

These changes reflect the Government's determination to see environmental factors given their proper weight. There will also be significant changes in the management of the nation's protected estate. A new Department of Conservation will take on this role, which previously has been dispersed among several agencies. This means that all waters, land, forests and wildlife, which are under reserves status, will in future be managed by one agency.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, as evidence of the Government's concern for the environment, legislation will be introduced to restructure the agencies responsible for the administration of State-owned lands, forests and waters. This will ensure more effective management, protection and conservation of New Zealand's national heritage.

Giving continued impetus to its policy of de-regulation the Government will take action to implement new policies on building controls. A Town and Country Planning Amendment Bill will be introduced to streamline and update the regional planning procedures.

As part of its policy to safeguard the interests of consumers in New Zealand's more competitive economy, the Government has decided to establish a Ministry of Consumer Affairs to initiate and to coordinate programmes of consumer law reform and education. The Fair Trading Bill which was introduced late last year is a feature of this policy.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, 1985 was an exciting year for artistic endeavour which brought New Zealand to the forefront of the literary world. It was also important for our Maori cultural heritage which is receiving widespread acclaim in North America.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, the coming year will see this Government continue with its comprehensive law reform programme in the Justice area. A Constitution Bill will be introduced, bringing together in a single Act the statutory part of New Zealand's constitutional law and updating it.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, at the beginning of this speech I spoke about monarchy and nationhood. Much of today's ceremony is symbolic of that relationship. Symbols, however, are only important and worth keeping when they reinforce the unity of purpose of, and reflect the compacts which have been democratically arrived at by a community. New Zealand is a mature democracy, with a faith in and respect for democratic institutions.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, I commend all these matters to your careful consideration in this Parliamentary session, and I pray that Divine Guidance will attend all your deliberations.