

You will be asked to consider a Bill providing for the more effective enforcement of fines imposed on offenders and among other measures for your consideration will be a Bill to enable breeders of new varieties of plants to obtain proprietary rights in their innovations.

Honourable Members, my Government is concerned at the increase in crimes of violence, especially common assault, which follows similar trends in other parts of the world. A further increase in the ratio of police to population has been approved. My Ministers recognise, however, that the solution to this problem does not lie solely in strengthening the forces of law and order, necessary though this is. The problem of antisocial activity is as complex as society itself, and my Ministers believe that it must be treated with understanding and firmness.

My Government will continue to improve community welfare services through the efforts of both statutory and voluntary agencies, in order to assist those who need help. The Department of Social Welfare will initiate programmes for further co-operation with voluntary welfare organisations. My Government believes that the spirit of voluntary service, which is so much a feature of the community life of this country, deserves appropriate support and it notes with pleasure the increasing contribution being made by young people to this work.

The Royal Commission on Social Security reported to me in March. My Government accepts the principles set out in the report and is currently undertaking an intensive study of all of its 110 recommendations. You will be asked to consider amendments to the legislation arising out of implementation of recommendations in the report as well as validating increases in social security benefits and certain war pensions and allowances which have been approved and paid since the last Session of Parliament.

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