

The temporary entry of workers from the South Pacific has already been facilitated by the introduction of revised work permit schemes for persons from Tonga, Fiji, and Western Samoa, and the Government expects that the use of these schemes will be of considerable benefit to employers, to permit holders, and to the economies of the Island nations.

An Immigration Amendment Bill will be introduced with the object of increasing the effectiveness of immigration controls and also to provide better services to immigrants and to the general public.

You will also be asked to consider a Bill to consolidate the British Nationality and New Zealand Citizenship Act 1948 and the Aliens Act 1948. The most important change will be to give women equal status with men in the transmission of citizenship by descent to children of the first generation.

New Zealanders rightly expect a reasonable standard of accommodation and the Government will ensure to the fullest possible extent that these expectations are met. The Government accepts as socially and economically desirable the better utilisation of existing housing and will be reviewing all housing policies with this in mind. But this policy will need to maintain a viable homebuilding industry.

The Government will continue to encourage home ownership savings schemes to ensure that individuals will be able to make a worthwhile contribution towards a home of their own choice, as well as to provide a growing source of funds as an alternative to direct State intervention in the housing market.

The Government will pursue its policy of improving the health services by the extension and development of preventive and community health programmes.

Parliament will be given the opportunity of considering legislation based on the recommendations in the report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Contraception, Sterilisation, and Abortion.

As foreshadowed last year a committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Sir John Marshall to study and make recommendations on the certification, registration, and discipline of teachers. The outcome of the report, which should be completed in July, is likely to be of considerable importance to the professional status of teachers and consequently will have a bearing on the welfare of the pupils in the schools.

The Government will continue to give full attention to meeting the special needs of the Maori people. Special trade training schemes for young people will be further developed and the Maori housing, land development, and social welfare activities will be maintained. The active involvement of Maori owners in the control and management of their land will be further encouraged by the transfer of Maori reserved lands to the control of incorporations or trustees.

You will be asked to consider a major revision of the Town and Country Planning Act 1953. The Government intends to give effect to many of the recommendations of the Review Committee which was set up in 1972 and, in particular, to strengthen regional planning and relate it more directly to the Government's economic, social and development policies.