

rible burden. Those comments were made by the Minister within a few hours of the reopening of the Fremantle-Perth line which will add at least \$5 million a year to the deficit. Within two or three days of the reopening of that line, the Minister is crying crocodile tears about the public transport deficit in this State.

Transport deficits are not new. We had to grapple with them, and this Government will have to grapple with them. However, the Government has accelerated the deficit. There is only one way for the Government to handle the transport deficit and that is to have a relentless struggle to keep it down. The Government must achieve a balance between the service it can provide and the charge on the community; that is the relentless struggle.

I will have more to say about this later. I do not want to talk about it any more at this time, as my time does not permit me to enter into this particular debate. We will have an opportunity to debate these public transport matters and the effect on the transport system of the reopening of the Fremantle-Perth line. We will discuss the cost to the people in the community—the people in the northern suburbs who will not have the assistance of a modern transport system until the Government has paid off or recouped some of the debts incurred on the Fremantle-Perth line.

We will discuss the lack of service to some of the other suburbs along the Armadale and Midland lines. We will discuss the cost to the country people who cannot even use the Fremantle-Perth service. We will talk about those matters later on.

While I have the opportunity, I draw to the attention of the House the hypocrisy of the Minister for Transport in shedding crocodile tears about the deficit on public transport. That deficit has been accelerated in quick time by this Government. In the early days of this Government, after the institution of the wages freeze, the Government added \$1.4 million to that deficit by giving a wage rise to Metropolitan Transport Trust drivers. I am not saying that the drivers did not deserve the increase. What I am saying is that the increase was given at the beginning of the wages pause—an action that had been accepted universally, not only in this State, but also around the nation. The Government has had the opportunity of spending some of the money raised in the wages pause; but it has destroyed it in the area of public transport. With the Fremantle-Perth rail decision and the granting of the additional wages to the MTT drivers during the wages pause, the Government has forced up the public transport deficit. It is laughable for the Minister to make public utterances about the size of the deficit and

the fact that the Government finds it difficult to contain that deficit.

I return to the central point of my remarks. I have tried to talk about the attitude of the Government. The people are sizing up the Government. I was able to conduct an exercise in one area of the State recently. I found some voters who had voted Liberal previously, but who had voted Labor earlier this year. I asked them, "Well, are you happy with the result you have got?" They said, "No—very much disappointed". Then I asked them, "If you had another opportunity"—and in some areas they may have one in a very short time—"would you change your mind?" A number of them said, "No. It would be too early to change our mind".

A number of people who supported the Government would suffer a loss of face at this early stage, even if they might feel inclined to make a change if they were senior public servants, smokers, or any of the other alienated groups who have become disenchanted with the Government's policies, if they changed their vote. Somehow or other they would lose face to themselves, if members understand my point. They feel they should give the Government a little more time before the pendulum swings back, as it will swing back; it is inevitable.

The point I am making in my contribution this evening is that the Government is showing by its attitude that it will steamroll the Opposition; it will ride roughshod over us, the Parliament, and many sections of the public. This is the first step downhill for the Government.

MR TROY (Mundaring) [8.53 p.m.]: Mr Speaker, firstly I join with other new members in congratulating you on your election to the high office you now hold. It is already evident to me why you have been elevated to that high office by members of this House, in the sincere welcome and kind assistance you have displayed to me as a new member in this place. I thank you for that assistance and wish you every success in what certainly appears to be an onerous task, considering the conduct and questionable tactical manoeuvring of the Opposition members witnessed here last Thursday evening. I know I share the majority of members' views in this House in saying that your impartial, fair, and well-considered determinations will maintain the respect, decorum, and worthwhile traditions of this place well into the future.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude and thanks to my wife and family, and my campaign team and their families, for their undivided support and encouragement during the campaign,

and the subsequent testing time. To the many other helpers who gave unstintingly on election day, and the people who supported what I represented at the ballot box, I also extend my appreciation on behalf of the party I have the honour to represent in this place: the Australian Labor Party.

I believe that voters in the Mundaring electorate recognise that the Australian Labor Party can offer hard-working and capable local representation coupled with a dynamic, talented, and skilful team of back-benchers and Ministers, headed by a leader (Brian Burke) who has not only the ability, purpose, and dedication required—shown in a few brief months in office—but also the compassion and feeling which enable him to see people as other human things, not electoral statistics.

