

particular press forward with the establishment of the iron and steel industry as a New Zealand venture to which the public will be invited to subscribe capital.

A Bill will be presented to you to validate an agreement on the development of the power potential of Lakes Manapouri and Te Anau under which power will be supplied to the national electricity system and options for power will be granted to facilitate the establishment of an aluminium industry in Southland.

To ensure the full development and use of the national fishing resources you will be asked to consider amendments to the Fisheries Act to implement recommendations of the Select Committee on the Fishing Industry.

My Ministers are concerned that the transport industry, both public and private, should be in a position to meet the needs of a steadily expanding economy. They will accordingly continue the modernisation of railway facilities, give full support to the work of the National Roads Board, and develop airports and airway facilities to the standards required for the operation of modern commercial aircraft.

Agreement has been reached by the waterfront employers' and workers' organisations and the Federation of Labour for the appointment of a committee to examine the practicability of introducing shift work on the waterfront. The Waterfront Industry Commission and the appropriate Departments are also assisting the comprehensive review of factors affecting the turn-round of overseas shipping, which is being made under the sponsorship of the New Zealand Producer Boards and the British shipping lines.

In the field of Maori affairs my Ministers continue to attach special importance to measures designed to promote the legal, social, and economic equality of Maori and European citizens. In the execution of this policy they welcome the valuable assistance which can be given by the New Zealand Maori Council established during the past year. Trade-training schemes have been continued and expanded, and promising Maori post-primary pupils are being encouraged and helped to continue their education. In this connection the financial support accorded to the Maori Education Foundation's campaign for funds has been most gratifying. In the vital matter of accommodation, more houses have been provided for Maoris during the last year than in any previous year, with the result that a programme designed to house 4,300 Maori families in four years has been carried out in three.

Over the country as a whole the housing position has continued to improve. More than 5,000 families were allocated State houses last year and the number of applications, both in total and in the urgent classification, has fallen. In the coming year the housing construction programme will continue at the present level but, as housing is now very much a localised problem, special attention will be given to those areas where the need is greatest. In accordance with my Government's policy of emphasising home ownership, half of the serviced sections produced during the last two years by the Housing Division have been made available to the public. There has also been a welcome and considerable increase in the sale of State houses.

Action has been taken on a number of recommendations of the Commission on Education and my Minister of Education is continuing his consultations with local controlling authorities, teachers' organisations, and other interested groups on the action to be taken on the remaining recommendations. Bills to constitute the Massey University of Manawatu and the University of Waikato will mark a further step in the advancement of higher education. Another Bill will be introduced to reconstitute the National Council of Adult Education. You will also be asked to consider measures to clarify the law relating to the enrolment and attendance of school pupils, and to make provision for the establishment, control, and organisation of technical institutes.

My Ministers continue to be concerned with the problems posed by the youthful offender. Pre-release hostels are being established to help in transforming these offenders into useful citizens by bridging the gap