

In addition to introducing legislation to amend the Commerce Act 1975 the Government will introduce legislation to promote safety standards for the protection of consumers.

In recognition of the important contribution of the small business to the well-being and vigour of the New Zealand economy, the Government will also introduce legislation to establish a Small Business Agency.

It is the Government's policy to recognise tourism as a first-tier industry. Record exchange earnings of \$143 million for the year ended March 1976 have established tourism as a significant invisible export, challenging some of the traditional sources of export income. To further expand its capacity to contribute to New Zealand's economy, increased effort is being directed to overseas promotion, training, and incentives for the expansion of accommodation and other facilities.

The Tourist Hotel Corporation Act 1974 will be amended to exclude provisions permitting undue Ministerial intervention and a new directive will restore the Corporation to the role for which it was established.

The Government is conducting a complete review of New Zealand's energy options to ensure the most efficient and economic use of both imported and indigenous resources.

An active conservation policy will be continued and an amendment to the Electricity Act 1968 will clarify this aspect of the New Zealand Electricity Department's functions.

The Government has announced that it will establish a public inquiry to investigate all aspects of a possible nuclear power programme for New Zealand, and no decisions will be taken until its findings have been reported.

The Government announced recently its policy of participation in exploration for petroleum. In future there will be no Government contribution at the prospecting stage but it will be a condition of all licences that the Government will reserve the right to a 51 percent share in any commercial discovery.

The Government recognises that the maximum use possible of high quality science and technology is increasingly important because of the effects of the energy crisis, the trend to more processing of agricultural and other resources, the need for greater industrial self-reliance, and public concern about the environmental and social changes of development.

Collaboration between universities, technical institutes, industry, and Government laboratories will be fostered to ensure the effective application of science and technology.

The Government will foster regional development by encouraging the best use of regional resources, within the context of total national planning. Special emphasis will therefore be given to the slow growth regions where the views of local people, through the Regional Development Councils, will continue to be sought. A new portfolio of Regional Development has already been created to ensure that these aims are met.

Fundamental to the Government's social policy is its concern for the welfare of people and its firm belief that the family is the basic unit of our society.