I am proud to be associated with such a team. The ALP in the 1980s is broad based both in philosophy and representation. Its democratic structure ensures a width of consideration and discussion that simply can never be entertained by an organisation motivated by profit margins dominating all human consideration.

I have one other acknowledgement to make before I move on to address matters related to the Mundaring electorate. I refer to my ALP predecessor in the seat of Mundaring, Jim Moiler. Having personally door-knocked extensively throughout the electorate, I have had an impression deeply confirmed. When my time ceases in this place—and I am not anticipating that for some years, despite the full processes of the law currently being tested—if I leave with a reputation equal to that held by Jim Moiler, earned as a result of his concern and response to people in the electorate, I shall be extremely proud of a job well done. Jim's loss to this place is a sad reflection on the electoral boundary manipulation that must be scourged from our parliamentary system in Western Australia before anyone of us can hold up our heads and honestly claim we are members of a truly democratic Parliament.

The Legislative Assembly seat of Mundaring now covers approximately 1 350 square kilometres and extends from its closest point less than 13 kilometres from the Perth GPO northward to the boundary with the Swan and Chittering Shires, some 27 kilometres distant. After accommodating the electoral splinter of the hills electorate of Kalamunda which separates the remaining sector of the Mundaring Shire forming part of the Helena electorate of Mundaring, it extends from a point dividing the Glen Forrest community at Hardey Road, 24 kilometres distant from Perth,

to the shire boundary at Wooroloo, a further 25 kilometres distant.

This unfortunate division of localities and community of interest at Swan View and Glen Forrest is a provision any electoral commission would obviously normally avoid, given the freedom from a parliamentary, and politically-motivated, dividing line between fictitious metropolitan and country districts. What an electoral sham to think that Mundaring, with 9 227 electors, enjoys a representative in Parliament while Rockingham, with 16 535 electors, and a closest point to the Perth GPO of 30 kilometres, falls within this politically motivated and created boundary. When I look across to my fellow hills electorate representatives on the opposite side of this Chamber, I believe deep down they know one of us should not be here—and I am not volunteering to leave until at least this and other important legislation is passed in this and subsequent Parliaments.

I have a personal respect for the member for Kalamunda brought about by an association some years ago. Without wishing to cast an adverse reflection upon him among his peers, I believe if his colleagues earned the respect in the electorate he has gained by his fair and even-handed representation, they would have little to fear in any fair electoral contest. After all, their South Australian counterparts have been able to prove that the party offering the most electorally appealing programme is elected to office by a majority vote in its favour.

Mundaring, Kalamunda, and Darling Range, with electors numbering 27 132, in a predominantly metropolitan environment, simply are not entitled to three representatives in this House, while Rockingham, with 16 535 electors, and Armadale, with 16 887 electors, have one each—and let me not hear rumblings from the members for Gascoyne and Murchison-Eyre with 3 986 and 3 213 electors respectively—

Mr Coyne: And 400 000 square miles!

Mr TROY: —while the member for Kimberley, with enormous problems of servicing, represents 12 511 electors. I do not believe the concerned electors of Mundaring wish to be part of such a gerrymander.

The electorate of Mundaring, as members may realise from my earlier comments about its proximity to Perth, now consists of the greater parts of two local authorities, Mundaring and Swan. Localities include West Swan, Henley Brook, part of Middle Swan, Herne Hill, Millendon, Baskerville, Upper Swan, Bullsbrook, part of South Chittering, and Gidgegannup within the Shire of Swan. Mundaring localities include part

of Glen Forrest, Hovea, Parkerville, Mahogany Creek, Mundaring, Stoneville, Sawyers Valley, Mt. Helena, Chidlow, Beechina, and Wooroloo.

I raise these separate localities, particularly in the eastern hills area, because a proud historical tradition is still evidenced today in the residents' wishing to maintain the individual identity of each of these urban cells. I believe that feature to be an appropriate planning concept that will ensure the maintenance of a delightful environment against the threat of unhindered urban sprawl.

The electorate of Mundaring was originally one based on rural pursuits, but a trend has been evident for many years now for people to seek relief from the pressures of inner urban living by commuting daily between their more open and environmentally attractive places of residence and the inner metropolitan centres of employment. Genuine rural activities within the eastern hills are now largely removed except for concentrated activities not associated with large landholdings. This area in particular is now almost totally residentially oriented, but not in the traditional sense of the inner urban developments. While the extent of this "rural" residential development is not yet as pronounced in the less timbered area of the Shire of Swan, reaching to Bullsbrook and South Chittering, the same pattern is emerging.

