

organisations in the medical field are being encouraged to make submissions to the Special Advisory Committee, as well as to participate more generally in the improvement of the health services.

Although this year is a period of restraint in education spending, the Government will continue to explore a number of important long-term policy developments. It will shortly be setting up a Committee on the Registration of Teachers. This could affect the statutory provisions of the Education Act 1964 relating to the registration and deregistration of teachers.

A phased programme for the voluntary integration of private schools will be developed. A review of the Education Act 1964 will be undertaken: its main principles are not in doubt, but the review will provide an opportunity to bring forward proposals after consulting interested parties. There will be a short Education Amendment Bill.

You will be asked to consider a Bill to provide for the introduction of the Government's national superannuation scheme. National superannuation will be paid to New Zealand residents of 10 years' standing who are aged 60 or over. It will replace the present age benefit and universal superannuation benefit and will not be subject to any means or income test. The scheme will be phased in over a 3-year period and the rate of national superannuation will be increased progressively during the phase-in period until the married couple rate reaches 80 percent of the average ordinary-time wage. The New Zealand Superannuation Act 1974 will be repealed.

The Government will give full attention to meeting the special needs and traditions of the Maori people including Maori land development operations, Maori housing, social welfare activities, and the special trade training schemes for young people.

It is intended that legislation be introduced this year giving effect to the wishes of the Maori people for a return to the designation of Waitangi Day for the anniversary of the signing of the Treaty.

The Government's prime aim in transport is to co-ordinate all services and facilities to obtain the best utilisation of resources for the benefit of the consumer.

The Government believes that the transport user must have a greater choice of mode for the carriage of his goods. Detailed investigations are being carried out into the recommendations of the New Zealand Transport Policy Study with a view to removing some of the legislative restrictions on competition between road and rail transport.

The Government has further reviewed railway freight rates and approved increases to bring the charges more into line with operating costs.

A contract has been let to provide passenger accommodation on G.m.v. *Aratika*. It is planned to have the vessel back on the Wellington-Picton service in time to cope with the Christmas holiday traffic.

The Government will place continuing emphasis on the modernisation of telecommunications and postal services as a vital area for the nation's economic and social progress. Steps have been taken to establish a Communications Commission which will provide advice and assistance in a field of rapid technological change.

The Government is engaged, in close consultation with the Broadcasting bodies, in a review of the broadcasting system with the aim