

Amendments to the Factories Act are proposed to standardise fire escape provisions, to deal with excessive noise in factories and to increase the flexibility of hours of work in certain circumstances. It is also proposed to amend the provisions of the Machinery Act relating to training and supervision in respect of potentially dangerous machines. A minor amendment to the Apprentices Act is also proposed.

Honourable Members—The recent discovery of oil off the Taranaki coast is indicative of the growing interest being shown in the exploitation of New Zealand's mineral wealth. My Government believes it is in the public interest to develop all mineral resources fully. It will continue to provide incentives to encourage exploration and mining by both New Zealand and overseas companies with appropriate safeguards to ensure that damage to the nation's heritage of National Parks and Scenic Reserves is minimised.

A review and consolidation of the mining legislation is proposed and associated amendments to the Water and Soil Conservation Act and the Construction Act will also be put before you.

The industrial development policy of my Government will continue to stress the importance of export earnings or import savings and the greater use of national resources of capital, labour and materials to achieve a higher New Zealand content in industrial production. Overseas investment which will help to promote these objectives will also be encouraged.

The New Zealand Steel Industry commenced the production of galvanised steel sheet in November. It is now commissioning its steel-making furnaces and will produce steel from New Zealand iron sands later this year. The new aluminium smelter at Bluff is in the course of construction. Both these vast new industries will be using the natural resources of New Zealand for the benefit of New Zealanders. They demonstrate the growing maturity of the nation's industrial development.

To facilitate the development of industry my Ministers intend to continue the programmed exemption of plant, equipment and materials from import licensing control.

You will be asked to continue your consideration of two measures introduced last year to protect the consumer—the Consumer Protection Bill and the Trading Coupons Amendment Bill.

Two further Bills to protect consumer interests will be introduced this Session, a Hire Purchase Agreements Amendment Bill and a Chattels Transfer Amendment Bill. Both measures arise from the adoption by my Government of certain recommendations of the Tariff and Development Board on Instalment Credit Trading.

Minor amendments are also proposed to the Dogs Registration Act, the Public Bodies Leases Act and the Rating Act.

Other measures which will be submitted to you include a Bill to enable a Building Research Association to be established, amendments to the Cinematograph Films Act, the Electricity Act and the Electricity Distribution Commission Act. There will be amendments to the Fisheries Act and the Post Office Act and you will also have before you a New Zealand Security Intelligence Service Bill.