



THE NEW ZEALAND GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY

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THE Second Session of the Thirty-ninth Parliament of New Zealand was this day opened by The Governor-General, when His Excellency was pleased to make the following statement of the causes of the calling of this session of Parliament together.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

It is with feelings of gratitude—as well as regret—that I exercise for the last time the prerogative of Her Majesty The Queen in opening this second Session of the thirty-ninth Parliament. I would be less than human if on entering this place today I did not recall 1933 when, as a newly elected Member, I first listened to the Speech from The Throne—delivered by the beloved Lord Bledisloe.

I thank God for the life and health given me to serve my country in public office, and I humbly acknowledge that The Queen in appointing me recently to her Most Noble Order of the Garter thereby honoured New Zealand.

Nor would I be here today without the help and understanding of my wife and family who have given me strength and encouragement.

A historical perspective is important in the office of Governor-General. As in Lord Bledisloe's term we live in an insecure world. While history does not necessarily repeat itself, there is a cycle in human affairs which inevitably causes us to strive for a better world. If New Zealanders can tap their spiritual resources and draw together their common aspirations—as I challenged them to do when I was sworn into office 2½ years ago—they will, as a nation, surely find an authentic sense of direction.

We are reminded sadly of the absence today of Bruce Barclay and Frank Rogers. We shall miss them both.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, during the past year the Government's policies have been directed, in the short term, towards a steady level of economic activity.

Moderately restrictive fiscal policies were employed to restrain the growth of consumption and imports which followed the recovery in farm incomes and the fiscal stimulus that took place in 1978. These policies included tight controls over the growth in Government expenditure, a reduction in subsidies, and an increase in charges. Monetary policies, including further substantial sales of Government Stock to the general public, reduced the rate of growth of the money supply.

To prevent these levelling-out measures developing into a contraction of the economy, personal income taxes were reduced in October and family benefits increased. A further income tax cut took place last month.

It is the Government's intention to maintain internal demand at a stable level while the transfer of resources into the more efficient sectors of the economy continues. This task will be made harder by the deteriorating international economic climate, which could lead to further restrictions on our agricultural exports and to a further decline in our terms of trade.

The Government is concerned at the high rate of inflation and at the persistence of significant unemployment. There is no instant solution to one that would not worsen the other. The Government will continue to tackle these difficult problems with a combination of monetary and fiscal restraint, assistance with job creation and temporary employment programmes, and an active incomes policy.

Discussions have commenced with the Federation of Labour and the Employers' Federation on wage fixing policy. The Government wishes to see free collective bargaining between employers and unions to the greatest possible extent.

At the same time it must be ensured that wage rate increases do not exceed sustainable levels. Nor can the Government accept wage settlements which are arrived at under duress. It stands ready to intervene where necessary in the interests of economic stability and industrial justice.

The Government will continue and extend its policies to promote internationally competitive export industries and efficient import substitution. These are the key to overcoming the shortage of foreign exchange which is the main barrier to faster growth and higher living standards.

The catalogue of Growth Opportunities published by the Government illustrates some of the prospects before us. These can be realised provided resources are directed into the most productive developments available. In promoting changes in the economy account will be taken of the need to make the greatest use of resources in the regional development areas as well as applying policies on a nationwide basis.

The Government is equally concerned that existing industries make the best use of resources. Following the adoption of a development plan for the textile industry, plans will be considered this year for a number of other industries including wine, radio and television, plastics, and packaging.

Initiatives aimed at increasing opportunities for New Zealand exporters include the proposal for an expanded trading relationship with Australia. The New Zealand and Australian Governments have set in train detailed studies for bringing about closer economic links, and Ministers of the two countries will hold further meetings on the subject later this year.

A non-reciprocal trade agreement with Pacific Island nations is still under negotiation. It is intended to provide unrestricted duty-free access into both New Zealand and Australia for a comprehensive range of products from the South Pacific Forum countries.

Greater professionalism in all aspects of export marketing will continue to be encouraged. The new system of export incentives introduced from 1 April 1980 has been designed to reward, in particular, those exporters who carry out thorough export promotion campaigns in approved target markets. It will also reward exporters according to the domestic value-added content of exports as well as their total value.

