



THE NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY

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THE Third Session of the Thirty-seventh Parliament of New Zealand was this day opened by The Governor-General, when His Excellency was pleased to make the following statement of the causes of the calling of this session of Parliament together.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

As I exercise Her Majesty's prerogative in opening this third Session of the 37th Parliament, you are doubtless all reminded of The Queen's gracious presence here a year ago when She and other members of the Royal Family came among us for a few weeks to meet her New Zealand people and to recall our traditions both as a nation and as a member of the Commonwealth.

We are today also sadly reminded of the absence from this place of the late Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Norman Kirk, who died on 31 August 1974. His death was a great loss to the country and Parliament but the smooth transition of authority within the Government showed the strength of our system.

In the two years since I last had the privilege of opening this Parliament New Zealand has experienced, like many other countries, tremendous changes and at a pace which our forefathers would have found unbelievable.

The economic and social challenges of today are compounded by the world crisis in energy supply and sharply escalating prices for almost all our imports. We face them as a diverse but essentially united country with a heritage of hard work, an understanding of sacrifice and compassion for the less fortunate.

1975 will be a difficult year. Events overseas have had severe consequences for New Zealand. The recession in New Zealand's major overseas markets has caused a sharp drop in returns from wool and