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HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. It is a privilege for me to exercise the prerogative of Her Majesty The Queen and open this first session of the 43rd Parliament.

1990 has been a momentous year. The 150th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi has given us an opportunity to explore what this treaty means to us today.

We have come to an important turning point in our history when we are required to call on all the peoples of New Zealand to draw on their rich and varied cultures and traditions to advance the interests of our nation.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, the people of New Zealand are united in their need for growth and jobs. My Government's programme for this Parliament is shaped to meet those needs.

It is appropriate to the spirit of this special year that my Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition will soon travel to Europe together and join the international effort to achieve a successful conclusion to the current Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations.

Improved access to world markets and the development of an internationally competitive economy are equally essential to New Zealand's progress and prosperity.