

Coalition should attack Labor's weak spot — unions

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Your editorial is right to chide the Prime Minister for not doing enough to attack Labor's economic irresponsibility ("Turnbull needs to step out on the economic attack", 23/5). But when is Malcolm Turnbull going to bring out his big guns and talk about industrial relations?

The double dissolution was called because the opposition refused to allow passage through the Senate of a bill re-establishing the Australian Building and Construction Commission and the Registered Organisations Bill which sought to impose the same governance requirements on unions that the corporate world is compelled to comply with.

The trade union royal commission has barely been mentioned and yet it is the most potent weapon Turnbull has to thwart the growing popularity of Bill Shorten and to discredit Labor through its servile relationship with the union movement.

Ted Scott, Frenchville, Qld

I was reading *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr and came across this line: "Everyone remembers the last war, and no one is mad enough to go through that again." I woke to see Newspoll putting the Labor Party ahead and likely to win the next election ("Turnbull in danger as Shorten lifts", 23/5).

I wonder if we are mad enough as a nation to elect a party that has delivered a huge, unsustainable debt, and when in opposition refused to support budget savings that it had flagged in its last days of power.

The country cannot continue down this road. We cannot continue to visit the doctor for free, to fund university courses that produce graduates for whom there are no jobs, to continually fund state responsibilities such as health and school education and to fund childcare for people who do not work. Unfortunately, I think it seems that we are mad enough to go through that again.

John W. Dale, Bellevue Hill, NSW

Let's assume that the hundreds of millions of borrowed dollars Bill Shorten keeps pulling out of his hat can be funded, and that we have another Labor-Greens government.

While we are patting the extra dollar in our purses and pockets, think about the billions of unfunded spending that exacerbated our deficit-debt crisis from the billions the last alliance spent settling 50,000 illegal boat arrivals, and the probability the people-smugglers would send more boats, not caring if they lived or died. It's not only that initial cost, it's the continuing welfare costs.

Kevin Begaud, Dee Why, NSW

Is it any wonder that Malcolm Turnbull and the Coalition are falling behind in this election campaign? If you were looking for an uninspiring catchphrase to use in an election I could not think of a less inspiring one than "jobs and growth". The concept is admirable, but as a slogan to stir up the emotions during an election it has about as much zing as warm beer.

If Turnbull wants to win he has got to start selling the sizzle, not the steak. Be specific: where are these jobs, and when are they going to eventuate? If you are living on a tight budget, as most are these days, you will take anything that is offered. That is why Bill Shorten is making ground by promising a bright tomorrow. The fact that we will go broke a week later has to be explained, and the people must be made to understand that Labor always leaves a mess. The people don't want slogans, they want positive and strong leadership by somebody who looks and sounds as if he or she means it. There is still time. Shorten and Labor want to win, and they can and they will if the PM lets them get away with promising everything but the kitchen sink.

David J. Syme, Mollymook, NSW

Newspoll highlights the failure of the Coalition election campaign. Having Malcolm Turnbull stand in front of a camera and repeat campaign slogans is likely to turn voters off.

Jobs and growth is a good slogan, but what does it mean? It does not tell voters what the Coalition is going to do. Meanwhile Labor is promising to increase spending now and pay for it by not giving tax relief in 10 years, and they are getting away with it.

The Coalition should change its advertising. Now that Turnbull has lost his gloss, it is counterproductive to keep featuring him. The focus should be on the folly that awaits us if a Shorten government is elected with a policy of continuing in the same direction as the disastrous Rudd and Gillard years.

R. Watson, Sunnybank Hills, Qld