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No more IR laws - Howard

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JOHN Howard has rejected a minister's suggestion Australia could face another round of **industrial** relations changes.

With the ink barely dry on the most significant overhaul of **industrial** relations laws in years, Finance Minister **Nick Minchin** yesterday said more needed to be done.

Senator Minchin this week apologised to a conservative think-tank that said the Government's flagship reforms did not go far enough.

Despite acknowledging many Australians were strongly opposed to the new system, Senator Minchin indicated the Coalition would push ahead with further changes.

``We do need to seek a mandate from the Australian people at the next election for another wave of reform," he told the HR Nicholls Society.

But Prime Minister **John Howard**, in India, said last night the Government would not seek to make further, substantial **industrial** changes at the next election.

``The changes that went through last year were significant," he said.

``They weren't unreasonable. They weren't radical. But we won't be taking further major proposals in that area to the next election."

Mr Howard believes Australians will eventually see the benefits of the changes. ``I think the situation is that once the reforms are experienced then people will look back and see what the Labor Party said about the reforms as being a total fear campaign," he said.

Opposition Leader **Kim Beazley** said the Government would stop at nothing in its bid to undermine workers' rights.

``The Howard Government's extreme laws will be made more extreme if they're re-elected and Minchin has said it," Mr Beazley warned.

``They are a party (that) will undermine the living conditions of ordinary

Australians and the things that make family life worthwhile and sustainable."

Senator Minchin said his comments were personal views and not Government policy.

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