I do acknowledge, however, that concentrated rural pursuits will remain for many, many years because of the transport advantages to Perth markets and the unique climatic and soil conditions existent in the area, and I refer to grape growing on the Swan Valley, fruit and vegetable products, poultry, meat and egg products, and stock grazing.

While referring to industries, one must recognise the enormous resources of manufacturing clay within the electorate and the contribution this industry makes to the overall economic viability of the subregion. One must be careful to ensure that the appropriate decisions are made with regard to the balance required between environmental and industry-cum-employment decisions of the future. I refer in particular to the unwarranted intrusion by the previous Minister responsible for planning in the quite fair and workable conditions of excavation sought by the Swan Shire on an excavation licence in the Jane Brook area.

That particular company had made significant progress in the restoration of sites used for clay extraction and obviously had the technique and skills required to successfully rehabilitate such a site. I do not believe one can blame the company

for exploiting the weakness of the then Minister through the appeal processes, but I am sure it remains conscious of the public need to this day. Appropriate management controls will ensure the extractive clay industry has a long-term future in the area while leaving the environment unscarred, and in many circumstances substantially improved with the creation of lakes and effective tree replanting programmes.

I have one other industry which is certainly worthy of mention and which is becoming a major source of employment. I refer to the many branches of the horse industry strongly evident in the electorate, ranging from the thoroughbred and trotting industries to the children's pony. This quaternary industry is ideally suited to the electorate and can no longer be referred to as the prerogative of a single social class. The related employment provides opportunities in many supportive roles and I believe it would be quite accurate to forecast that the electorate of Mundaring will become the leading equine locality in the State in the near future.

In referring to industries, one must immediately recognise that the electorate of Mundaring is heavily dependent on the metropolitan area, and particularly the Midland subregional area, for an employment base. Midland has been dealt a severe blow with the closure of the abattoir and the cutbacks at the railway workshops.

I am grateful for the support of my colleagues in having the question of employment for the eastern subregion raised so vigorously, and the keen interest taken in the problem by all Ministers involved. While the reopening of the Midland Junction abattoir appears an unlikely event, there is little doubt that some of the facilities remaining and not yet selectively dismantled and liquidated in a highly suspicious manner—which raises questions of deliberate political sabotage—may be utilised in an effective manner together with the extensive landholding. I have every confidence that the Deputy Premier and Minister for Economic Development and Technology will be mindful of this locality and the severe unemployment situation in the subregion in future decisions he will pursue.

The question of transferring the metropolitan markets from the present West Perth location is becoming more urgent, particularly when one recalls that a 1975 consultant's report to the Court Government recommended the need for a new location within 15 years. There is little doubt that Midland is centrally located to both growers, considering the newly developing area and the produce outlets, particularly when consideration is

given to the full range of transport alternatives that will be available within a reasonable time.

I am pleased that the Burke Government has taken the initiative of placing the responsibility for the interrelated functions of employment and planning under the one Minister. The previous lack of co-ordination and initiative in the eastern corridor development has seen major reductions in employment opportunity, escalating transport costs incurred from pursuing more distant work, and complete failure by the previous Government to address itself to stimulating an alternative development in the eastern subregion.

As an example of the previous Government's ineptitude, the eastern corridor study has never been formally accepted. I acknowledge the contribution of my predecessor in this seat, Tom Herzfeld, while he briefly occupied the presidency of the Shire of Mundaring, in assisting in the public input to that study. On the same point, I believe he must accept some of the responsibility for its not being formally adopted. Both shires, Swan and Mundaring, have been forced to undertake extensive and detailed strategy planning in their areas based on the concepts of the eastern corridor study without the formal commitment of the Government. I am pleased to note that the current Minister for Planning has acknowledged both the need to review the study and also the need to formalise adoption.

A review of the eastern corridor study is not only desirable, but also essential. Population forecasts made in 1976 have proved surprisingly different even allowing for the adverse economic circumstances. Escalating cost-of-service provisions with a hills environment do not necessarily preclude future development, but determine areas of priority for development so that existing services are fully utilised before extravagant outlays are undertaken.

The current Perth metropolitan region plan is now within 17 years of its original 45-year term. Despite some upgrading, an obvious review is now warranted and it is also just as obvious that such a review may have an enormous impact on the eastern corridor study.

