

ALL NEW ZEALAND CHILDREN

SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION.

THIS STATEMENT WAS PART OF OUR ELECTION PLATFORM  
AND WE STILL BELIEVE THAT PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION  
SHOULD BE A RIGHT FOR EVERY NEW ZEALAND CHILD.

THERE ARE MANY PRIORITIES IN THE FIELD.

WE ARE MAKING BETTER PROGRESS IN SOME THAN OTHERS.

NATURALLY, THOSE WHO BELIEVE MORE STRONGLY  
IN THE PRIORITIES WE HAVE NOT PROGRESSED WITH ARE DISAPPOINTED.

2.

THOSE WHOSE PRIORITIES WE HAVE FOLLOWED ARE PLEASED.

THAT IS POLITICAL LIFE.

ONE PRIORITY WE ARE PROGRESSING WITH

IS THE HILL COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION THAT PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS  
SHOULD BE TRAINED IN SPECIAL DEPARTMENTS OF PRIMARY TEACHERS  
COLLEGES.

AS YOU KNOW, AN INTERIM SCHEME FOR TRAINING KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS  
IS PROGRESSING WELL AT HAMILTON AND NORTH SHORE TEACHERS COLLEGES.

SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS FOR OTHER TEACHERS COLLEGES ARE BEING CONSIDERED  
AND PROBABLY PALMERSTON NORTH WILL BE THE NEXT  
TO ESTABLISH SUCH A TRAINING PROGRAMME.

3.  
RESULTING FROM THESE STEPS TOWARDS CLOSER ASSOCIATION WITH  
PRIMARY TEACHER TRAINING,

THE RATE OF GRANTS PER STUDENT TO KINDERGARTEN TRAINING CENTRES  
HAS BEEN INCREASED TO THE RATE APPLICABLE IN TEACHERS COLLEGES.

I HAVE ALSO RECENTLY APPROVED  
PROVISION FOR KINDERGARTEN TRAINEES TO BE INCLUDED IN STUDENT  
HEALTH SCHEMES.

YOU WILL KNOW OF DISCUSSIONS UNDER WAY AT PRESENT  
ON THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING REGIONAL COUNCILS OF MANAGEMENT  
FOR KINDERGARTEN TEACHER TRAINING  
AS SUB-COMMITTEES OF TEACHERS COLLEGE COUNCILS.

BEFORE ANY ASSOCIATION SUCH AS THIS IS SET UP  
THERE WILL BE SOME AREAS OF DIFFICULTY TO BE RESOLVED  
SUCH AS PARITIES IN STUDENT ALLOWANCES  
LECTURERS SALARIES AND SO ON.

4.  
BUT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE AND CO-OPERATION HAS BEEN PLEASING.

EARLIER THIS YEAR YOUR UNION APPROACHED ME FOR AN INCREASE  
IN YOUR ANNUAL GRANT  
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES.

FROM THE BUDGET YOU SUPPLIED

IT SEEMS THERE ARE TWO ITEMS WHICH SHOULD BE GIVEN SPECIAL TREATMENT  
RATHER THAN BE INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL GRANT TO THE UNION.

FIRSTLY THE REPRINTING OF YOUR BOOKLET

ON THE HISTORY OF THE FREE KINDERGARTEN MOVEMENT IN NEW ZEALAND.

THE ASSOCIATION ESTIMATED THIS WOULD COST \$1,200.

I AM PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO TELL YOU

I HAVE APPROVED A SPECIAL GRANT OF \$1,200 FOR THIS PURPOSE.

THE SECOND ITEM WAS AN ESTIMATED \$1,000 LOSS  
ON TRAINING CENTRE OPERATING COSTS  
NOT COVERED BY GOVERNMENT GRANTS.

I UNDERSTAND THAT IN DISCUSSIONS MISS INGRAM HAD WITH OFFICERS  
OF MY DEPARTMENT

SHE WAS INVITED TO SUBMIT SEPARATELY

APPLICATIONS FOR TRAINING CENTRES INCURRING LOSSES.

FOR THIS REASON I DID NOT THINK IT APPROPRIATE AT THIS STAGE  
TO CONSIDER THIS ITEM AS PART OF THE GRANT TO THE UNION.

AS FAR AS THE NORMAL OPERATING COSTS OF THE UNION ARE CONCERNED,  
ON THE FIGURES YOU HAVE SUBMITTED,

I HAVE APPROVED AN INCREASE OF \$500 IN THE ANNUAL GRANT  
TO BRING THE TOTAL TO \$2,500

WITH EFFECT FROM 1 APRIL 1973.

I FEEL THIS IS THE MAXIMUM FIGURE I CAN APPROVE  
AS IT IS IN LINE WITH THE AMOUNT GRANTED TO OTHER  
EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS.

SHOULD COSTS RISE

IT MAY BE NECESSARY FOR YOUR UNION TO INCREASE THE LEVIES  
MADE ON THE INDIVIDUAL ASSOCIATIONS.

HOWEVER YOU WILL BE PLEASED TO KNOW

AT PRESENT I AM DISCUSSING WITH MY CABINET COLLEAGUES  
FURTHER GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO THE KINDERGARTEN MOVEMENT  
IN THE FORM OF ADMINISTRATION COSTS OF ASSOCIATIONS  
AND ASSISTANCE WITH THE RUNNING COSTS OF KINDERGARTENS.

I KNOW UNDER PRESENT POLICY

NO PAYMENT IS MADE BY GOVERNMENT

TOWARDS THE ADMINISTRATION COSTS OF ASSOCIATIONS

NOR THE RUNNING COSTS OF KINDERGARTENS.



