

Nineties may be decade of electronic implants

Identity system could lead to forbidden marks

IDENTITY numbers and cards for New Zealanders are almost here.

A seven-department committee led by Judge Ken Mason has been considering the ID since April 1989. An investigation of New Zealand's inland revenue by the International Monetary Fund led to its recommendation.

The existence of cheap, commercial software would even enable an ID number and personal data to be injected as a microchip under the skin.

Farfetched? A year ago, New Zealanders heard that the RNZSPCA's national director Neil Wells proposed identifying all dogs with an injectable numbering device. The scheme has been put on hold because of "abusive and threatening letters" from the public.

However, software manufacturers are eager to supply the injected microchip for human use.

Tests show these devices "could be made to operate at distances of 20 or 30m at speeds of 100km per hour or more," says Liza Higgins, information systems consultant with Palmerston North City Council, in *Computerworld*.

"The crystals are so small, they can be placed into glass capsules and injected without harm into fatty tissue. While the use of the system on

humans has many fish-hooks and may never be ethically acceptable, the technology is currently at a stage where it could be introduced economically for a host of applications, and I can see it as a major innovation in the 1990s."

In a similar vein, communications consultant Clive Matthew-Wilson wrote in the *New Zealand Herald* of an ID device, the DS6066, the size of a stick of chewing gum complete with its own transmitter. A 32,000-character memory means it carries information equivalent to six pages of close type.

He said: "Similar, if simpler, devices are being injected under

David Caygill, the Minister of Finance, along with all other politicians, needs to know at this stage, before legislation is drafted, that many believers feel scripture forbids them to take any ID number which involves a mark or an implant on or in the body.

Mr Caygill needs to know there must be exemptions from the ID system on the grounds of conscience.

The Human Rights Commission has been set up to monitor cases of discrimination, including religious discrimination. It needs to be aware that Christians are forbidden to receive an ID mark or implant should such a system be introduced.

by George and Eileen Anderson

the skin of dogs in England. Few people aware of the technology have failed to ask the question, how long before someone proposes this for the control of humans?"

Bear in mind that these men are experts in communications technology.

The Government, too, has taken steps towards a "universal ID number."

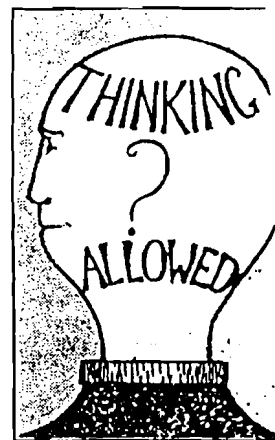
John Grant, the Director-General of Social Welfare, said in April 1989: "We have given away stamping everyone on the forehead at birth. The cabinet wiped that."

It could happen, and happen quickly.

Doom and gloom merchants may read the prophecies of the Mark of the Beast in Revelation 13 and meekly accept that persecution and death wait down the road for believers.

But remember Nineveh and Jonah: "Forty days — and Nineveh will be overthrown" was the prophecy. It wasn't overthrown. The people acted on what they heard.

We can, and should, tell our politicians that we are entitled to freedom of religious conscience as much as any other



group — as much as the Muslims who slaughter sheep in or abattoirs according to Islam ritual, or Maori elders who place and lift tapus in public ceremonies.

Christians have a commanding back nearly 2000 years forbidding them to receive any form of number or mark in or on their bodies. The verses are found in Revelation 13:16-18 14:9-11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4.

A number on a piece of paper or an ID card we may or may not like. That's personal preference.

But if the ID ever turns out to be an implant, as communications consultants and the Bible agree it could, then ...

As for me and my house, no, David Caygill.

No way.