

# Stan taking protest to the top

By Jeremy Flint

If you want action in an organisation it pays to talk to the man at the top, and that is the philosophy Stan Hemsley follows.

Mr Hemsley, a retired waterside worker, is writing to Prince Charles because he has had enough of the National Government's "broken promises and undemocratic behaviour."

He wants the Prince to set up a royal commission to inquire into the Government's actions and misleading statements it made to get into power.

## Word in ear

"The Prince is a fellow conservationist and doesn't have the same number of secretaries and aides protecting him — I think my letter will get past his assistants, and he can then have a word in the ear of the Queen."

Mr Hemsley is particularly dismayed at the possibility of the Government authorising wood chipping in 2600 hectares of native forest.

"This would condemn native birds protected by law to death effectively, and the whole area is totally contrary to its election pledge."

Mr Hemsley also points to the nuclear-free policy, which he said the Government wanted to change, as another glaring example of its undemocratic behaviour.

"Before getting into power just over 12 months ago, the National Party electioneered on numerous promises it has now broken."

Mr Hemsley said the Government had cast aside as being of no consequence its oath of allegiance to the Queen, and that was a direct insult to Her Majesty.

A member of many environmental and peace groups, Mr Hemsley said he still believed New Zealand was the best country in the world.

The other threat, apart from this Government, is foreign ownership, he said.

"Big multi-national companies are taking over assets bought and paid for by the New Zealand taxpayer — they belong to the people, and the Government is selling them off."

Mr Hemsley bore the brunt of the last depression in the 1930s, leaving school in 1934 to work on a fishing boat for no wages.

"They gave me a bit of fish to take home to my parents, but for the first 18 months I couldn't afford sea boots or proper warm clothing," he said.

"I believe they're making the same mistakes they made back in the 1930s — I feel sorry for the young people with families. How will they ever get homes paid off and children raised properly?"

Mr Hemsley said the vital lesson the Government had to learn was that it was people that mattered — not money.

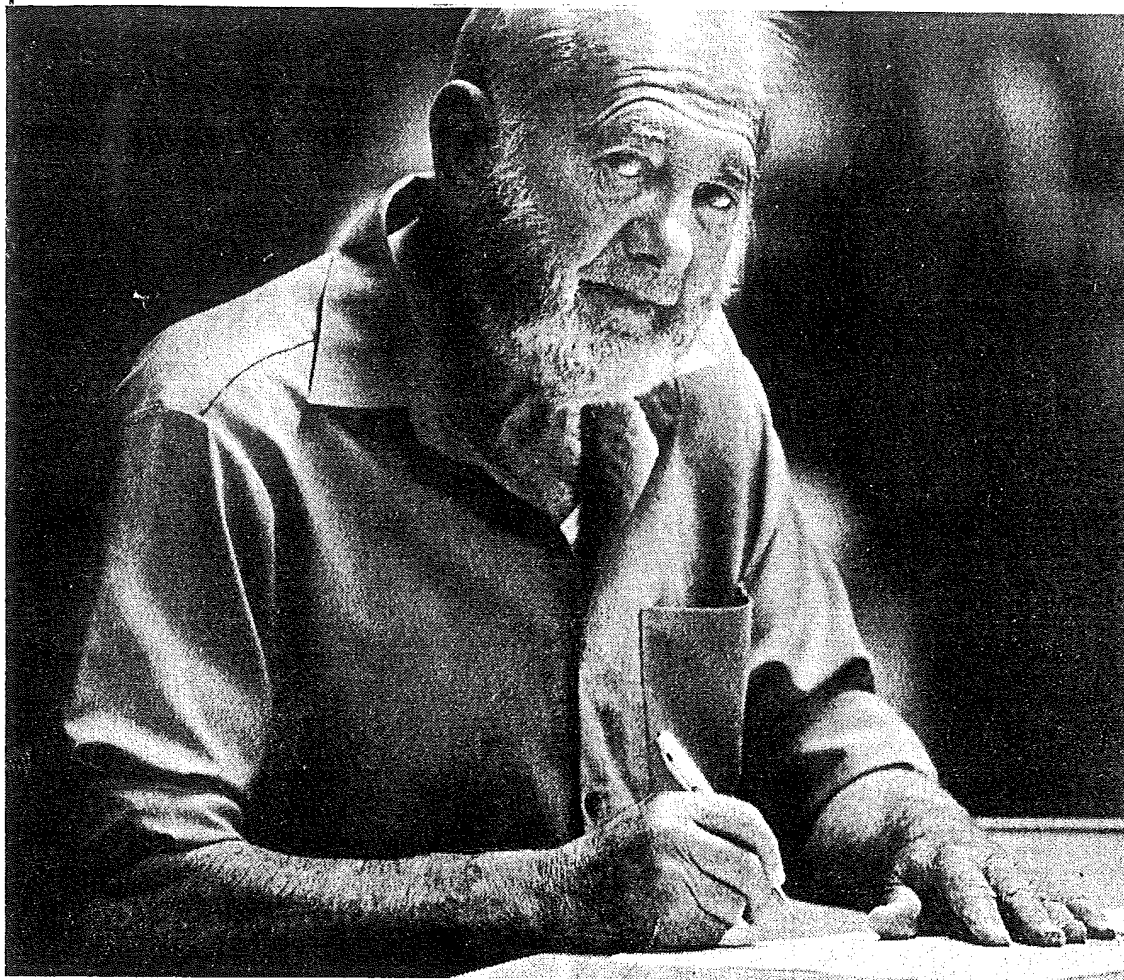
## Dear sir . . .

STAN Hemsley, a Lyttelton pensioner, is so angry with the Government that he has written a letter to Prince Charles about its performance.

It is in the lap of the gods whether the Prince will actually read Stan's letter. But the letter represents the frustration of many people and, because Stan felt impotent to do much about Government actions, he wrote his letter.

Many will understand his frustration and sympathise with Stan Hemsley, protester.

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Sick of broken promises: Stan Hemsley signs the letter he sent to Prince Charles. Photo:

Brett Phibbs.