

Police will not prosecute

PA Wellington

There was no question of the police prosecuting solo parents who had surrendered their domestic purposes benefit as a result of a speech given by the Minister of Social Welfare (Mr Walker) in Christchurch in March, the Minister of Internal Affairs (Mr Highet) says.

In his capacity as Acting-Minister of Social Welfare, he referred in a written statement to a case reported by the "Rotorua Post" in which it was stated that a Taupo woman had not been exempted from prosecution.

Mr Highet said that Mr Walker in his Christchurch speech had made it clear that any woman who accepted his invitation to come forward would not be prosecuted. In a subsequent speech Mr Walker explained the exemption would apply to all women who came forward after his earlier speech and before May 31.

In the case referred to by the Rotorua newspaper the department was satisfied in December 1975 that the woman concerned was ineligible for a domestic purposes benefit, said Mr Highet.

Her benefit was withdrawn in January, 1976, well before Mr Walker's speech in Christchurch on March 23.

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