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`Blame PM' for every lost job

Author: MALCOLM FARR

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LABOR yesterday accused the Government of encouraging the sacking of ``millions of Australian employees" under new **workplace** laws.

Opposition Leader **Kim Beazley** demanded Prime Minister **John Howard** sign the termination letters himself.

Mr Howard said the ALP was whingeing about a process which would create more jobs.

Labor continued to pound the Government on **workplace** relations this week, the last sitting week of Parliament before a long break before the Budget.

Mr Beazley told Parliament laws scrapping unfair dismissal provisions which began on Monday were already losing workers their jobs.

``Isn't it the case that these eight employees sacked [in Melbourne] yesterday are just among the first of millions of Australian employees whose job security you have torn up?" he asked the Prime Minister.

Mr Howard said his policies over 10 years had created more jobs and this would continue.

``And here we are 10 years later ... 1.7 million more jobs, real wages risen by 16.8 per cent, unparalleled wealth and prosperity across the land, and all we get is whingeing from the Labor Party," he said.

Workplace Relations Minister **Kevin Andrews** said there had been half a dozen inquiries to a **workplace** relations legal information service over two days.

``What this does is expose that this campaign by the ACTU and the Labor Party is pure hysteria," Mr Andrews told Parliament.

Mr Beazley said the Prime Minister should sign every termination letter in Australia from now on, as he was responsible for reducing job security.

``We've just seen the first step in that infestation of termites that is let

loose in Australian job security," he told reporters.

Back in Parliament, the Government used its numbers to repel a Labor attempt at a debate on **workplace** laws.

Labor's **workplace** spokesman **Stephen Smith** moved to disallow part of the new **industrial** relations provisions.

Foiled, Mr Smith called for a debate on Labor's proposals to tear up the regulations with ``unfair, un-Australian" laws.

Manager of Opposition business in the House Julia Gillard seconded Mr Smith's motion.

``The Government doesn't want this debate because it wants to hide the truth," Ms Gillard said.

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