Overseas investment will be encouraged when it contributes to a worthwhile use of New Zealand's resources, benefits the community as a whole, and especially when it will be as a partnership with New Zealand enterprise.

As a means of increasing export earnings the Government is committed to the encouragement of greater agricultural and horticultural production. A continuing major objective is the maintenance of market stability. Access for butter and lamb are priorities in relation to the European Community. It is also the Government's intention in the coming year to safeguard our expanded primary product trade with Middle-Eastern markets.

The major legislative proposal affecting the agricultural sector is the Meat Amendment Bill which provides for a liberalisation of licensing criteria in the meat industry. This Bill is due to be reported back to the House this session.

Other Bills affecting the agricultural sector, which are planned for introduction this session, include restructurings of the Milk Board, the Veterinary Services Council, and the Wool Testing Authority, and the amalgamation of the functions of the Poultry Board and the Egg Marketing Authority. Bills to amend the Dairy Board Act 1961, the Agricultural Pests Destruction Act 1967, and the Apple and Pear Marketing Act 1971 will also be introduced.

A comprehensive review is now under way to simplify, update, and improve fisheries legislation so that the development of the New Zealand fishing industry is adequately backed by relevant statutory powers.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, the Government's energy policies are aimed at reducing our dependence on imported oil. Projects have recently been initiated to produce synthetic gasoline and chemical methanol from the Maui natural gas resource. Priority is being given to the development of alternative transport fuels, as evidenced by the growing use of compressed natural gas and liquified petroleum gas. Legislation will be introduced to ensure the safe handling of these products.

To avoid too much reliance on natural gas, research is also being undertaken into the future potential of coal and biomass as transport fuels. Investigations are continuing into possible uses of the extensive Southland lignite deposits, and the Government will receive reports on their utilisation during 1980. In order to extend our indigenous fuel resources, further efforts to discover off-shore oil will be made this year, and on-shore drilling will continue.

Later this year the Ministry of Energy's first energy plan to incorporate all energy sectors will be tabled in the House. A Bill revising the gas industry legislation will also be introduced. To ensure that the required skills are available as the energy programme gains momentum training courses will be accelerated.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, the Government will introduce an amendment to the Transport Act to give effect to the recommendations of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Road Safety. Among the matters to be included in the Bill will be the elimination of unnecessary procedural steps in the prosecution of traffic offences.

The Shipping and Seamen's Act 1952, which provides the foundation for safety of shipping and conditions of employment of seafarers, is also under revision. The amendment of this Act will enable New Zealand to ratify the 1974 Safety of Life at Sea Convention.

The review of the Public Works Act 1928 has been completed and a Bill will be introduced this Session to update and consolidate existing legislation. The compensation provisions for land acquired compulsorily will be further liberalised, and the powers of compulsory acquisition and the right of entry on to land modified.

Within the current limiting financial restraints the Government will continue to support an adequate programme of public works. Studies are being undertaken to assist the National Roads Board to ensure that funds are more equitably distributed. Procedures for regional district and maritime area planning are being re-examined.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, you will be asked to consider amendments to the legislation governing differential rating to introduce more certainty into differential rating schemes and foster a better understanding of the schemes by ratepayers.

It is intended to repeal the film renter and exhibitor licensing provisions in the Cinematograph Films Act 1976 in accordance with the Government's policy of encouraging free and open competition and removal wherever practicable of restrictions.

A Bill will be introduced to amend the Racing Act 1971 to enable full totalisator licences for off-course betting to be issued to Greyhound Racing Clubs.

To give effect to the recommendations on the restructuring of the administration of national parks and reserves arising from the study made by a Government Caucus Committee in 1979, a National Parks Bill will be introduced. The Government is confident that the new legislation will provide a strong national parks and reserves system and ensure the protection, efficient management, and continued full public use and enjoyment of these areas.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, with respect to community services, housing, land development, marae enterprises, and special vocational schemes for young people, the Government will continue to attend to the special needs of the Maori people. Emphasis will be given—through a series of district conferences—to the Tu Tangata concept to involve the community in planning and implementing policies to ascertain and meet these needs.

To enable representations on the Maori Affairs Bill to be made more easily the Maori Affairs Select Committee has embarked on a programme of country-wide sittings. It is the intention of the Government to re-examine the content of the Bill in the light of the representations made to the Select Committee and of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Maori Land Court.