I am of the opinion that planning functions have become distorted over time and that regional planning has lost its sense of direction. Unnecessary intrusion in local planning processes has become a common practice by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority and its representative organisations. With an overall review now being warranted, there is little doubt that work is available appropriate to the regional planning function. Many of the specialist groups operating

under this regional umbrella should be subjected to sunset provisions.

One may need to ask a few basic questions to establish more clearly the need for reviews of the functions of a regional planning authority. Should the Town Planning Board be interested in the supply side of land provision or is it the prerogative of the developer to survey the market?

Should the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority be the managing agent of regional recreation areas or should such responsibilities be delegated to local authorities or to a regional park authority with appropriate funding assistance, bearing in mind the extensive overlap and interdependencies of regional, subregional, and local recreation areas? I do not wish to answer those questions in this address, but I am sure members see their relevance.

Another feature of planning and development heavily impacting on the Mundaring electorate is the inordinate delay evidenced by the unwieldy processes. There is a factor—time—particularly at current interest rates, which can render a development totally uneconomic when these delays occur. I am pleased to say that the Minister for Planning has agreed to a seminar in the eastern region involving Government planning authorities, local authority planners, local planners, local developers, and local agents, at which these problems will be pursued in an effort to expedite those processes causing unnecessary delays. Employment in the building trade that can result from the speeding up of planning and development processes will have a major impact on the present situation within the electorate while reducing costs at the same time.

Another feature of the planning process needing urgent attention is the role of Government in the fundamental decision making. I do not suggest a rigid and totally dominating role for Government, but when a decision such as the future of the Swan Valley is involved, local authorities, or even regional planning authorities, cannot be expected to undertake the decisions of Government in the wider ramifications. Questions of zoning, industry relief or support, extent of aid, tourism, agriculture, environment, and rating systems are all involved. Guided planning is essential to that situation; otherwise, in the interim, options in that ultimate decision are lost. Proximity to Perth is not the only criterion necessary for urban development in Perth.

I take this opportunity to place on record a comment relevant to another of the important considerations of planning; that is, the provision of services, but mainly water.

Currently the Metropolitan Water Authority has representation on the appropriate planning bodies and is one of the many authorities involved in the planning and development process. As part of that initial planning decision, the authority is party to decisions which establish various degrees of density of living within the metropolitan region. That planning process caters for different densities in an urban environment and also acknowledges a number of classes of living other than urban, which are still essentially residential—but may be described as special rural—landscape interest, rural residential, and rural living. While acknowledging the Metropolitan Water Authority's responsibility for efficient economic management, the present policy permits the Metropolitan Water Authority to escape from an obligation in low density living areas because of the convenient tag of "rural".

This factor is highlighted further by the different attitudes of the Metropolitan Water Authority and the Public Works Department towards application for water services. It is fairly obvious from my remarks that the boundary between the two authorities traverses the electorate of Mundaring. I, and many constituents, will be pleased when both those authorities are one, as is presently being pursued by this Government.

This anomaly, along with many others, is strongly evident within the electorate on water provision. Streets are in evidence, fed from either end, servicing rural holdings, while houses established for 10 years or more are without water at the mid-point of those same streets. Boundaries between low level and high level systems established 10 years ago have never been reviewed, yet full utilisation of capacities is not achieved. Residences within 400 metres of the goldfields pipeline and 12 kilometres of Mundaring Weir are still without scheme water.

One of the most pleasant features of the hills environment is undoubtedly the abundance of trees. That feature unfortunately has a disadvantage with regard to power lines. High maintenance costs result; accessibility through private property is difficult; and, naturally, frequent and prolonged power outages occur, particularly in adverse weather.

I accept all that reasoning, but I do not believe we have the most adverse weather conditions and that our topography is worse than that experienced by other power authorities. More effective circuit breakers; speedier fault locations, aided by more sophisticated equipment; greater co-operation between other public utility organisations, including fire control authorities, with co-located service corridors, all seem to be avenues that can

be more vigorously pursued, bearing in mind the recent Victorian bushfire disaster and power line related problems in a similar environment.

I am grateful that high winds have not been experienced in periods of severe fire hazards in the hills region during past summers. While I acknowledge the splendid volunteer bush fire organisations that exist in the Swan and Mundaring shires, a reappraisal of this situation and an improvement in interruption times to power within the electorate appears warranted.

