

He Maramara Korero

WORK INTEGRATION ISN'T WORKING

A study just published by the Labour Department reveals that a disproportionately large number of Maori are employed in areas like production, transport and labouring.

The study, which looks at the integration of Maori people into the "mainstream" labour force from 1951 to 1976, is based on an American study which argues that the lack of such integration in the workforce stems from prejudice and discrimination.

While the report claims that the differences between Maori and non-Maori participation are not of great significance, it nevertheless makes the following observations:

- Maori men are most integrated in groups which anyway have the greatest share of male employees, such as agricultural, labourers, transport, production and equipment operators. They are least integrated in the clerical, technical and professional areas.
- Maori women also figure in clusters in the production, transport and services fields. While differentiation has lessened in the clerical and sales areas, the position of Maori women in the professional technical group has worsened.

- Although there are more Maori women than men in the so-called professions, most of them are working in the "female" areas of teaching and nursing.
- By 1971 the production and transport occupations had become disproportionately high employers of Maori women. The study concludes that in a truly egalitarian society there would be no differentiation at all, and that "economic integration among New Zealand's various ethnic groups is far from complete."

PLAYWRIGHT'S DILEMMA

Remember *Joe and Koro*? Well, Rawiri Paratene (and no prizes for guessing which part he played in the popular TV series) is about to demonstrate that he can do more than just act. He has written a play called *Saturday Morning*, and he's producing and directing it too. Billed as a comedy, *Saturday Morning* is not without its serious side, set as it is in the local lock-up — "the morning after the night before" — with a bunch of predominantly Maori characters chatting as they wait to go up before the magistrate.

The actors are mainly amateurs (the exception is Jim Moriarty, best known as Riki in *Close to Home*), and ironically enough the main part is played by Rawiri Rangitauira, who is a lawyer in real life!

The problem, says Rawiri Paratene, is where to stage it. He sees *Saturday Morning* as a very Maori play, and for that reason he thinks it is a play that Pakehas ought to see. He's been offered Wellington's smart Downstage Theatre, but not many Maori people go there. Or he could put it on at Newtown Community Centre — but then not many middle-class Pakehas go there. Either way, Wellingtonians are urged to keep an eye out for what Rowley Habib has described as "a marvellous slice of life".

Rawiri Paratene: getting his act together.

