

That is what Tony Abbott is doing now. Morning and evening, and in fact every day perhaps every minute of the day, he utters the mantra which he believes is the sure remedy that will bring him the all-important job. One thing he has never forgotten is the fact that Julia Gillard grabbed the plums that should have come to him. Along with this comes up the all important question as to how and what the Prime Minister is going to do about it.

This is an issue Julia Gillard should have tackled at the very start. Actually when she went against her own guarantee given to the Australian voters on the eve of the first election she faced as Prime Minister of the country. Apparently now it has fallen on the shoulders of her arch enemy (although I do not enjoy using that term to refer to political opponents Tony Abbott has gone beyond the normal limits). Every ounce of his strength and effort is used in order to

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get her out of the Lodge. He keeps repeating the fact that Julia Gillard had to give in to the Greens so that she could save her position and went back on her promise about carbon tax. My thinking is that she has so far failed to give a plausible explanation to the voters.

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## A CARBON RIDE TO THE LODGE

ence or a gathering at a factory he is visiting it is always Carbon tax that escapes his mouth. One wonders how he has successfully kept on the attack so that no member of the public gets tired of this harangue. This again is fully within the scope of the Prime Minister's area of responsibility to have taken head on right at the beginning. Why did she fail again?

Call for the suspension of standing orders on practically every parliament sitting day has become a regular feature with either Tony Abbott or one of his deputies proposing that standing orders be suspended because they have an all important matter to be raised and discussed.

Up to the time of this writing the number of such calls has exceeded seventy, which goes to show not only the keen interest they take in the country's welfare, but also the agony they are going through because Julia Gillard is sitting in the chair that belongs to Abbott.

Despite consistent opinion polls putting the government far behind the coalition apparently because of this (toxic, according to Abbott) tax, Julia Gillard and her team carries on as if nothing serious has happened and as if the voters are going to discover on their own that Abbott's propaganda is all utter falsehood and next time around the Labor party will safely be returned to power. Her tone and the apparent feeling of certainty about victory when she addressed the recent Labor Conference of NSW party faithfuls, did not reveal any difficulty the party faces in handling this all important question. And her good friend Tony Abbott is enjoying this nonchalance and goes on hammering his pet theme. How long and how far can he keep this victory cry?

Climate change has become such a challenge and something to shy away from like a plague, that practically every day Tony Abbott finds some trader or an industrialist to face the camera alongside him in condemning this evil tax. All the tax reliefs and family assistance given out by the government seems to have had no impact whatever in the minds of these traders or industrialists. For that matter even the very beneficiaries of such measures seem to be reticent about the whole affair. Why is that? Why doesn't the government get some of them at least to call this bluff? If it is due to their unwillingness or lack of enthusiasm, then again the government ought to have by now diagnosed the problem and taken corrective measures.

There are a series of TV advertisements going round, but in my humble opinion they do little to impress this historic measure in bringing in a carbon-free society and a toxic-free world. The only group, that seems to be keen on the issue and have come to the support of the government is apparently a



group of youths who call themselves 'The Australian Youth for Climate Change.' How far they can go and what impact they will have on the climate controversy one cannot be certain about. My only wish is that it too will not vanish into thin air like the 'Doctor's Wives against John Howard that surfaced prior to the general election in 2001 or so. This group really seems to have much more lasting ability and determination.

One simple truth the government and its leader have failed to come to terms with is that good policy has no guaranteed success. However attractive or beneficial a policy or an action is to the masses, there are clever operators who can easily paint a picture of an incoming disaster or a real threat to all humanity. If what Tony Abbott is doing that he ought to get the credit for doing something marvelous. In that case the government and the Prime Minister look a set of clowns. It is a picture the people would enjoy. The exuberance that the P.M. projected at the NSW party conference get reduced to a hollow pretext. Some theatre expert must start coaching the P.M. on the correct steps to a real drama, and not a tragi-comedy she might otherwise end up in.

Julia Gillard is at the same time engulfed in two more problems partly her own creations. One started with her bizarre announcement right after the election victory that asylum seekers could be sent to East Timore. In point of fact she had not even consulted the Timorese authorities. That was pretty poor showing for newly elected P.M. Then her mining tax brought along with the carbon tax. This has unnecessarily created a set of rivals who are now suing the government on the issue. Her apparent discussions and agreement with the miners seems to be dead. Tony Abbott goes to town on the carbon track regardless.

On the top of all this now pops up the all-important issue that has plagued the party for quite some time, the question of leadership. Kevin Rudd's followers have again resurfaced with apparently more confidence. Why Julia Gillard has not corrected herself and got rid of the previous image of inefficiency or inability is the question. Whether any one has the answer is another question. There was as far as I remember, an unwritten law or tradition for an Australian politician not to talk of domestic issues while travelling abroad, in particular criticizing another politician or party. That seems to have been thrown overboard by the current leader of the opposition, who was enjoying the leadership controversy that is going on about Julia Gillard, in his recent year of the US. We remember the ever present practice of the late P.M. John Howard of taking his morning walk wherever in what climate he was. As usual, being a politician, he had his retinue trudging along with him. Toy too has sufficient numbers of admirers and followers in whatever activity he indulges in. All of them are awaiting the fall of their rival, Prime Minister Gillard. Whether they succeed will largely depend on what Gillard does in the coming months.

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