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Letters to the Editor

Senator Paul Calvert forgets reality when he supports the Howard Government's industrial relations plans (Merc 22/8).

Particularly in Tasmania a very large proportion of workers would never really get the choice that Paul Calvert espouses under the proposed changes. Choice that encourages exploitation will never be fair anyway.

No fair-minded person can support the concept of unfair dismissal. The "sack" for no reason, or for any unjust reason has always been wrong, and that is why tribunals were given the power to order compensation or reinstatement as appropriate in the circumstances.

It is just not good enough to claim that most employers do the right thing; in our society we expect them to, but what about the others; why create an environment where the "dodgy" prosper.

Liberal Party ideologues bent on their laissez-faire "nirvana" have always wanted the "system" to put profits before people.

A fair industrial relations system provides a balance where the weak are less likely to be exploited, and where exploitation when it occurs can be redressed.

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