

Excellent progress is being made with the task of meeting the housing needs of our people. There are indications that the housing shortage has been overcome in some areas, but my Government is maintaining its efforts to meet the problem where it exists.

Our growing population carries with it an increasing number of pupils in all types of schools. Very great efforts continue to be made in the provision of adequate school accommodation and a sixth college has been established, at Palmerston North, for the training of primary teachers. A start has been made on the erection of additional permanent buildings to meet increased University rolls.

Certain aspects of our hospitals administration have been under review and proposals involving some changes in hospital administration following changes in the financing of hospital services will be placed before you for your consideration.

My Government has already given effect to several of the recommendations of last year's National Conference on the Care of the Aged. These have been of material assistance to many of our elderly people.

A Bill dealing with reciprocity in social security benefits between the United Kingdom and New Zealand will be placed before you during the session. My Government has introduced improved superannuation benefits for Government and local body employees, and you will be asked to consider a Bill consolidating the superannuation legislation.

One important measure which my Ministers propose to submit for your consideration during the session is a consolidation and revision of the electoral law. It is hoped that the new legislation will effect considerable simplification of procedure and detail. Other consolidating measures that you will be asked to consider will be an Evidence Bill and a Trustee Bill.

My Ministers are giving consideration to the proper procedure which should be followed by Ministers in the arrangement of their private interests on assuming office under the Crown. The views of my Ministers will be conveyed to you and you will be asked to give this question your careful consideration.

Legislation will be placed before you re-enacting the Indecent Publications Act along the lines recommended by the Parliamentary Committee on Delinquency. Amendments to the Shipping and Seamen Act 1952 and to the Harbours Act 1950 will also be introduced.

You will also be asked to consider Bills dealing with the control of our national archives, the control of destructive and noxious animals, and a revision of the law relating to explosives and dangerous goods.

In the early part of this session, a Counties Amendment Bill will be placed before you providing for differential rates in county towns. Subsequently, a Counties Consolidation Bill will be introduced as a further step in the general codification of the law relating to local authorities.

Excellent progress has been maintained during the last six years in work on the consolidation of our statutes and some eighty-four have already been completed. This work will be continued with a view to issuing a reprint of the statutes which cannot be long delayed.

However, following the large number of Bills passed in recent sessions, this session of Parliament is expected to have a comparatively light programme of legislation.

May the blessing of Almighty God rest upon your counsels.