

Honourable Members, my Government's policy on systematic reform of the law will result in several measures being placed before you this Session. They will include Bills relating to the carriage of goods, hire purchase, and chattels transfer. There will also be amendments to the licensing legislation. Legislation encouraging the building and individual ownership of flats will also be introduced. It is likely that legislation lowering the general age of majority to 20 will be prepared.

Honourable Members, my Government is aware of the world-wide concern regarding man's environment. New Zealand's environmental problems are not great when measured against those facing some heavily populated areas of the world. However, New Zealand is a fast-developing nation and thought given now to this fundamental aspect of development will ensure that New Zealand continues to be a country in which it is a pleasure to live.

Later this year the Physical Environment Conference, jointly sponsored by the New Zealand Institution of Engineers and the National Development Conference, will be held in this city. My Government will give close attention to its recommendations.

A Marine Reserves Bill will be included in the measures submitted to you and you will also be asked to consider a Bill to revise and consolidate the Apple and Pear Marketing Act 1948, a Veterinary Surgeons Bill, and a Bill to revise the Orchard and Garden Diseases Act 1928.

My Government anticipates that during this Session you will complete the consideration of the Mining Bill and the Fisheries Amendment Bill which have been studied by select committees during the recess.

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