

The Government will continue to take the initiative to support the Maori people's efforts to achieve greater economic, social, and cultural growth. It will continue to consult Maori communities particularly in order to bring into being a revised Maori Affairs Act and to maintain the present pace of progress of the various Tu Tangata programmes such as land utilisation, housing, whanau, language, and kokiri basic skills training. Maori leadership at all levels will be encouraged to become involved in the policy and decision making for education, crime prevention, and employment.

It is proposed to introduce a Civil Defence Bill to revise and consolidate the 1962 Act.

Bills will be introduced to consolidate and update the Rating Act 1967 and the Valuation of Land Act 1951. You will also be asked to consider a Surveyors Bill which will be a revision of the Surveyors Act 1966. This is required to take account of the changes introduced by computer-based surveys and to make information more readily available.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, 1981 saw a comprehensive review of penal policy. The Government is now considering the recommendations of the Penal Policy Review Committee and the Working Party on Psychiatrically Disturbed Inmates which it is hoped will lead to significant changes to our penal system.

The programme of law reform will continue. Bills to improve aspects of the Companies Act 1955 and the Land Transfer Act 1952 will be introduced, and you will be asked to consider measures to update the law on the administration of the property of incapacitated persons. A Licensing Trusts Bill and a Bill to streamline procedures for dealing with minor criminal offences will be introduced for recess study.

You will be asked to continue consideration of the Official Information Bill which was introduced last year. While it will impose new responsibilities on State servants and other public employees to achieve and maintain effective communication with the public, it will not alter the fundamental responsibility of Ministers to account to Parliament for the actions of their departments. It is also proposed to introduce a Public Archives and Records Bill which will revise the Archives Act 1957.