

But every age has its challenges. As a nation we are at a pivotal point which requires all of us to face the social, economic and cultural issues of our time. These issues must be resolved lest we hand on confusion to the next generation.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, the Government is committed to a radical and lasting improvement in the performance of the New Zealand economy.

Fundamental changes were initiated in the last three years to begin the process of reducing inflation, containing Government debt, creating permanent jobs, providing more efficient Government services, and building a fairer tax system.

The Government intends to strengthen and extend the work already done to achieve those goals. In doing so, the Government commits itself to a fairer and more equitable society.

From a better domestic economic base the Government will pursue improved market access for New Zealand goods and services both on a bilateral basis and in the new round of multilateral trade negotiations. The 1988 review of the Closer Economic Relationship with Australia and the renegotiation of our butter access to Britain are crucial issues for our future trade and will be given special priority. The Government will continue to give emphasis to the development of our primary industries which earn more than 60 percent of our export income.

The reform of industry assistance will continue with the steady removal of import licensing and the establishment of a revised tariff structure to provide the best climate for the development of manufacturing and processing industries.

Apart from changes affecting the distribution of petroleum, the Government has completed the major legislative reforms it had planned for the regulation of commerce. Subject to the satisfactory resolution of some outstanding issues a Petroleum Sector Reform Bill will be introduced.

The establishment of the new state-owned enterprises had already demonstrated that substantial productivity gains can be achieved. The Government intends to continue the process, including the transfer of equity in some of the enterprises to the public. This will result in a better use of productive resources and reduce the public sector debt burden.