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Lib threat to block IR revision

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THE Coalition would try to block any attempt by a Labor government to tear up the new **industrial** laws, a senior minister said yesterday.

Workplace Relations Minister **Kevin Andrews** said dumping the legislation would take Australia backwards.

Opposition Leader **Kim Beazley** has pledged to tear up the laws, and to scrap Australian **Workplace** Agreements.

But Mr Andrews said a Labor government couldn't do that unless it controlled the Senate.

Asked on 3AW what the Coalition would do if it had a Senate majority, he said: ``Well, having gone to this trouble to do what we believe is in the best interests of Australia, we're hardly likely to turn around and say: `Oh, well, we'll just allow the Labor Party to rip it up.' ''

Mr Beazley said Mr Andrews was treating Australians' wishes with arrogance and contempt.

``The only way to get rid of these unfair laws is to elect a Labor government with a commitment and mandate to rip them up," he said.

``Middle Australia did not want these extreme IR laws when they were introduced, they do not want them now, and they will not want them in the future."

Also, Mr Andrews said a company at the centre of a storm involving a controversial AWA could have potentially breached three aspects of the WorkChoices laws.

NSW mine worker Lorissa Stevens has claimed that contractor Mining and Earth Moving Services sacked her after she refused to sign a job contract that included a \$200 fine for taking sick leave without 12 hours' notice.

The Government's Office of **Workplace** Services is investigating.

Mr Andrews said such a \$200 penalty was illegal under WorkChoices.

THE Victorian **Workplace** Rights Advocate is investigating the offer of AWAs to 80 Melbourne call-centre workers employed by Lufthansa subsidiary Global Tele Sales.

The Australian Services **Union** has alleged that the contracts cut wages by up to 15 per cent.

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