Much earlier I touched on the subject of transport and its importance to constituents, particularly related to the employment opportunities diminishing in the neighbouring Midland area. Obviously there is a difficult balance between the cost of operation, frequency of service, and effective routing. However, in a recent letter to the Minister for Transport I have been able to point out a number of shortcomings in the feeder services operating from the electorate into the Midland rapid transit terminal. There is little doubt that the standard of service provided by rail between Midland and Perth is highly valued by commuters in the electorate, despite the recent difficult periods without adequate rolling stock. Feeder bus services, however, leave a lot to be desired, particularly in terms of peak hour routing, route design, and failure to service the recent growth cells at Mt. Helena and Stoneville via the local regional centre of Mundaring. Bus routing is simply not in step with shire planning and community desires, and until this problem is addressed—I am hopeful that is not too far distant—the upgrading by the Metropolitan Transport Trust of major trunk route frequency-of-service appear unjustified without increased passengers attracted from terminal routes.

The time appears appropriate for closer examination of more direct routing from Midland to Kewdale-Welshpool and Midland to Morley-Balcatta to permit workers the opportunity to range more widely for their employment opportunities. The volume of vehicular movements evident on these routes clearly identifies a market not yet tapped by the MTT. I believe the trust should be far more active in undertaking market research of such possible routes. Many hills dwellers are forced into their private cars because of this lack of direct routing.

I am aware that the Minister for Health has noted my plea, together with that of the member for Helena, for urgent consideration to be given to the upgrading of Swan District Hospital. It is clearly evident that the medical department, in its desire to achieve the absolute in medical care and

equipment, has tended to overlook one very important item—the patient. Decentralised services are an urgent need in our community, along with highly specialised facilities centrally located. I have every confidence that under the capable direction of the present Minister this balance will be more effectively achieved as evidenced by the commencement of a psychogeriatric ward last week at Swan District Hospital.

Education within the electorate is in a serious position mainly because of the age of most schools. Both primary and secondary schools alike, that have been established in excess of 10 years, are suffering from a lack of refurbishment. Minimal funds seem to have been allocated for this purpose and both the Eastern Hills Senior High School and the adjacent primary school at Mt. Helena evidence this situation. Incremental adaptations have been a regular approach to the Eastern Hills Senior High School accommodation problems over the past 10 years, and what was even more disturbing was the lack of an up-to-date needs survey. High school student population estimates in the electorate do not follow the regular pattern of determining local primary school throughput. Many families move to a hills environment, midway through their children's schooling and hence high school estimates are sadly astray.

Short-term political interference has detracted from the quality of education within the electorate. Gidgegannup has been ignored and is presently catered for with three school buses transporting up to 200 school children and requiring some students to leave home at 7.10 a.m., while a new replacement school has been built elsewhere after a request for a toilet block, that decision being announced just prior to the last election—so much for effective expenditure programmes. Bullsbrook District High School, which attempted to cater for years 11 and 12, has lost half its catchment area to neighbouring Gingin. As a result, course options are extremely restricted and severely limit the range of tertiary avenues available to students. The concept of mobile teachers is worthy of further consideration and is one of many local submissions made to the Beazley inquiry into education.

I am pleased at the excellent response from concerned parents and citizens' associations and individual parents to that inquiry, and furthermore I thank the Minister for Education for the interest and concern he has shown toward these problems. I am confident significant improvements can be made to education in the electorate by pursuing the avenues already opened in these past months.

Another notable education development that will commence in the near future in the eastern region, and will provide enormous benefit to Mundaring constituents, is the proposed Midland technical college. The timing of its development will link closely to the anticipated changes in secondary education resulting from the Beazley inquiry and its staged development will be both exciting and stimulating to the whole subregion.

One of the main reasons I ventured to this place was my concern that the role of local government and local decision making was being greatly hindered by the present Act. Despite the dramatic changes to the local government function, changes to the Act have been reluctantly granted only after the careful playing off of the local authority organisations against each other. I look forward to speaking at length some time in the future on our Government's local government proposals; therefore I will restrict my comments on this occasion to the following.

Financially, local authorities are facing increasing difficulty with the increased functions and the demands of ratepayers in today's society. Despite their gallant efforts on fund raising with increased rate collections, expanded loan programmes, and support from State and Commonwealth Governments to the extent of 25 per cent of income source, the problems have not disappeared and are unlikely to do so.

