



Co-operation and hard work behind the scenes for the "splendid and bountiful" hakari. — Whakatane Beacon Photo.

input into the discussions and remits, were most appreciated and valuable.

Varied range of reforms

A member of an Auckland working committee on penal reform, Mr Dennis Hansen, addressed the conference. He outlined some suggestions which would keep people "out of prison" and provide wide-ranging rehabilitation and employment benefits. Mr Hansen explained that the committee has been established to look at existing methods which deal with offenders and to make recommendations for reducing the incidence of imprisonment. The committee is also to look at alternatives for dealing with people appearing before the Court.

Mr Hansen's recommendations included:

- * The establishment of Justice Department support groups based on marae and churches throughout the country which would take offenders and provide homes, employment and social and cultural therapy.
- * Allowing Polynesian offenders to return home for a period of cultural rejuvenation.
- * Encouraging forestry development of more than 100,000 ha of land to provide 60,000 jobs.
- * Providing positions in the Navy and Air Force where job training and social education would prepare them for future careers and occupations.

Mr Hansen, a court officer, told delegates that he favoured the last recommendation most. The money spent each year in keeping 12,000 people in institutions throughout New Zealand totalled \$219 million and together with that spent on domestic purposes benefits for women whose husbands were in prison plus Labour Department work schemes, the final total was \$409 million.

This represented "negative spending" which could be better used in keeping youths out of Social Welfare homes, borstals and prisons, said Mr Hansen.

"For less than half the cost you could keep 26,000 young people between ages 15 to 21 years fed, clothed and trained in social skills at the same time." He proposed paying people who volunteered for the armed forces wages ranging from \$40 to \$70 per week depending on age.

Total cost of the proposal, including food, clothing, tools — and 4,000 additional staff — came to \$197 million which would be "positively" spent. "After five years surely we would see the growing, healthy youth that all New Zealanders would like to see." Mr Hansen said the Minister of Justice, Mr McLay, and the Justice Department, had agreed reform was necessary and he urged conference delegates to take their part in the review. "Pakeha groups all round the country, are making submissions to the Justice



Department and Maoris should be involved too. I have come to you because of your mana," he said. A final plea from Mr Hansen: "delegates — please take these ideas back into the community and make your own submissions to the Justice Department penal policy review committee."

EXTRACTS FROM NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs Violet Pou, National President of the League, delivered her report to the conference outlining the League's involvements over the past year. It was a lengthy and detailed account covering a wide range of activities. It clearly showed what a busy and involved year has passed for herself as National President, for members of the National Executive, and for area representatives, regionals and branches as well.

A very encouraging feature of the year has been the increase in membership, especially as it is the junior membership that is increasing. Mrs Pou stressed that, "...if the Maori Womens Welfare League is to maintain or increase its role in the community; to devise programmes that would attract more Maori women, and others, into our organisation; that an all-out drive for new members would increase not only the League membership, but it would also become more effective on a broader scale of activities within the community.

The Whirinaki branch in Perth, Australia is growing from strength to strength. Their membership is increasing, indicating that they are a very busy group. A copy of their monthly newsletter is received at League headquarters.

Tu Tangata Whanau

One of the challenges placed before the League by the Minister of Maori Affairs, The Hon. Mr Ben Couch, at the Maori Womens Welfare League's 1980 Conference at Timaru was the "birth" of the Tu Tangata Whanau Programme. The M.W.W.L. was charged by the Minister to spearhead the Tu Tangata Programme in conjunction with the Department of Maori Affairs. The challenge was taken up.

There has been a measure of success in this area and the programmes are ongoing. In all phases of community life, town and country, the Maori Womens Welfare League is there in a supportive or direct role. Significant involvements are in schools and colleges: Maori language and cultural tuition; homework centres; work schemes and trusts to aid the unemployed; care for the aged and the sick; pre-school work; teaching of arts and crafts, weaving and carving etc; serving as Wardens and as Honorary Community Officers; serving on Maori Committees and District Maori Councils, and in many community activities and communities. Just remember too that to get the Tu Tangata programme off the ground, necessitated attendance at Meetings. Meetings! Meetings! As many as nine meetings in one month, in-