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Unions build new fund on IR changes

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UNIONS have amassed another \$8 million to fight the Federal Government's workplace changes.

It will pay for a new television campaign next year, and will fund local battles to oust Coalition MPs from marginal seats.

Announcing the new phase of the campaign in Canberra yesterday, **ACTU** president **Sharan Burrow** told workers from more than 30 knife-edge seats that the only way to restore protection for working people was to change the Government.

"I make this promise to the members of Parliament that votes for these laws . . . we're here today to start a campaign that makes your jobs very insecure," she said .

The **ACTU** has already spent \$8 million on the campaign this year.

At the same time, the Government has spent \$55 million of the taxpayers' money promoting its changes.

A spokesman for Workplace Relations Minister Kevin Andrews said yesterday the **ACTU** was entitled to run a campaign, but accused it of distorting the facts. "Australians deserve a factually based campaign, not a fanciful rant," he said. Labor's industrial relations spokesman, Stephen Smith, said only a change of government would rescind the laws, which would rely on only 30,000 voters in marginal seats changing their minds.

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