

Under the direction of my Minister of Overseas Trade, continuous attention is being given to the expansion of New Zealand's overseas earnings. The valuable contribution that forestry and its associated industries can make to this end, as well as to domestic requirements, is fully recognised. A representative Export Advisory Council will be established. My Ministers are also actively promoting the development of the tourist industry in the confidence that it has an important part to play in improving the country's balance of payments.

The farming industry will, however, continue to be the foundation of the country's economy. My Government's constant aim, therefore, is to encourage farm production, to bring in new land that can be developed economically and to promote the more intensive and efficient use of land now being farmed. My Ministers are taking all possible steps to protect existing markets and develop new ones for New Zealand's farm production.

You will be asked to consider an amendment to the Land Settlement Promotion legislation to abolish the personal residence requirements of the Act and thus stimulate the private development of farm land. Greater opportunities are being given to civilians to obtain farms developed by the Government; the legitimate rights of ex-servicemen have been protected.

The consolidation of the New Zealand Dairy Board and the New Zealand Dairy Products Marketing Commission into a single new organisation, under a Bill to be placed before you, will mark a significant step forward in the development of the dairy industry. Proposals to alter the constitution of the New Zealand Wool Commission are also under examination. You will be asked to consider Bills to amend the Stock Act and the Hydatids Act.

My Ministers will continue to encourage the establishment of research associations supported jointly by the farming and other industries and the Government. I was pleased recently to open the new laboratories of the Meat Industry Research Institute in Hamilton.

The demand for labour has risen to a point of intensity prejudicial to the stability of the economy. Production on the farms and in industry is being hampered. To promote stability, while maintaining full employment, my Government has accordingly taken action to curb the rise in demand for goods and services and to increase the inflow of assisted immigrants.

You will be asked to consider an amendment to the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act designed to restore the principle of voluntary membership of industrial unions; the right will be given to negotiate preference clauses in awards and industrial agreements. You will also be asked to consider legislation to consolidate and revise the Agricultural Workers Act and the Shearers' Accommodation Act, and amendments to the Apprentices Act, the Factories Act, the Machinery Act, the Tenancy Act, and the Workers' Compensation Act.

A Royal Commission is to be appointed shortly to inquire into the structure and functions of the State services. It will be asked to recommend changes needed to ensure that the public service is properly staffed and equipped to deal in the most efficient manner with the complex technical and administrative problems which face it today.

My Ministers have given close consideration to the present heavy demands on the building industry. It has been necessary to delay some Government construction projects. House building in particular has been at an extremely high level, with most of the finance coming from Government sources.

There has been a marked fall in urgent demands for State houses and this year the building programme will be reduced accordingly. More Crown sections are being made available to those who wish to build their own homes. You will be asked to consider legislation to facilitate the purchase of existing houses. The Family Benefit Capitalisation Scheme is to be extended to the purchase of State rental houses by tenants.