

John

Some “interesting” comments on Turnbull.

One aspect that puzzles me is the claim that there is an increase in growth from the promised cut to company tax. So far the media seems to have swallowed this. But a cut in company tax is only one part of future budgets and we don't know what the other parts are, particularly (but not only) after the forward estimates which are no more than “projections” in the last two years. More generally, both sides seem to be talking about ten years hence – better to call that nonsense!

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No matter whether Malcolm Turnbull or Bill Shorten wins the election, the Left has it sewn up

May 9, 2016 12:00am

Andrew Bolt, Herald Sun, May 9, 2016

Federal Budget 2016: Your five-minute guide

MALCOLM Turnbull yesterday fired the gun for what will be the most dishonest election campaign in your life. Both Liberal and Labor are already making reckless promises neither can possibly deliver.

Worse, even if they win, neither party will resemble what they are promising now. Both will almost certainly be worse — and more Left wing.

I am sorry to sound so negative, but the facts are so clear and the danger so great that it would be irresponsible to pretend this election gives you what both sides claim: a choice between good and bad.

It is instead a choice between bad and worse, with the reality to come worse still.

On the one hand, we have a Government that claims to be lowering taxes when it is in fact raising them to historically high levels.

It is a Government that claims it will finally start repaying our fast-increasing debt five years from now, when analysis shows it has instead over-estimated the likely growth by then.

Reserve Bank Governor Glenn Stevens has repeatedly warned our recent sluggish growth may in fact be the new normal rather than simply a blip that last week's Budget assumes. If he is right, we're headed for deficits as much as \$50 billion a year higher than the Government pretends.

Those deficits will be heaped onto a federal debt that will next year soar to half a trillion dollars, when just nine years ago the

Government actually had money in the bank.

But bad as the Liberals are, Labor will be even worse and just as deceitful.

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten last week promised — as if it was a good thing — to impose another \$65 billion of taxes over the next decade, all to be frittered away on yet more spending.

But even that mad promise — so in denial of our financial strife and the deadening effect of increased taxes — was not Labor's most flagrant deceit.

No, that prize goes to Shorten's promise to force Australia to have 50 per cent of renewable energy by 2030.

That is a lie. As my colleague Terry McCrann demonstrated last week, that would involve increasing our existing wind and solar plans by seven times in just 14 years.

The cost would be horrific, even if it were attempted, and the poor would find power prices soar so high that they could not afford to heat their homes in winter or cool them in summer.

Add to that Labor's manic class war, leading it to oppose company tax cuts for any businesses except the smallest, and productive Australians should fear for their future.

But whatever Labor and the Liberals are pretending to be now, after the election the winner will be worse.

First, look at the practical realities if Labor wins.



Bad campaigning by Malcolm Turnbull would aid Bill Shorten.

An outright Labor win should actually be almost impossible, given it needs 21 seats more than it has now.

True, the polls show Labor is actually level with the Liberals or even ahead, but that overall figure is misleading.

Each seat is different, and going through the individual battleground seats, I cannot see Labor winning, at the very most, more than 17.

But that could just give it enough to form a minority government with Leftist independents and minor parties — maybe the Greens, the Nick Xenophon party and the likes of Andrew Wilkie.

And with the Greens and Xenophon also likely to share the balance of power in the Senate, a Shorten Labor Government depending on such allies would almost inevitably be dragged further to the Left.

Spending restraint will then be even more impossible, because the power of such minor parties lies in delivering goodies to the chosen few, not hairshirts to the many.

The money will run out even sooner.

Of course, I cannot rule out Labor actually winning those 21 seats, because of one factor — Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

Turnbull alone can hand Labor a smashing win by campaigning as incredibly badly as he has done so far.

Last week showed just how terrible he can be. Turnbull told a barefaced falsehood in an interview on Sky News Live when he claimed Treasury had not costed his signature 10-year tax plan for business — a plan Treasury then confessed it had indeed costed at \$48 billion.

Turnbull told another untruth when he then claimed his Budget was lowering the tax take when in fact it was hiking it, both in raw numbers and as a share of the GDP.

How can a prime minister not know the difference between raising taxes and lowering them, and not know which of the two he was actually doing? Is Turnbull dishonest or incompetent?

But there is one more test of his credibility that we will see only after the election.

Right now Turnbull is promising to give us a Liberal government that won't stray too far from traditional Liberal positions.

In fact, the Nationals made him promise not to change policies on global warming and same-sex marriage in exchange for agreeing to help make him Prime Minister.

But what if Turnbull wins the election?

Journalists such as the Financial Review's Tony Walker report being assured by Turnbull "confidants" that Turnbull will then reveal he really is a more Left-wing leader. Is that true?

Would Turnbull, ego and authority boosted by his win, drag his party further Left?
Judge by deeds, not words.

Here are three huge warning signs.

One, Turnbull, comfortable in ABC studios, has refused as Prime Minister to be interviewed by the country's most prominent conservative presenters, including Alan Jones and everyone else at 2GB, me included.

Two, Turnbull in his Budget raided the superannuation accounts of the rich, retrospectively taxing the once tax-free amounts above his new \$1.6 million cap at 15 per cent.

Even Labor, usually greedy for taxes, says it can't go that far and risk undermining people's trust that their savings would be safe.



Former Greens candidate Lin Hatfield Dodds with Malcolm Turnbull at his Christmas drinks.

Three, Turnbull has just had a former Greens candidate, Lin Hatfield Dodds, appointed as a deputy secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to oversee his social policies.

Some of his ministers literally couldn't believe it when first told.

And an elected Turnbull Government will have plenty of encouragement after the election to go deeper green.

Turnbull's changes to the voting rules for choosing Senators means the Greens and the Greens-leaning Nick Xenophon will most likely share the balance of power in the new Senate.

Turnbull will need their help to get legislation passed.

More troubling is that such a parliament would make it impossible for any government to give us the tough reforms we need, even if the Liberals or Labor were promising to try. But they aren't.

Instead, they're fiddling as our finances burn, making promises they must know they cannot keep because of dangers they pretend not to see.

Lies and more lies.

ANDREW BOLT WILL INTERVIEW PETA CREDLIN, TONY ABBOTT'S FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF, ON THE BOLT REPORT ON SKY NEWS LIVE TONIGHT AT 7PM