I AM SURE YOU KNOW BETTER THAN I  
THAT RECOMMENDATION 4.2 OF THE HILL REPORT  
SUPPORTED ASSISTANCE TO KINDERGARTENS AND PLAY CENTRES  
ON A COMMON BASIS.

THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS ELECTION MANIFESTO  
AND SINCE WE HAVE BEEN IN OFFICE,  
HAS GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION.  
WE ARE THEREFORE DISCUSSING AT PRESENT  
THE POSSIBILITY OF A GRANT  
FOR EACH KINDERGARTEN UNDER ASSOCIATION CONTROL.

THIS WOULD, WE KNOW,  
PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED ASSISTANCE  
TOWARDS THE ADMINISTRATION COSTS OF ASSOCIATIONS.

8.

THIS ASSISTANCE WOULD ALSO RESULT  
IN A LESSENING OF THE CONSIDERABLE VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL BURDEN  
ON PARENTS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING KINDERGARTENS.

BEING DISCUSSED ALSO AT PRESENT WITH CABINET  
IS THE PROBLEM OF RUNNING COSTS OF KINDERGARTENS.

AT PRESENT AS YOU KNOW THESE COSTS ARE MET ENTIRELY BY PARENTS  
FROM DONATIONS OR FUND RAISING EFFORTS.

I AM PERSONALLY CONCERNED ;  
THAT FINANCIALLY LESS FORTUNATE COMMUNITIES  
SHOULD HAVE TO FACE THE DIFFICULTY OF RAISING THIS MONEY.

I RECENTLY APPROVED SESSIONAL GRANTS TO PLAY CENTRES  
AND A SIMILAR PROPOSAL FOR KINDERGARTENS  
IS PRESENTLY BEING DISCUSSED.

THE AMOUNT WOULD PROBABLY BE NOT QUITE AS MUCH AS FOR PLAY CENTRES  
BECAUSE KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS SALARIES ARE PAID BY THE GOVERNMENT  
BUT A SESSIONAL GRANT FOR EACH HALF DAY SESSION IS BEING  
DISCUSSED.

I CAN OF COURSE GIVE YOU NO DECISION AT THIS STAGE  
BUT I CAN REASSURE YOU THE TWO MATTERS ARE UNDER CLOSE SCRUTINY.

ALSO UNDER CLOSE SCRUTINY AT PRESENT  
IS THE WHOLE QUESTION OF ASSISTANCE  
FOR BUILDINGS, FREE SITES, A 4 FOR 1 SUBSIDY  
AND FREE BUILDINGS IN AREAS OF SPECIAL NEED.

WE ARE SEEKING TO EASE THE BURDEN ON LOCAL PEOPLE  
IN SETTING UP AND OPERATING KINDERGARTENS IN EVERY WAY WE CAN.

10.

WE ARE ALSO SEEKING TO ERADICATE THE LONG WAITING LISTS OF  
3 YEAR OLD CHILDREN  
FOR NEARLY EVERY KINDERGARTEN IN THE COUNTRY.

ONCE AGAIN I CAN ANNOUNCE NO DECISION AS YET.

I CAN HOWEVER ANNOUNCE THE REMOVAL  
OF THE LIMITATION ON KINDERGARTEN STUDENT BURSARIES.

FROM NEXT YEAR STUDENT BURSARIES WILL BE AWARDED TO KINDERGARTEN  
STUDENTS

ON THE SAME BASIS AS TO PRIMARY STUDENTS.

THEREFORE PROVIDED THE CRITERIA OF ELIGIBILITY ARE MET  
THERE WILL BE NO RESTRICTION ON THE NUMBER OF KINDERGARTEN  
STUDENT BURSARIES  
AWARDED IN ANY ONE YEAR.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT IN THE CLIMATE OF GENERAL GOOD WILL  
AND CO-OPERATION

WITHIN THE PRE-SCHOOL MOVEMENTS

YOU WILL ALL WELCOME ASSISTANCE TO ANY OF THESE MOVEMENTS  
BECAUSE YOU KNOW IT WILL BE HELPING OUR CHILDREN  
WHICH IS OUR COMMON CAUSE.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PRE-SCHOOL  
EDUCATION

GIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

TO THIS SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION AND GOOD WILL.

OF COURSE YOU ARE STILL GOING TO WATCH CAREFULLY

TO SEE THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS BACKING UP ITS PROMISES WITH ACTIONS.

THIS IS THE AIM OF ALL PRESSURE GROUPS IN NEW ZEALAND.

I INVITE YOU TO KEEP DOING THIS

BUT I WOULD ASK YOU TO KEEP IN MIND

THE NEEDS OF OTHER SECTIONS OF THE EDUCATION SERVICE.

NOW I TURN TO ANOTHER TOPIC OF MORE GENERAL INTEREST.

NOT SINCE THE NEW EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE IN 1937

HAVE ALL NEW ZEALANDERS BEEN GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY

TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF NEW ZEALAND EDUCATION

AND TO PLOT ITS COURSE.

FROM MARCH TO MAY NEXT YEAR

MANY REGIONAL SEMINARS WILL BE TAKING PLACE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY  
TO STIMULATE DISCUSSION ON EDUCATION

AND TO INVOLVE THE WHOLE COMMUNITY IN THE PLANNING  
PROVISION AND USE OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.



WE AIM TO ENCOURAGE EDUCATION TO BE FLEXIBLE,  
PERVASIVE, OPEN, AND INVOLVING ALL NEW ZEALANDERS.

I HOPE YOUR UNION WILL PLAY ITS PART IN THESE DISCUSSIONS  
IN ENCOURAGING POSITIVE DIRECTIVES FROM NEW ZEALANDERS  
AS TO WHAT THEY WANT FROM EDUCATION.