

It is a special aim of Government policy to foster conditions in which the Maori people may take fuller advantage of the employment and educational opportunities now open to them. Plans are being made for the extension of trade-training schemes for Maori boys and the further development of city pre-employment courses for both boys and girls. My Government is continuing its programme of Maori housing and the extension of hostel accommodation in the cities. The Maori Trustee proposes to erect a large block of flats for older apprentices in Auckland.

You will be invited to make provision for a scheme of legal aid in civil cases for persons with limited financial resources. A Bill has been prepared which will ensure that all are able to secure the assistance of the Courts.

Legislation will be introduced extending the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act to cover loss or damage to property caused by prisoners escaping from penal institutions.

It is proposed to submit an Alcoholics Bill and a Bill to establish a Hospital Services Tribunal which will fix the conditions of employment of the majority of employees in public hospitals. A general revision is being undertaken of the mental health legislation.

Social Security benefits and war pensions have been substantially increased. Higher Government grants are also being made to local bodies for the construction of pensioners' housing and to church and other organisations engaged in social welfare and youth work. This assistance is now to be made available for the improvement of homes for the aged and hostels for young people as well as for other purposes. The capitation grant for children maintained in a registered children's home has also been increased.

You will be asked to consider Bills to consolidate the Child Welfare Act and to remove the legal disabilities of children born out of wedlock.

Among other measures to be submitted to you will be a Submarine Cables and Pipelines Protection Bill, a consolidation of the Rating Act, a Surveyors Bill, an amendment to the Reserves and Domains Act, a consolidation and revision of the law relating to the conduct of local elections and polls, an Airport Authorities Bill, and amendments to the Family Protection Act, the Geothermal Energy Act, and the Factories Act.

All these matters I commend to your careful consideration and I pray that Divine guidance will attend your deliberations.