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THE First Session of the 41st Parliament of New Zealand was this day opened by The Governor-General, when His Excelleny 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 a privilege for me to exercise for the fifth time the prerogative of Her Majesty The Queen in opening this First Session of the 41st Parliament.

To exercise this privilege twice—in almost as many months—is an unusual experience. It is a striking illustration of the ability of a democracy to accept changes in mood and direction after its citizens have expressed their rights through the ballot box.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, the mood is for prompt responsible action using the months ahead as a rarely given opportunity to change the nation's direction. The desired course was outlined by the Government in its campaign:

- first to place before the country the full facts of New Zealand's economic predicament
- second to involve in consultation and discussion informed and interested groups to help shape policies which will give greater longterm strength to our international trading, and internal financial positions
- third, for those policies to be implemented to take into account our country's tradition of social justice, above all to ensure that necessary sacrifices do not unduly fall on vulnerable members of our community.