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THE First Session of the 41st 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 a privilege for me to exercise for the fifth time the prerogative of Her Majesty The Queen in opening this First Session of the 41st Parliament.

To exercise this privilege twice—in almost as many months—is an unusual experience. It is a striking illustration of the ability of a democracy to accept changes in mood and direction after its citizens have expressed their rights through the ballot box.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, the mood is for prompt responsible action using the months ahead as a rarely given opportunity to change the nation's direction. The desired course was outlined by the Government in its campaign:

- first to place before the country the full facts of New Zealand's economic predicament
- second to involve in consultation and discussion informed and interested groups to help shape policies which will give greater long-term strength to our international trading, and internal financial positions
- third, for those policies to be implemented to take into account our country's tradition of social justice, above all to ensure that necessary sacrifices do not unduly fall on vulnerable members of our community.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, the New Zealand economy suffers from severe structural imbalances which express themselves in adverse external trading balances, large fiscal deficits, the past need to use direct controls to suppress inflationary pressures, high unemployment and low economic growth. The Government is committed to overcoming these imbalances by introducing integrated economic policies; these will be based on a programme of effective and equitable management.

In its programme of economic management, the Government proposes to take account of both the need for clear objectives and the need, through that open system of government to which it is committed, to involve all sections of the community in decision-making. Therefore representatives from a number of significant groups have been invited to join in an Economic Summit Conference next month.

The Government will place before the Conference a frank statement of New Zealand's economic position and of the Government's economic objectives. It will seek a commitment from all groups in the community to set aside sectional interests and to work together to achieve economic growth and increased opportunities for employment.

The aim must be to put in place policies which face up to the fundamental problems, yet provide assistance to those most in need. This approach is essential if we are to achieve increased employment and—in the medium term—sustained economic growth with internal and external balance. The task will not be easy. **Sacrifices will be required from every New Zealander** in order to overcome and remove the structural imbalances of our economy.

While restraint in wages will be necessary, the Government, in requesting such wage restraint, will ensure that the burden will be shared fairly throughout the community. For those groups which would otherwise carry a disproportionate burden the Government will provide assistance through a better direction of tax and social welfare assistance.

Lasting expansion in employment depends on the ability to achieve sustainable economic growth.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, over the last 20 years New Zealand's share of world trade has dropped dramatically with grave consequences for living standards. Accordingly, the Government attaches high priority to achieving a faster rate of export growth. It must be emphasised that increasing the processing component of our products before export in ways which are responsive to market demands can contribute greatly to that objective. Every encouragement will be given to accelerating the process of adding locally produced value to our exports.

A Market Development Board will be established as soon as possible to co-ordinate the Government's export strategy.

The role of the Export-Import Corporation will also be expanded and New Zealand's trade presence overseas will be strengthened by opening new posts and reinforcing existing ones. The Government will continue to combat protectionism which in many markets denies our exporters fair access. Bilateral interests will be pursued vigorously in the short term.

Together with other productive sectors the primary industries will be encouraged to increase the processed component in their exports. In support of these moves legislation will be introduced to formalise the Meat Industry Council, and a Horticultural Export Authority Bill will also be introduced.

With regard to the fishing industry, the Government has already released the long overdue National Fisheries Management report on the inshore fishery. A top priority will be to find solutions to the industry's problems. The review of the deepwater policy will go ahead, taking into account the structure and investment of companies presently concerned with that fishery.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, the Government will give priority to measures which will increase employment—the aim must be to provide jobs for all citizens who want to work. There is no simple solution to this problem. There must be co-ordinated policies on several fronts. An essential element is a stable and well understood economic strategy which gives employers the confidence to plan ahead and provide additional jobs. The labour market must operate more flexibly and so match work with people. A quarterly household labour force survey will be introduced to provide more comprehensive statistics.

Agreement on new and permanent wage-fixing machinery is a further major aim of the Government. Urgent discussions will be held in the weeks leading up to the Economic Summit Conference in September. Various elements of the agreement will be embodied in legislation. The Government also plans a major review of industrial relations culminating in the publication of a green paper.

