



PRIME MINISTER

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PROTECTING EMPLOYMENT

People used to believe that if there was one thing you could count on the Labor party for, it was protecting the jobs of Australian workers. Well, that idea went out like the baby with the bathwater under Mr. Whitlam and the Labor Government.

In one year, no less than 190,000 Australians lost their jobs, but in this election the Labor party is asking us to believe that it is back in the business of creating jobs, that it will cure unemployment - the unemployment caused by its own policies.

Events this week have seen the end of that particular myth. On Tuesday, the clothing industry met the Labor party in Melbourne. They asked them to match the commitment which the Liberal Government has already announced of much needed protection against rising imports.

My Government has said it will not allow these to destroy 120,000 jobs in the clothing, footwear and textile industries in cities and country towns right across Australia.

We have promised to extend protection for another three years until conditions improve.

Mr. Hawke told the clothing industry on Tuesday that Labor would do the same - he put it in writing, but then there was a telephone hook-up between Mr. Whitlam, Mr. Hayden and Mr. Young, and they said 'no'. No commitment to protection for these 120,000 workers will be given at the present time.

This is simply another way of saying that Labor's latest export to low cost countries will be Australian jobs.

My advice to people working in these industries is to support the attitude of their employers, the Liberal Government, and many of their own union leaders. Labor has now given them a clear warning.

It has said - under Labor, beware of your job. On the jobs issue, Labor is disastrously split.