

The Government will encourage manufacturers to expand their activities in those areas where additional employment opportunities are needed. Regional development has been accorded a high priority and several regional development councils will be established this year. The Development Finance Corporation will be replaced by an Industrial Development Finance Corporation: its responsibilities will include the financing of regional industrial development.

The Government will establish the conditions which will enable manufacturers to play their full part in the development of the nation. The transfer of import licensing administration from the Customs Department to the Department of Trade and Industry will ensure that import licensing and industrial development policies are properly co-ordinated. You will be asked to consider changes in legislation to effect this transfer.

A number of measures to foster New Zealand's rural industries will be placed before you. It is proposed to establish a Rural Banking and Finance Corporation responsible for all forms of farm finance. You will be asked to consider an amendment to the Wool Marketing Corporation Act which will restore powers of acquisition to the corporation.

Proposals will be placed before you to implement some of the recommendations of the Fishing Industry Select Committee.

A White Paper will be submitted for your consideration on broadcasting policy. It will set out the Government's policy regarding the future organisation and development of broadcasting in New Zealand. Following your study of this you will be asked to consider a Broadcasting Bill making the necessary legislative changes.

Honourable Members, you will be asked to examine a number of measures to improve social legislation. You will be given an opportunity to consider the issues raised by the reinstatement of allowable income for means-test beneficiaries and the special bonus paid to such beneficiaries last Christmas.

Ministers are discussing with the Accident Compensation Commission the means of effecting the earliest extension of the provisions of the Accident Compensation Act to housewives and other non earners.

Proposals are being prepared for a comprehensive wage-related contributory superannuation scheme. This will require extensive preparation but it is hoped that a Bill will be introduced later in the Session.

The Hospitals Act 1957 will be amended to facilitate the leasing of premises by hospital boards for use as health centres.

On completion of discussions with the profession a consolidation of the Opticians Act will be placed before you.

Ministers consider that a review and consolidation of the Child Welfare Act 1925 has been too long delayed. It is proposed to submit a revision for your consideration this Session.

Honourable Members, the Government believes that there should be greater emphasis on the building of houses to provide good accommodation for those who are at present inadequately housed.