The Government intends to introduce a Government Superannuation Fund Amendment Bill which will make available new superannuation conditions for state servants. These changes will provide both contributors and employing authorities with a flexibility not at present available.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, as a trading nation, New Zealand depends on moving goods efficiently and economically to markets within the country and to places of export. Co-ordination of various kinds of transport to produce the most efficient service at the lowest possible cost will be the aim of transport policy.

The role of Railways as a primary freight carrier over long distances will be restored and public urban transport will be promoted with the ratepayers' interests in mind. Air New Zealand and New Zealand-owned shipping will be given positive support.

The improvement in New Zealand's self-sufficiency in transport fuels will be continued. To this end there will be an increased emphasis on the development and use of CNG, LPG and biogas. The energy projects which are under construction will be completed. It is the intention, however, to examine closely any new project proposals.

The success of the Government's policies for the revitalisation of the economy will depend on soundly-based development in the regions. The enhancement of regional resources is another key to the creation of the additional jobs needed to return to full employment.

It is intended to repeal the National Development Act. Instead the Government will rely on existing well-developed planning procedures, modifying them if necessary to ensure the Planning Tribunal makes the final decision on major projects.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, tourism has the capacity to contribute substantially to New Zealand's overseas funds and often to employ additional staff in just those communities where employment opportunities are limited.

The Government will co-operate with the newly established New Zealand Tourist Industry Federation to help this industry develop its full potential.

The Government believes that an increasing number of people will wish to visit New Zealand to share with New Zealanders, if only briefly, a quality of life which is rare in a polluted, crowded and anxious world. It will be the Government's aim that in developing tourism great care is taken to minimise its social and environmental impact. The very qualities which attract visitors to these shores must not be impaired and New Zealanders must still have the right to enjoy to the full their own heritage.

Our country's distinctive qualities have been given international prominence once again by the achievements of our sportsmen and women at the recent Olympic Games. I am sure that all New Zealanders admire and are proud of the skills and the dedication of the whole team. They showed that special blend, so difficult to attain, of competitiveness, courage and true sportsmanship which has become the mark of New Zealanders who represent their country in international sporting events.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, it is intended to examine ways of improving our primary health services and in particular, the level of the General Medical Services benefit payable to patients.

Health promotion programmes will receive more emphasis, with child health being a priority. The programme of child-health checks and immunisation will be expanded to ensure that as many children benefit as possible. Efforts will be made to make these services universally available, and to encourage parents to see that they are used by their children.

In recent times much attention has focused on the care and protection of children. A revision of the Children and Young Persons Act will therefore be introduced for recess study.

The Government is committed to education as a life-long process. It has a mandate to make a number of improvements in the education system. The issues involved, however, will be the subject of full and of careful consultation with all interest groups concerned. Discussions on the core curriculum will be reopened.

An Education Bill will be introduced providing for a number of administrative amendments, including provision for setting up new Education Authorities, and empowering existing Education Authorities to administer resource centres to improve educational opportunities for teacher and community groups.

In the housing field, the Government will work actively to overcome the crisis in rental accommodation and to improve the prospects of home ownership which have been denied to an increasing number of New Zealanders.

The role of the Housing Corporation as the prime provider of home finance to low income home-seekers will be restored and assistance will be directed towards those most in need.

The Government will stop the depletion of state house units and take steps to ensure that there is an adequate supply of state rental units to meet urgent housing needs.

The Government will consult with the building industry to bring about policies aimed at restoring stability and confidence and at maximising employment opportunities.

On the domestic scene effective commercial competition is a crucial element in establishing a prices policy which promotes industrial efficiency, inhibits inflation, and protects the consumer. There will be a reievw of ways of developing effective competition, and legislation towards this end will be introduced as soon as practicable.

