

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION — TONI WALKINGTON

**865. Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS to the Minister for Commerce and Industrial Relations:**

I have a supplementary question. Are Gary Adshead's comments correct in relation to the minister's government's dealings with Toni Walkington, and I quote —

... WA witnessed what was arguably the most hypocritical act of self-serving unionism in the State's history.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON replied:**

I am sure Gary Adshead writes a good piece. I am sure he is a fine writer. Unfortunately, on this occasion it was fiction.

**Mr P.A. Katsambanis** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Excuse me!

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** The question the member of Hillarys asked was: did I do something as a favour? Clearly, that never happened. In fact it was not that.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** The accusation was not actually about me; it was about a person who is not a member of the chamber, who is now being appointed to a judicial office. I know why the Liberal Party does not like seeing Toni Walkington appointed. It does not like seeing successful women being rewarded —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Hillarys, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** I do not understand why it is—I appoint dozens of people to boards, committees and other roles in society. In fact, on the same day that I made the appointment, or the Governor made the appointment of Toni Walkington to the commission, he also appointed a man as chief commissioner. Do I hear a beep from the Liberal Party about me appointing a man to that job? It is only because it is a woman that he comes in here and whinges.

Several members interjected.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** To pay off her silence.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, you are on your third call.

*Withdrawal of Remark*

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** That is an imputation that should be withdrawn.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, do you withdraw?

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** Is that your ruling?

**The SPEAKER:** Yes; you are on three.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** I withdraw.

Several members interjected.

**Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE:** The member for Swan Hills is interjecting and she is not in her seat.

A member interjected.

**Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE:** No, she was not.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Are you going to withdraw, Leader of the Opposition?

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** I did.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** Nobody heard it.

**The SPEAKER:** Can you say it again, Leader of the Opposition, because we did not hear it.

**Dr M.D. NAHAN:** I withdraw.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** I understand why the Liberal Party —

**Extract from Hansard**

[ASSEMBLY — Thursday, 1 November 2018]

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Mr Peter Katsambanis; Mr Bill Johnston; Mr David Templeman; Dr Mike Nahan

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A member interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Swan Hills, I call you to order for the first time.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** I understand why the Liberal Party does not like successful women. I understand —

**Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup:** Remind us how your party treated the appointment of a woman in the Legislative Council. What happened there?

**The SPEAKER:** What is happening in here, member for Dawesville, is that I am calling you to order for the first time. You do not shout across the chamber.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** The Labor Party has a quota to make sure women are properly represented. The Labor Party supports successful women. BHP has a policy to have a gender quota for positions in the company. The Liberal Party says that is a bad idea.

**Mr D.C. Nalder** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bateman.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** The Liberal Party does not support putting women into important jobs. All it has to do —  
Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, with the next one I am just going to start calling you to order and you can all go home early. I want to listen to the answer. You have asked the question.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** I was determined to appoint to the role at the commission a successful and quality woman. That is what I have done, with the support of cabinet and the approval of the Governor. The Liberal Party does not like that a successful, effective woman has been appointed.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Carine for the first and second time. I call the member for Hillarys for the second time and the member for Darling Range for the first time.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** The Liberal Party does not like successful women. That is why there are none on its side of the chamber. This is about making sure that a woman of quality is appointed to fill a vacancy that was created by the retirement of a woman of quality. The former president of the commission, who has been appointed as a Supreme Court justice, was a quality performer on the bench. I have put a quality woman, who I know will perform just as well, onto the bench. This crowd comes in here and does not accuse me of something, but says that Toni Walkington, the new judicial member of the bench, has behaved corruptly. That is exactly what members opposite said! They said that Toni Walkington acted corruptly when she was the leader of the union. That is exactly what the members had. That is what they said.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** That is how members opposite treat a quality woman who has been appointed to a judicial office.