

The Government regards the establishment of a broad scheme to even out fluctuations in farm prices and incomes as a matter of prime importance and will do its utmost, in co-operation with representatives of the industries concerned, to devise an equitable system of stabilisation. A comprehensive report on this matter has been submitted to the Government by the Farm Incomes Advisory Committee. This report has been distributed to the Producer Boards and Federated Farmers for examination and discussion.

Recognising the importance of adequate finance for farmers and rural industries, the Rural Banking and Finance Corporation will be provided with the necessary funds to meet the needs of this vital sector. Finance will continue to be available to carry out expanded policies for settlement of young farmers, farm development programmes and purchase of stock and plant by sharemilkers. In addition, loans will be available for debt restructuring where existing commitments are hampering efficient farmers from maintaining productive capacity or further developing the potential of their properties.

The Government intends to bring down legislation to implement some of the more important recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into the Meat Industry, namely the establishment of a Meat Industry Authority and certain changes in export licensing procedure.

The Government believes that New Zealand land should remain in the ownership of New Zealand citizens or persons permanently residing in New Zealand. Legislation will be amended to provide closer control and scrutiny of all overseas purchases of land, and only where clear benefit to the nation can be shown will approval be granted to land purchase by overseas interests.

In line with the Government's policy of preserving the integrity of national parks and reserves, the legislation relating to the administration of reserves is being amended to provide more adequately for present-day needs. In addition, new legislation will be introduced during the Session to establish the New Zealand Walkway System, a network of tracks throughout the country enabling people to have safe, unimpeded foot access to the countryside for the purposes of recreation and to facilitate enjoyment of the natural outdoor environment.

Planning is well advanced for the further expansion of the Employment Service this year to enable more effective placement and training. A new system of apprenticeship training designed to better meet the demand for skilled tradesmen will also be introduced.

The Industrial Relations Council is presently discussing some sections of the Industrial Relations Act which, experience has indicated, might need amendment. The Council is also giving the formulation and implementation of active labour market policies a high priority.

A major review of industrial legislation, the Factories Act, Shops and Offices Act, Machinery Act and the Construction Act will be carried out this year. As well as consolidating various amendments, the amalgamation, where appropriate, of several Acts into one Act will provide a more positive approach to accident prevention by employers and employees.

The Government desires to promote good industrial relations in the waterfront industry and to improve the efficiency of cargo handling