

The industry study programme is gradually changing the form of protection from quantitative controls to tariffs and reducing both the level of protection and the wide disparities that exist between different industries.

The regulation of the transport system is being progressively relaxed. To this end you will be asked to give further consideration to two Bills which propose major changes to land and air transport. The Government has also initiated discussions aimed at formulating a New Zealand Shipping Policy.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, there were some disappointing trends last year. Unemployment continued to grow, while the balance of payments deficit reflected the prolonged international recession. However, the structural changes that have been occurring will place New Zealand in a better position to take advantage of the international recovery when that occurs.

The Government's policies are, in the meantime, boosting the number of jobs available for a work force which is steadily increasing. Initial subsidies are provided for additional jobs created in the private sector for unemployed persons registered with the Department of Labour while a range of measures supports the creation of short-term work and training opportunities in the public and voluntary sectors. In the training field the Apprenticeship Bill which is to be considered further this session will create additional opportunities to equip young New Zealanders with key skills.

A critical factor governing access to employment, especially for the young, is the level of remuneration payable. This is a matter which the Government has under close attention. Tripartite committees have been established to recommend short and longer-term wage setting arrangements.

The Government will introduce a Bill to amend the State Services Conditions of Employment Act 1977, which is the legislation governing the fixing of State employees' pay. These amendments will enhance the Government's ability to measure and to maintain 'fair relativity' between State and private sector rates of remuneration.