

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, while its economic policies are designed to bring about growth and new employment opportunities, the Government is also conscious of the problems faced now by those in our community who are experiencing difficulty in obtaining employment. To help overcome this a wide range of measures has been introduced to assist employers to create new jobs. Training programmes attuned to the needs of those who require additional skills to enter or re-enter employment have also been established. Later this year the Government will publish a document setting out in detail its views on the future of apprenticeship training.

The major industrial legislation affecting safety, health, and welfare of the work force has been reviewed and incorporated in the Factories and Commercial Premises Bill which is to be considered by the House this session after the Select Committee has reported.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, agriculture continues to be the most important factor in New Zealand's economy. Government policies will continue to maintain the progress of farm development and will foster the further diversification of both products and markets.

This year you will be asked to approve a Bill to revise the 1964 Meat Act. This will provide for the dissolution of the Meat Industry Authority and the repeal of the provisions governing abattoir districts and Ministerial control over slaughtering and processing charges.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, increasing oil prices and the uncertainty of future supplies have made it imperative to plan for a ready supply of energy from indigenous resources. It is the intention to achieve a 50 percent self sufficiency in transport fuels by 1987 by means of a synthetic petrol plant using gas from the Maui field, a nationwide liquefied petroleum gas distribution system, and incentives to encourage the wider use of compressed natural gas.

With the increasing use of these forms of energy it has become necessary to revise and consolidate into one measure the Gas Supply Act 1908, the Gas Industry Act 1958 and various private Acts, which give rights to gas companies, and to extend the scope of the legislation to include LPG, CNG and the requirements of the natural gas industry. You will also be asked to give consideration to a revision of the Mining Act 1971 in which social and environmental issues resulting from mining activities will find a place.