Occupational Guidance Pamphlet Number 5: So you want to be a Labor politician? As we end the joyous year in which the Australian Labor Party celebrated its centenary with a few bank bailouts, soaring unemployment figures and a war in the Gulf, it's clear that times have changed.

And so, of course, have the meanings of certain words—now quite different from the meanings they had when that committed band of radicals first established the ALP in Blackall 100 years ago. Make sure you’re up to date with today’s Australian Labor Party with this handy list:

**Blue-Collar**: A shade of Zegna suit sometimes chosen by Mr Keating to alternate with the usual grey-collar number.

**Radical Move**: The decision to team the Zegna suit with that rather cheeky paisley tie.

**Violent Clash**: The decision to team the Zegna suit with the brown shoes and straw-yellow shirt.

**Breaking Down Media Concentration**: The tendency of a Labor backbencher’s concentration to break down completely when trying to question Mr Kerry Packer about media policy.

**The Needy**: People requiring special consideration from State-owned banks. In keeping with this policy, State banks in Labor areas prefer borrowers who are already millions of dollars in debt.

**Social mobility**: The ability to attend three champagne suppers in one night with one’s wealthy friends and still have an ALP membership card in one’s pocket.

**Social Services**: The secretaries, drivers and assistants needed to maintain this busy schedule.

**Picket**: An attractive form of fencing used by modern Labor MPs wishing to restore their charming Federation homes.

**William Morris**: A fiery inspiration to socialists at the time of the party’s formation. Still cherished by modern Labor politicians for his charming wallpaper designs—particularly appropriate when renovating charming Federation homes.

**The Unemployed**: A traditionally Labor-voting group whose size has been cunningly increased by careful economic planning.

**The Elderly**: A traditionally conservative-voting group whose size has been cunningly reduced by careful economic planning.

**Closed Shop**: Another effect of current careful economic planning. See also: closed factory, closed business and buggered bank.

**The Light on the Hill**: The glow cast by the luxurious offices in the new Parliament House.

**Wobblies**: A collective noun describing current and past Ministers for Defence, Messrs Beazley and Ray.

**Class Struggle**: The attempt by one’s child to get into the top stream at Scotch College or Ascham.

But just knowing the words isn’t always enough. Try this quick quiz to check if you’ll really fit in as a Labor member of parliament.

**Under my government, areas which faithfully vote Labor for generations will be rewarded with—**

a) better roads
b) special grants
c) a third runway.

**Under my government, the workers have nothing to lose but their**

a) chains
b) oppression
c) bank balances

I take the phrase ‘from each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs’ to indicate the process by which

a) the rich are taxed
b) the poor are helped
c) the bankers are paid $500,000 salaries for sending the state broke

A process whereby the money of working people is ripped off in order to be wasted by the wealthy is termed by me:

a) regressive taxation
b) fascist dictatorship
c) the Australian banking system

**When receiving suggestions from rank and file branches, I always keep an open**

a) notebook
b) mind
c) bin

**When faced with the sight of people losing their jobs and businesses, I immediately offer**

a) financial assistance
b) my sympathies
c) the observation that they are merely experiencing the recession they had to have.

**Scoring**: Those who mostly ticked ‘a’ or ‘b’: You are caring, thoughtful and socially aware. So get lost, drip. Those who answered ‘c’: You have all the qualities of a modern Labor leader. Luckily, several such positions may soon be available.

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