The question of local authority finances is inherently wrapped up with that of the Commonwealth-State financial juggle. There is little doubt that the revenue side of the ledger is, and will remain, largely a Federal Government responsibility. However, there is considerable scope for allocative decisions apart from those of a strategic nature being the responsibility of State Governments and local authorities. If the next stage of Commonwealth-State financial developments pursued that avenue, I believe the taxpayers and ratepayers would be much more satisfied. Such a development could be appropriate and acceptable only if the local government franchise were significantly improved from the present system. I am pleased to note that matter was clearly outlined in yesterday's address by the Premier at the commencement of Local Government Week.

This financial squeeze is even more strongly felt in developing fringe metropolitan shires such as Swan and Mundaring, and the shortcomings in the present valuation based rating system are savagely and unfairly felt by constituents of this electorate when the triennial valuations are introduced. I see the process of phasing in new valuations as a buffer only.

Inquiries into rating systems have been constantly coming forward since the McCurrey committee of 1967, the Keall inquiry of 1975, the Local Government Association-Country Shire Councils' Association discussion paper in February 1980, the differential rating workshop in April 1980, the McCusker report of April 1981, and the Local Government Association-Country Shire Councils' Association submission to the Minister in July 1981; but one would perhaps suggest the greatest action of the parties opposite during that time has been the recent flurry since they have formed an Opposition local government committee.

I am pleased to comment that, following discussions with the Minister for Local Government and with his approval in principle, I have been able to propose a trial differential rating system to the Swan and Mundaring Shires in what is the first positive step toward moving local government rating away from the present iniquitous system.

Local government authorities are of age. Let them have the responsibilities of local decision making for which they are best qualified. The fear of centralism is not the sole domain of Canberra-Perth, and this place, in particular, has been just as guilty in the local government sense.

The issues impacting on residents of the Mundaring electorate are many and varied and demand the full attention of a local member. People of all political persuasions are welcome in my office. I have a responsibility to serve all and I undertake to make that effort to the best of my ability. I do not believe electors will be disappointed.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr TROY: While the issues of the Mundaring electorate are paramount in my mind, I have one concern to which I hope this Assembly and Parliament will apply itself without political gain or prejudice; I refer to the future of this country's key resource—its young people.

Successive Governments in both the State and the Federal spheres have tried to bury the heads of all Australians in the sands of ignorance over our future. The public have been misled into believing that an upturn in the manufacturing industry will result in more jobs. It will not. Technology will create new jobs, but not more jobs. Increases in the use of technology will result in greater profits for those who own the technology. It might result in lower prices, and it will result in less employment.

We face a series of historic decisions. Do we accept that millions of Australians will not have jobs as we knew them in the early 1970s? Do we de-

velop a society where everyone works shorter hours, and, if so, do we educate them on the use of leisure time?

Do we carry on in a fantasy, no matter how irresponsible, that, "it will all get better if we leave it alone"?

Do we forget about manufacturing that which is made cheaply in other parts of the world and concentrate on items to our economic advantage—our mineral and energy resources—and concentrate on tourism, food production, and technological development?

What do we do for our children, and grandchildren? How do we educate children for the twenty-first century—because children who are now in kindergartens will be looking for their first jobs in the next millennium?

To find these answers there must be a new attitude in Government, an attitude that this Government has noted in the need for medium and long-term planning—apart of course from day-to-day considerations.

We need the best advisers that this State and nation can afford.

We need to tell the people the truth so that they can make informed decisions about their future.

There will have to be more summit meetings, and more inquiries than ever before; we cannot afford to make wrong decisions.

Mr Speaker, through you, Sir, I thank the members of the Assembly for their attention and consideration during this address.

[Applause.]

MR MENSAROS (Floreat) [9.29 p.m.]: I wanted to use the occasion of the debate on the Supply Bill to deal with a certain subject because we will not have grievances until after the Address-in-Reply is dealt with. Due to the events of this afternoon's question time, however, I feel compelled to make some comments. I repeat that the Minister willingly or unwillingly did not respond to my questions. Instead of replying, he reverted to an attack on me, alleging that I want to lower the morals of the Metropolitan Water Authority although it was incumbent on me to try to create a situation of improving its image. As a matter of fact, if the Minister recalls, when the whole question of irregularities was mooted—not on our side, not by me, but by him at least publicly—I issued a statement and warned the Minister to deal with this matter in a sensible manner instead of just repeating his condemnation of the Metropolitan Water Authority.

Mr Tonkin: What did I do in Opposition?