

CLP insult to our intelligence

Good Morning.

I hope to wake up tomorrow morning to find Territorians have voted to remove Senator Grant Tambling and replace him with Di Shanahan.

The reason is simple.

It is not because I dislike Grant, although his politics often infuriate me.

It is simply that I believe access is everything in politics. I also believe politics should result in direct action.

The one thing Di Shanahan can undeniably offer, which Mr Tambling cannot, is access to a Federal Labor Government.

I'm talking about access to people who will carry through the Federal Gov-



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ernment's agenda in its fourth historic term.

Di Shanahan deserves to be more than just a political candidate because she will open many more doors for the Northern Territory in Canberra on so many different levels.

If I am sounding confident of a win for the Hawke Government, I have reason to be.

I know this election is close. But I have faith in the Australian voter to know

when it comes to asking the ultimate question they'll decide Andrew Peacock as prime minister is a bigger question than an answer.

If I have one enduring image from this election campaign, it is a news report which replayed a segment of the Ray Martin *Midday* show.

Martin had just finished interviewing a petulant Mr Peacock when he turned to his audience, predominantly middle-aged women, and asked: Well, what do you think, has he got the answers?

"NO", came an instant and resounding reply.

In my mind the election campaign has boiled down to this.

Mr Peacock, the Perron Government and Mrs Galton have been playing a game of hypotheticals with Territorians for the past five weeks.

We have been given a series of questions and fictitious answers.

When that didn't work, Peacock and Perron got dirty.

Peacock decided to get stuck into the Japanese and Marshall Perron trotted out old faithful and got stuck into an Aboriginal issue.

I take great pride in the fact that the Labor Party ran a positive campaign.

We did not have to stoop to appealing to the lowest common denominator.

In response to the hypo-

theticals and hysteria, the Labor team gave the electorate a sum.

One term in Federal parliament has equalled two airports worth \$75 million, plus three years funding for the NT University at \$80 million and a four year special power subsidy of \$130 million.

That adds up to a lot of hard work and commitment. That's what the taxpayers of the Territory are entitled to expect from their Federal representatives.

I can say in all honesty that's what they have received over the past three years.

That hard work is paying off.

It was no accident that

Paul Keating came here during the campaign to tell Territorians there would be no funding cuts to the Territory or the States this year.

Andrew Peacock and John Howard have both said a Coalition Government will cut our funds. They said by \$11 million. Marshall Perron and Mrs Galton say by \$12 to \$15 million.

I'll leave you to decide who's right but I would not put too much faith in Mrs Galton.

She had to ask a talkback caller this week what the funding arrangements were for the Darwin and Alice Springs airports.

It's about time the CLP stopped insulting our intelligence.