

The Government will introduce legislation to give effect to the proposals in its 1977 White Paper on urban transport in New Zealand. The proposed reorganisation of its finance and administration will create a climate for the future sound development of urban transport in this country.

Heavy transport operators have been levied an additional 20 per cent in road user charges as their share of the contribution from road users generally to the upkeep of our roads.

It is also proposed to submit for your consideration a Bill to revise and amend the Boilers, Lifts and Cranes Act 1950 to provide for a shift in emphasis from inspection, for which the private sector would be responsible, to the training and supervision of those in charge of the machines.

A major revision of the Shipping and Seamen's Act 1952, which provides the foundation for the safety of shipping and the conditions of employment of seafarers, is to be undertaken. Because the legislation is complex it is unlikely to be ready for introduction this year.

The Government will introduce legislation to make it clear that the unloading of commercial fishing vessels is not to be undertaken by waterside workers but will be reserved for fishermen assisted when necessary by fish processing workers.

In the labour and employment area, safe and suitable working conditions will continue to be promoted. To this end the Government intends to introduce the Factories and Commercial Premises Bill which amalgamates and rationalises the existing Factories Act 1946 and the Shops and Offices Act 1955. This legislation will strengthen safety requirements and provide a uniform code for all commercial and industrial establishments.

To extend further the equality of opportunity in employment for women the Government intends to introduce the Maternity Leave and Employment Protection Bill. This provides for 6 months unpaid maternity leave along with employment protection during that leave. It also provides a facility for initiating personal grievance proceedings where a woman considers she has been dismissed unlawfully or has other complaints regarding her maternity leave.

The Guardianship Act will be amended to permit reciprocal recognition and enforcement of custody orders between New Zealand and Australia.

Legislation will be introduced to ensure the maintenance of adequate standards in old people's homes and to protect the confidentiality of computer-stored information on patients.

Because of the need for restraint in the growth of health expenditure the Government is seeking the co-operation of all health care agencies in improved planning, including the ordering of priorities, and greater emphasis on health promotion and preventive services.