

some of New Zealand's major trading partners is likely and could limit the expansion of world trade. The Government has, therefore, been actively seeking alternative trading opportunities.

One of the most important Bills to be considered this session will be that establishing the New Zealand Export-Import Corporation. New Zealand exporters and industry will, as a matter of choice, be able to use the corporation's facilities in the promotion of their activities.

The past year has seen a substantial increase in the flow of migrants, particularly from the United Kingdom. Ministers are concerned to see that immigration policy is better designed in future so that it will support stable growth rates, but at the same time avoid economic or social strain. A complete review of the Government's immigration policy is being undertaken at present. Special immigration schemes will be implemented to alleviate specific labour shortages.

New Zealand has enjoyed a year of buoyant economic conditions. Employment and productivity have risen sharply under the encouragement of the Government's policies.

The manufacturing sector is an essential element in New Zealand's economic growth. The Government will continue to create the climate for the confident expansion of manufacturing in general; to provide selective measures for the encouragement of desirable growth industries; and to ensure that growth is better spread throughout New Zealand. Measures taken over the past year have already contributed to these aims and industrial expansion in the regions is resulting.

Stabilisation measures, designed to bear equitably on all sectors of the community, have been introduced and my Government believes that these will enable expansion in manufacturing to proceed in a more settled climate. The revaluation of the New Zealand dollar, together with restraints on internal prices and margins will help to blunt the rising cost of imported materials, components, and other commodities. To promote stability, enhanced competition, and better information for the consumer, the Government will, during the session, introduce legislation on trade practices, monopolies, and takeovers.

My Government will ensure through its policies that the economy is insulated, as far as possible, from the oil crisis which will affect energy resources and the supply of raw materials. However, because of this situation an unprecedented rise in the prices of certain goods and services produced overseas has to be faced, and this will adversely affect costs in New Zealand. Nevertheless, some industries may have to consider using local resources which in the past have been regarded as less economic than the imported alternatives.

Ministers aim to improve the potential of the labour force. The introduction of an integrated labour market policy is under study. This will help workers develop their full capacities, and at the same time increase productivity and reduce labour shortages. To this end tax rebates for those working overtime and shift work have been introduced. A Bill designed to help employees acquire shares in the companies they work for is being considered by a Select Committee of the House. This Bill will give employees a direct stake in their industry.

To give my Government a more effective means of implementing its monetary policy, the Reserve Bank Act has been amended. The Bank now has wider powers over financial institutions and is able to exercise its control more effectively.