



### A KORERO Report

**H**IS UNIFORM is a lounge suit, and he wears no medals.

There is, perhaps, a tendency to girth that a P.T. instructor would soon correct. But ready to put a wealth of experience garnered in the business world at the disposal of his fellow-burgesses, he has volunteered, and been accepted by the electors, for civic service. The arena of the Council Chamber has its victories no less than the battlefield. The goal is the progress of the city, and the enemy anything which hampers that progress.

So our City Councillor, typical of his colleagues in the Wellington Council, a city itself typical of the four main centres in New Zealand, smiled when asked what Councillors did bar talk. Certainly meetings are the medium by which the business of the Council is decided, its policies debated, and its decisions made. And talk there is. But talk with a purpose, talk that clarifies opinions, hammers ideas into shape, and ensures that the actions taken will be straightforward.

On first being elected, a Councillor is appointed to several committees, usually at least four. In these committees, each of them dealing with a specific aspect of the Corporation's activities, discussion is more detailed

and, in the absence of press and public, freer. As a Councillor finds his feet, he may ask to be appointed to a particular committee on which his experience and talents can be of benefit. And as seniority comes he may be elected to the chairmanship of a committee. Then it will be his task to guide newer members, to control the meetings, to indicate past and future policy. And once a month, when the full Council holds its regular meeting, open to press and public, the work of the committee may be debated and the chairman will be on hand to support and, if necessary, explain the measures his committee has taken. Once a month also the whole Council meets as the Finance and Property Committee.

The committee is, you might say, the work-bench of the Council. A perusal of the names of some of the committees of the Wellington City Council will show how widespread and comprehensive are the authority and interests of that body in the lives of its citizens. The work of the Tramways, Electricity, and Street-lighting Committee aids the Wellingtonian on his way home from the office or factory; a Health, Sanitation, Cemeteries, and Abattoirs Committee, to give it its full name, helps to keep him fit; and any city ordinances he may encounter have first been

