

My Ministers propose to put before you a number of measures in the field of social welfare. These will include Bills consolidating and amending the Mental Health Act, the Child Welfare Act, and the Food and Drugs Act. You will also be asked to validate recent increases in Social Security benefits and war pensions.

My Government will continue by all available means to advance the welfare of the Maori people. It will give due attention to the development of Maori land, to improved housing for Maori families, to the apprenticeship training schemes, and to the city pre-employment courses. A Bill to amend the provisions of the Maori Affairs Act 1953 and other special Acts relating to Maori land will be introduced early in the session.

You will be invited to give further consideration to a Bill revising the law governing bankruptcy and other forms of insolvency. This measure, which was introduced during the previous Parliament, has been amended following discussions with interested parties. The provisions of a Bill to provide aid in civil proceedings to persons of modest means are also being reviewed before the proposal is again submitted to you.

My Ministers anticipate that during the forthcoming session you will complete the consideration of the Electricity Distribution Commission Bill, the Rating Bill, and the Water and Soil Conservation Bill, which have been studied by Select Committees during the Recess.

A Trustee Companies Bill is being drafted to bring together and to revise the separate Acts relating to these companies.

My Government proposes to introduce legislation providing for referenda on the term of Parliament and on hours for the sale of liquor in hotel bars. There will also be a measure to extend the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman to some local bodies which derive revenue principally from Government grant. A review is being made of the Local Government Commission Act.

There has been good progress in the development of plans for the formal establishment of a maritime park in the Hauraki Gulf and for the control of the islands which will constitute the park. My Ministers are also formulating proposals for the reservation of certain areas around Lake Taupo. A Committee has been established to consider the best way of commemorating the bicentenary in 1969 of Captain Cook's first landing in New Zealand.

My Ministers have paid close attention to the plans for the introduction of decimal currency on 10 July. You will be asked to give early consideration to a Decimal Currency Bill which will complete the legislative changes that are necessary for the changeover to dollars and cents.

In order to provide for the further development of broadcasting and television services, my Ministers will submit to you a Bill to establish an independent licensing authority to consider applications for additional stations and to supervise programme standards.

Among other measures which will be placed before you this session there will be a Post Office Amendment Bill, a Superannuation Amendment Bill, a Sale of Liquor Amendment Bill, and a Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Amendment Bill, together with proposals to amend the Local Authorities Loans Act, the Valuation of Land Act, and the Town and Country Planning Act.

I commend these matters to your careful consideration and I pray that the guidance of Almighty God will bestow its blessing on your deliberations.

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