

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.