

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Supplementary Order Paper

Tuesday, 3 August 1993

ELECTORAL REFORM BILL

Proposed Amendments

CHRIS FLETCHER, in Committee, to move the following amendments:

PART IIA

ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Clause 30B. Functions

1. To omit the words "awareness of electoral matters" in paragraph (b) (line 4 on page 35), and substitute the words "awareness of electoral matters and the constitutional role of Parliament".

2. To add to paragraph (b) the following words:

and, in doing so, to have regard to the need to promote awareness of electoral matters among Maori:

Clause 30E. (1) Membership

To insert, after paragraph (b) (which appears in line 36 on page 35), the following paragraph:

(ba) The Clerk of the House of Representatives:

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Supplementary Order Paper—

- (a) Proposes that the Electoral Commission be responsible for promoting awareness of the constitutional role of Parliament in addition to electoral matters. At present there is no body charged with this responsibility. To assist the Commission to undertake this function, a further amendment (to clause 30E) proposes that the Clerk of the House be an additional member of the Commission. (*Amendments to clauses 30B (b) and 30E (ba)*)
- (b) Requires the Commission to have regard to the need to promote awareness of electoral matters among Maori. It is envisaged that in carrying out this function the Commission would—
- (i) Promote Maori participation in a Parliamentary democracy; and
 - (ii) Facilitate the provision of fair and just representation of Maori in Parliament; and
 - (iii) Educate Maori to exercise their political franchise.

It is expected that the Commission would address as a priority the disturbing situation of Maori enrolment—at present it is estimated that 73,000 Maori are not on any roll. (*Amendment to clause 30B (b)*)