Consumer Affairs will receive special attention by the Government. The portfolio of Minister of Consumer Affairs has been created to provide specific Ministerial responsibility for the promotion of the interest of consumers.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, the Government will heed the call of Maori people for better opportunities in employment, education, health and housing. There will be full consultations on these concerns. Cultural and social initiatives, such as Te Kohanga Reo and Maatua Whangai, will be encouraged.

A comprehensive Maori Affairs Bill will be introduced later this Session embodying Maori principles that will develop a dynamic kaupapa.

The Government is aware that the needs of New Zealand's Pacific communities have not been met. To provide specific Ministerial responsibility in this area a new portfolio of Pacific Island Affairs has been established.

The Government also recognises that existing legislation covering immigration is both out of date and difficult to administer. The previous administration's Bill was not satisfactory and this administration is currently reviewing the law. Once that is done a new Bill will be introduced.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, the Government believes in the continued development of an independent, publicly-owned broadcasting system which has maximum choice and independence in public affairs and documentary production, and which has an awareness of the possibilities opened up by recent technological advances. To this end it is proposed in the immediate future to appoint a Royal Commission to investigate the long term future of broadcasting and telecommunications in New Zealand.

The Government will undertake a review of the forms of local and regional government, their autonomy, accountability and effectiveness. In addition, a survey of the local government electoral franchise and processes is planned.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, it is proposed to introduce a Bill of Rights and table it with a White Paper, for reference to a Select Committee. The Committee will be invited to consult extensively in an unhurried but thorough manner. The Bill is not to be enacted until 1986.

The establishment of a Ministry of Women's Affairs is a pledge of the Government's recognition at the highest level of the often still undervalued contribution of women.

A Rape Law Reform Bill will be introduced at an early date. It will contain some additional provisions favoured by the Select Committee which amended the previous Bill. A revised Criminal Justice Bill will also be introduced.

The administrative services to Parliament will be reorganised. A Parliamentary Service, responsible to the Speaker and Members of Parliament, will replace the Legislative Department. Legislation implementing the new arrangements will be introduced this Session.

A Standing Orders Committee will be set up to recommend amendments to parliamentary procedure and to examine the law of parliamentary privilege. The first task of the Committee will be an examination of the select committee system, so that it can make recommendations on a new select committee structure for implementation in 1985.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, the late Norman Kirk said, sixteen years ago:

Basically, there are four things that matter to people:

- They must have somewhere to live,
- They must have food to eat,
- They must have clothing to wear,
- And they must have something to hope for.

Everything relates to this human aspiration.

These words are still valid. Nothing is more important than the hope for peace and security.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, the Armed Services are to be structured, trained and equipped to be capable of effective defence on national security interests in New Zealand's own region and of supporting New Zealand's wider security interests. Defence co-operation with Australia will be enhanced.

The Armed Services will provide a capability helpful to our South Pacific partners, if that is requested, and to participate in UN peacekeeping operations. They will also be equipped to assist with civil defence in New Zealand and to meet other national requirements in peacetime.

Nuclear weapons pose the ultimate threat to New Zealand and every other country. The Government will act both internationally and regionally to demonstrate its concern over this fundamental issue. Internationally, New Zealand will oppose the proliferation of nuclear weapons by promoting further acceptance of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Government will continue to promote a comprehensive test-ban treaty and urge massive reductions in existing nuclear arsenals. In concert with our neighbours, the establishment of a South Pacific nuclear weapon free zone will be sought.

The economic security of the countries of the South Pacific is of central importance to the future of the region. The Government's aid and trade policies will recognise this. The contribution New Zealand can make will depend, in part, on our own economic well-being and on our own successes in world markets. The opportunities for growth are there. They demand an energetic and imaginative approach. The Government will do its part and encourage others to do theirs.

New Zealand will no longer ignore its ties with Africa or with India, which is a major Commonwealth partner and the world's largest democracy. The Government will promptly re-establish the diplomatic post at New Delhi.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, never before have we had so little time in which to do so much, I commend all these matters to your careful consideration, and I pray that divine guidance will attend your deliberations.