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He's back: Abbott's rise to power to bring back memories of unfair IR laws

Tony Abbott's election as leader of the Opposition means that the dreaded Workchoices legislation could come back from the dead in some form, according to ASU Branch Secretary Brian Parkinson.

Abbott – Workplace Relations Minister from early 2001 to late 2003 - was an integral part of the Liberal party's modelling of the draconian Workchoices legislation which clearly stripped away the rights of many workers across the country. Parkinson believes it is something voters at the next election should not forget.

"The ASU and indeed the greater public worked so hard to get rid of these unfair laws, so the last thing we want is to see Abbott have his say regarding IR legislation. People must remember that Abbott was also a key player in the creation of the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC), laws created by the Howard Government determined to destroy building workers' rights."

"In his early days as WR Minister, Abbott predicted more individual arrangements and less collective agreements, something which certainly doesn't bode well for the Australian public."

"Reintroducing AWA individual contracts is something he believes in, so it is clear that Abbott will be trying to bring back Workchoices under a different guise if he gets his way."

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