

The case for voting in Bill Shorten as prime minister and removing Malcolm Turnbull

June 20, 2016 12:00am, Andrew Bolt, Herald Sun

CONSERVATIVES must now admit it. Whatever we think of that backstabbing Leftist Malcolm Turnbull, Labor would be worse.

In fact, Labor leader Bill Shorten promised to be worse two weeks ago when he delivered the astonishing suicide note that ended his last chance.

He promised to bury us in even more debt over the next four years than our reckless Prime Minister, who himself promises to put another \$85 billion on the credit card.

“Labor will not have the same degree of fiscal contraction as the Liberals over this period,” Shorten declared, in between making one wild spending promise and the next.

Add Labor’s other craziness — the return of an electricity tax, protection for lawless unions, weakness on border laws, talk of an Aboriginal treaty — and every conservative must conclude that Turnbull is our man.

Right? Not so fast.

If this election were only about the next three years, then, yes, conservatives must back the Liberals and their Nationals partners.

But both the Liberals and Labor tell us not to think just three years ahead. Think the next 10, they insist.

For instance, the Liberals are promising business tax cuts — but only over 10 years, four elections away.

Labor is actually promising lower debt than the Liberals — but only after 10 years. Its Gonski spending on schools is also over 10 years.

So conservatives should also think over 10 years. Here, then, is our real question. What’s better?

Is it Option A: A Turnbull government for the next three or six years, followed inevitably by a Labor one? That would give us essentially Leftist governments for at least a decade. No real Budget repair for 10 years. No conservative agenda for 10 years.

Or is it Option B: A Shorten government now, followed by a reformed Liberal government under a new and true Liberal leader?

If Turnbull were defeated now, we could at least hope that some more conservative leader, replaces him — an Angus Taylor, Josh Frydenberg, Christian Porter, Peter Dutton or even Tony Abbott — and leads the reformed Liberals back in to power in three years.

BLOG WITH ANDREW BOLT

So that’s the conservative’s choice: either Turnbull/Labor governments for the next decade, or Labor for three years and — hopefully — a more conservative Liberal government after that. Over 10 years, which would be better for the country?

Of course, there are caveats here. Think of the damage Labor could do in three years. And would the Liberals really replace Turnbull with a conservative?

Now, some Liberals and Turnbull backers will again attack me for criticising Turnbull or mourning my friend Abbott.

First, guys, relax. Turnbull will win, whatever I say. Labor is too hopeless. Second, I'm not attacking Turnbull for what he did to Abbott, but judging him purely on what he's done since. And, third, don't think I'm alone.

The latest polls show huge numbers of voters — between 10 and 15 per cent — would actually prefer anyone other than the Coalition, Labor and the Greens. Few conservatives actively support Turnbull but feel there is no alternative, except, perhaps in the Senate, where they can vote Liberal Democrat or Family First. And no wonder Turnbull can't excite his own supporters.

There is a long list of reasons why conservatives in particular cannot trust him and why even some of his own ministers worry about him.



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Here is my own (partial) list. This will explain why some conservatives believe Turnbull must indeed be replaced, even if it takes three more years of Labor to do it.

Turnbull:

BELIEVES in Big Government, promising to add another \$85 billion to our debt, and to raise taxes as a share of the economy for the next three years;

PROMOTES the Left's global warming scare, falsely claiming the recent floods in Tasmania were its worst and falsely claiming the science showed bigger storms would come. Gave another \$1 billion for global warming projects overseas;

COVERS for Islam, last week holding an Iftar dinner at Kirribilli to be photographed next to Waleed Aly, having snubbed the installation of a new Catholic bishop in Parramatta. Falsely claimed that the Koranically-inspired anti-gay preaching of another guest, Sheik Shady Al-Suleiman, the elected president of the Australian National Imams Council, were just "the opinions expressed by one person, by one cleric";

DOES not speak frankly about Islamist extremism, at first defending the Grand Mufti when he blamed terrorism on the West's alleged oppression of Muslims; and at first falsely claiming the Islamist murder of police accountant Curtis Cheng was "politically inspired";

REFUSES to defend free speech from the new racism, choosing not to indemnify seven students sued for complaining about being kicked off “Aboriginal only” computers at their university. Refuses to reform the law being used to muzzle them;

CONNIVES at Left-wing censorship at our universities. Scrapped funding for the proposed consensus centre of Professor Bjorn Lomborg after it was opposed by warming extremists and the far-Left National Tertiary Education Union, who said his sceptical views damaged our academic reputation;

DUMPED conservative Immigration Minister Peter Dutton from the National Security Committee.

SOFTENED the Government’s opposition to the Clean Energy Finance Corporation, which invests public money to make no difference to global warming;

COURTED activists, including Human Rights Commissioner Gillian Triggs, who was invited to tea after accusing the government of crimes against humanity;

ATTACKED his base with an even bigger tax grab on superannuation savings than proposed by Labor. Earlier upped the pay offer to public servants from 1.5 per cent to 2 per cent;

BANNED the visit of anti-abortion activist Troy Newman, rather than let him come speak;

HAD a former Greens candidate, Lin Hatfield Dodds, hired as a deputy secretary of his department to co-ordinate all his social policies;

SHUNS most conservative journalists, preferring the ABC;

BUYS off critics of the Left. Restored funding to the Australia Council, which former Arts Minister George Brandis wanted diverted to excellence rather than mediocrity. (The council has since scrapped the grant to the only conservative literary magazine it supported.);

PROMOTES the new racism, saying the white settlement of Australia “can be fairly described as ... an invasion”, and “this was and is and always will be Aboriginal land”;

IS NOT asking for a mandate at this election for a strong and recognisably Liberal agenda. Has not campaigned for workplace reform, free speech, smaller government, a smaller ABC, real welfare reform or an end to the culture of entitlement;

HAS instead backed gay marriage, a republic, constitutional recognition of Aborigines, global warming alarmism and other causes of the Left.

This man is not and never will be a true Liberal leader.

Yet I repeat: despite that appalling record for a Liberal Prime Minister, Turnbull would still be better than Shorten over the next three years.

But wouldn’t a defeated Turnbull be better for us over 10?

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