

OPENING ADDRESS IRTNZ TRANSPORT CONFERENCE.. 16TH
JULY, 1988.

Chairman, Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is the very greatest privilege for me, as Chairman of Council of the Institute of Road Transport Engineers, to be here in your beautiful country at the opening of your biannual Transport Conference.

This is my second visit to New Zealand. My wife, who is with me here today, has exchanged letters with a pen pal from Waikato, for what is now almost 50 years and early last year, after all this time, they finally met in her home town of Matamata.

During that visit the thing which impressed us both was the sharing of views and values between us. For our part it was almost like having a second home and a second family in the south seas.

These days the ties between New Zealand and the United Kingdom are understated, but they are numerous and deep and are based on those values which we share. Nowhere is this more true than in the aims of this Institute. I know that you will not need reminding they are;

- To improve the skill and competence of those involved in road transport provision and use.
- To promote improvement in the design and use of transport vehicles in support of safe and economic operation.
- To encourage the training of our people to raise the professional standards of our members.
- To publicise the occupation of Road Transport Engineer and promote the services which our members offer.

And finally;

--- To support all of these aims with proposals for sound legislation.

This year we have gone one stage further and joined the fashion by introducing a mission statement linked to a vision for our Institute.

The vision is simply;

--- To be the preferred body for engineers and technicians in all aspects of road transport and the recognised authority on road transport engineering matters.

The mission statement is equally simple;

--- To enhance the professional standing and contribution of the Institute and its members within its industry, in the national interest and to the greater benefit of society.

--- To further the Institute's aims and ideals and in particular to strive to raise the standards of education, safety, and efficiency within the road transport industry.

--- To participate fully in the creation of sound legislation, thereby helping to establish the highest possible environmental and safety standards.

Modern life in any progressive nation depends upon economic and efficient transport and distribution services, and this is even more important in these days of environmental issues.

The conventional view these days is to limit the weight of road vehicles and to encourage the switch from road to rail wherever possible. These views miss the point in my estimation.

Road transport provides the most practical and efficient way of transporting goods and people from A to B, or supporting the maintenance of the services and utilities on which modern life is based.

It is a sobering thought that the goods delivered by a single modern truck to a hypermarket probably require up to 500 car journeys to carry them away. What is more, there is no other system by which that primary distribution to local retail premises can be handled with such efficiency.

This efficiency and practicality of operation applies equally to the 'bus and coach in the movement of passengers and to the mobile workshop in the delivery of public services and utilities.

To provide these services, safely and efficiently, requires the sound maintenance of the vehicles. This in turn depends upon professional road transport engineers who are; well trained, well informed and well motivated. I am sure, Chairman, that your conference will provide a suitable focus for the achievement of those aims. THANK YOU.