

International obligations have dictated a major review of export assistance. This has been a complex task involving fundamental economic issues and detailed consultation with export interests.

The Government will announce shortly new measures to stimulate a high rate of export growth.

Tourism is an integral part of the Government's national development policy. The industry is enjoying record growth. Further growth will result from fostering greater co-operation between the Government and the industry based on the recommendations of the recently announced Tourism Report.

The last year has seen the commissioning of both methanol and ammonia urea plants which are expected to generate annually \$110 million in export earnings. Total savings in exchange resulting from natural gas, its products and condensate are expected to rise to \$1,000 million annually after the commissioning of the synthetic gasoline plant.

Agricultural products remain our major export earners. The Government will therefore seek every opportunity to retain access for our sheepmeat and dairy products to Europe, the continued sale of which is vital for the whole economy. No effort will be spared to improve—through active trade diplomacy—the conditions of international agricultural trade which is endangered by structural surplus production in many countries that can well afford to reduce such protectionism.

The Government will ensure that the Rural Bank is adequately funded to fulfil its role in providing finance to the rural sector, particularly for the development of the initial settlement of young farmers. In addition the Bank will continue to issue stock for public subscription to enable the financing of projects which it is unable to assist under traditional lending policies. The process of separating the Bank from the Housing Corporation is proceeding.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, the provision of accommodation for families in greatest need will continue to be the focus of Government assistance through the provision of rental housing or home purchase schemes.

Turning to the Government's concern for the individual, in recent times the emphasis in New Zealand on child welfare has stemmed from a need to detect or prevent cases of abuse of children. Legislation will be placed before you aimed at strengthening the provisions for the care and protection of children and young persons who suffer neglect or ill-treatment.

The Government proposes to introduce an Education Amendment Bill including a measure arising from the recently completed review of the core curriculum. This will require all primary and secondary schools to devote a prescribed number of hours to basic subjects.