A Social Security Amendment Bill is currently being studied by the Parliamentary Statutes Revision Committee in conjunction with other family legislation. The purpose of the Bill is to legislate for a new system for recovering contributions towards the cost of paying domestic purposes benefits to solo parents. It is intended to refer the Bill back to the House during this Session.

Because of the need for restraint in the growth of health expenditure the co-operation of all health care agencies is being sought in improved planning with a greater emphasis being placed on health promotion and preventive services. Bills to clarify the laws governing medicines and foodstuffs will be introduced.

After 6 years of successful operation the Government believes it is timely to re-examine some aspects of the Accident Compensation Scheme. This re-examination may lead to legislative changes at this Session.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, policies implemented by the Government last year have resulted in a more flexible approach to housing by the Housing Corporation, consequently more first home owners now have an effective choice of purchasing either a new or an existing house.

With the present state of demand, the country's immediate housing needs can be largely met by better utilisation of the existing housing stock. The introduction of the Community Home Improvement Programme by the Government, with local authorities playing a leading part, has given greater emphasis to the preservation and rehabilitation of older houses.

The building industry has an important role in these schemes for modernisation and improvement and in providing the replacement and additional houses required. In the coming year the Housing Corporation will concentrate its building activities on projects within existing urban areas rather than in creating subdivisions on the fringes of cities.

A Select Committee is to report back to the House on last year's Education Amendment Bill which includes provisions giving effect to the recommendations of the Committee on the Registration and Discipline of Teachers, and new clauses for the handling of the affairs of education controlling authorities in the event of mismanagement.

A Bill to consolidate the Education Act 1964 will be introduced late in this Session for study by a Select Committee during the recess. The Bill will contain a complete review of the statutory functions carried out by the Department and education controlling authorities. The aim will be, wherever possible, to deal with matters of principle in the Bill and to leave administrative detail to regulations and notification in the *New Zealand Gazette* and *Education Gazette*.

A Music Teachers Registration Bill will create an Institute of Registered Music Teachers.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, the electoral laws and their administration are being comprehensively reviewed and legislation will follow in this Session.

Inquiries into aspects of the liquor legislation will also form the basis of an amending Bill. A Credit Contracts Bill, and a Friendly Societies and Credit Unions Bill, and a Summary Offences Bill will also be considered.

A Courts Amendment Bill and a new Juries Bill will take up a number of further recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Courts.

The Wanganui Computer Centre Act 1976 will be amended to make the computer system fully effective as an aid in the administration of justice—as well as ensuring that the privacy of the individual is adequately protected.

Measures dealing with youth imprisonment and restitution and reparation will be contained in a Criminal Justice Bill. A Crimes Amendment Bill will clarify the law of self defence and a Summary Offences Bill will also be considered.

The preservation of law and order is a main priority. Public confidence in the integrity and ability of the Police was heightened by their versatile handling of the Mt. Erebus disaster.

A Civil Defence Bill to revise and replace the 1962 Act will be introduced.

A revised Passports Bill will be introduced to update the 1946 legislation. This Bill will provide for the issue of passports as of right, but with power for the Minister of Internal Affairs to withhold passports in certain circumstances.

The law relating to the protection of diplomats will be reviewed.

Despite continuing instability and tensions in the international situation—and economic, financial, and political problems stemming from that situation—the Government will actively pursue international policies designed to preserve and strengthen our vital interests. It will assert vigorously, both bilaterally and multilaterally, New Zealand's right to trade on world markets.

Through international organisations and in association with like-minded countries, the Government will seek to promote peace and co-operation and to ensure effective responses to threats to peace and security and to breaches of fundamental norms of international behaviour.

The deteriorating strategic situation emphasises the importance of the ANZUS alliance as the ultimate guarantee of security in our region. The Government is determined to maintain forces capable of operating effectively alongside those of our ANZUS partners. In keeping with this obligation, an extensive armed forces re-equipment programme has been approved. It will progressively upgrade and modernise equipment for all three services and provide a real and tangible contribution to our collective defence commitments.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, I commend all these matters to your careful consideration and I pray that divine guidance will attend your deliberations.

