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Mr Whitlam seeks to make cheap political point -scoring from the plight of Australia's unemployed.

His last-ditch panic campaign to frighten the electorate about this issue will backfire.

It will backfire because it will remind Australians that Mr Whitlam's party increased unemployment by 192,000 in one year.

Mr Whitlam had no responsible answers to the problem when in Government ... and, presents no credible solutions in opposition.

He insults the intelligence of Australians by offering the same recipe that caused that massive unemployment.

He thinks that his speechwriter's adjectives, flowing phrases and ringing declarations will convince people that he and his party can fix it overnight.

He forgets that Australians understand very clearly that his policies led to unprecedented unemployment, in manufacturing industry, textiles, and clothing industry, in big business and small business in every State of Australia.

In May 1974, there were 1,357,400 people employed in manufacturing. Just one year later that number had dropped to 1,250,100 - that is a decrease of 107,300 people.

As Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam used unemployment as a deliberate and calculated act of Government policy.

Ignoring the warnings contained in an IAC report that Mr Whitlam kept secret, he wiped out tens of thousands of jobs with the stroke of a pen.

How did he explain away this extraordinary decision? In his 1974 policy speech he said "Administratively we cut tariffs by 25 percent to reduce the price of imports without damaging Australian industries".

But it was left to Mr Uren to let the cat out of the unemployment bag. Just two weeks ago he admitted that Mr Whitlam made the 25 percent tariff cut to correct an over-employment situation!

That was some correction. In 1974 unemployment increased by a massive 192,000.

But Mr Whitlam is unrepentant. He would do it all again.

Just last Wednesday morning he flatly refused to guarantee protection for 120,000 workers in the clothing, textile and footwear industries. He would forget them all over again.

What do the people in those industries think about Mr Whitlam's concern for the unemployed?

Why is it that he is so reluctant to protect Australian industry, and Australian working men and women.

Why does he refuse to face up to the fact that Australian industry needs protection because of our high wage structure and our small home market?

Our consistent economic strategy is getting Australia back to work, and from February there will be a sustained and long term reduction in unemployment in Australia.

We are reducing inflation, reducing interest rates, protecting industry, cutting taxes and encouraging investment and development.

All this means jobs - permanent jobs for Australians who want to work.

These are jobs for people - not Mr Whitlam's "administrative" tariff cuts which meant workers struck out by a Prime Minister's pen.

Mr Whitlam's political epitaph is being written this week - "the unemployment expert".

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