

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, the Government will heed the call of Maori people for better opportunities in employment, education, health and housing. There will be full consultations on these concerns. Cultural and social initiatives, such as Te Kohanga Reo and Maatua Whangai, will be encouraged.

A comprehensive Maori Affairs Bill will be introduced later this Session embodying Maori principles that will develop a dynamic kaupapa.

The Government is aware that the needs of New Zealand's Pacific communities have not been met. To provide specific Ministerial responsibility in this area a new portfolio of Pacific Island Affairs has been established.

The Government also recognises that existing legislation covering immigration is both out of date and difficult to administer. The previous administration's Bill was not satisfactory and this administration is currently reviewing the law. Once that is done a new Bill will be introduced.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, the Government believes in the continued development of an independent, publicly-owned broadcasting system which has maximum choice and independence in public affairs and documentary production, and which has an awareness of the possibilities opened up by recent technological advances. To this end it is proposed in the immediate future to appoint a Royal Commission to investigate the long term future of broadcasting and telecommunications in New Zealand.

The Government will undertake a review of the forms of local and regional government, their autonomy, accountability and effectiveness. In addition, a survey of the local government electoral franchise and processes is planned.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, it is proposed to introduce a Bill of Rights and table it with a White Paper, for reference to a Select Committee. The Committee will be invited to consult extensively in an unhurried but thorough manner. The Bill is not to be enacted until 1986.

The establishment of a Ministry of Women's Affairs is a pledge of the Government's recognition at the highest level of the often still undervalued contribution of women.

A Rape Law Reform Bill will be introduced at an early date. It will contain some additional provisions favoured by the Select Committee which amended the previous Bill. A revised Criminal Justice Bill will also be introduced.