enable us to tour New Zealand extensively so that we can meet as many people as possible.

I have looked forward to exercising my prerogative of opening this special second session of the thirty-eighth Parliament so that I can join, with the elected representatives of my people, in celebrating the 25 years of my reign. A jubilee, however, ought to be an occasion for looking towards the future as well as for looking back at the past.

The date of my Accession on 6 February coincided with Waitangi Day, so named by my Government as a lasting commemoration of the Treaty on which New Zealand's multi-cultural society is founded. This is, for me, a happy reminder of the lasting links between the Crown and the Maori people.

During these last 25 years New Zealand, like so many other countries, has experienced far-reaching developments in material terms and social change. The Government will meet the challenges and opportunities offered by this rapid evolution.

My Ministers believe they must create an environment in which individuals can choose their own roles and develop their particular talents provided that in doing so they do not infringe the rights of others. To promote true equality of opportunity the Government introduced at the end of the last session of Parliament a Bill to create a Human Rights Commission. My Ministers regard this as a measure of social as well as constitutional importance.

In the present situation, my Ministers are tackling the more immediate problems of inflation, growth, and stability, and are determined to devise policies which will:

- promote greater production;
- further restore business confidence;
- minimise unemployment;
- increase the earnings of exports from farming, fishing, and manufacturing;
- develop the energy resources of the country;
- continue, as appropriate, price and income control measures as necessary counterparts of each other; and
- create harmonious industrial relations.

All these objectives will be sought within the context of providing incentives and rewards for productivity and thrift, conserving the nation's indigenous wealth, and preserving the natural environment.

My Ministers will also bring forward measures to cope with problems resulting from longer term trends such as rapid urbanisation linked with increased industrialisation, the changing population structure, the increasing diversity of ethnic and cultural groups, and the emergence of a multi-cultural society with plural values. These policies will be formulated in line with the firm belief of my Ministers that the family unit is the continuing basis of New Zealand society.

My Ministers see New Zealand as a Pacific nation—in an increasingly interdependent world. The Government regards the South Pacific as a region of immediate New Zealand interest and will work with other independent and self-governing states of the region for mutual progress and welfare. The Government will continue to work for harmonious relations with all states and attaches particular importance to the Commonwealth and the United Nations as instruments towards this end.

The extension of trade—by diversifying products and services, attaining new markets and seeking to improve access to well-established ones—will continue to be a major aim of my Government's foreign policy. An equally important aim is the maintenance of close links for collective defence with New Zealand's traditional allies, of which the ANZUS Pact is the keystone.

The future may seem more complex or less clear than it was a generation ago, but I am sure that this will in no way inhibit the constructive spirit or impair the resolve of this young nation which believes in itself and can look forward to the future with confidence.

Honourable Members of the House of Representatives, I am grateful for the opportunity of being able to address you today as legislators who have successfully blended old and traditional forms with new institutions and practices.

A feature of the constitutional development of New Zealand has been the close identification of the Sovereign with the nation. In 1974 I gave my assent to an Act which defined the Royal Style and Titles in relation to New Zealand.

In line with this development my Ministers will introduce at this session a Bill to provide for the elevation of the Public Seal to the title of "The Seal of New Zealand" and to make amendments to the New Zealand statutes and those United Kingdom statutes in force in New Zealand which authorise the use of existing Seals.

The Seal of New Zealand will be used to execute New Zealand documents which at present pass under either the Public Seal or one of the United Kingdom seals. Thus I, as your Sovereign, will in future use The Seal of New Zealand on all such documents.

I note with appreciation that my Ministers intend, at the third session of this Parliament, to promote legislation establishing The Queen Elizabeth II National Trust which will commemorate my Silver Jubilee. The Trust is designed to ensure that sufficient open space is provided for the needs of New Zealanders.

I pray that the highest principles will continue to influence your deliberations and that the blessing of Almighty God rest upon your counsels.