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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1959

OFFICE BUILDERS GET A WARNING

I'll stop London concentration, says Brooke

Mr. Henry Brooke, the Minister of Housing and Local Government, said today he is determined to stop the concentration of new offices in Central London.

He was opening a new office block at Kew.

He said: "This new office building is significant of the future. Those who are responsible for the initiative deserve the credit. I hope their example will be followed by many—to the lasting well-being of London and Londoners."

"We do not want to see all the new office buildings erected in Central London. We want them more and more to spring up on the outskirts of London. Or away beyond the green belt—in the new towns and elsewhere."

Crowded trains

"In Central London 22 million square feet of new office buildings have been completed since the war. And another 9,000,000 square feet or so are in course of erection."

"Office employment in Central London has been continuing to go up and up, and is very difficult to stop."

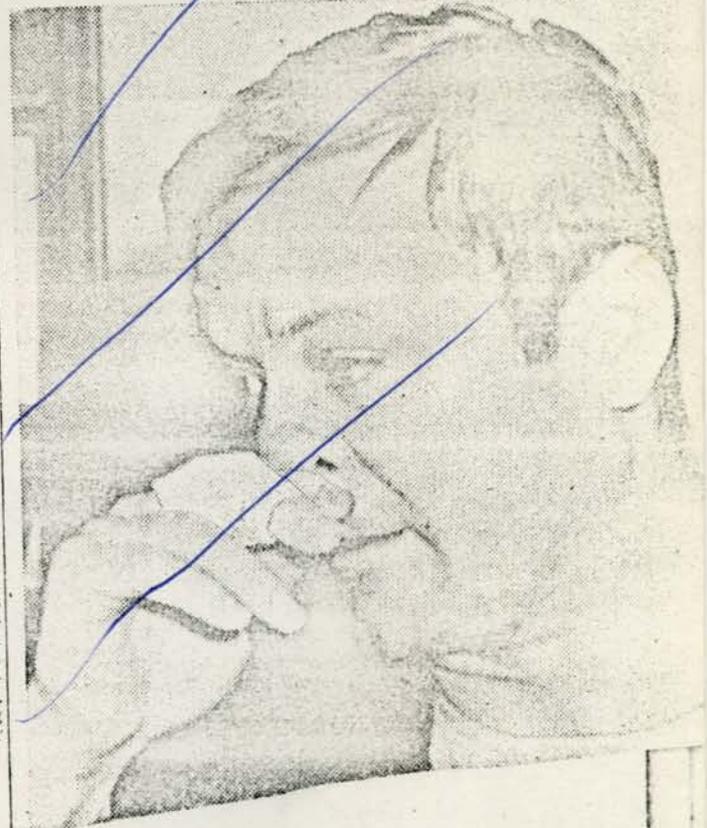
"You can see the direct effects in traffic blocks and crowded rush-hour trains and buses."

"In modern life, with its growing complexity, an increase in office work . . . is natural and inevitable."

"What is not inevitable—and what I am determined to stop—is that all the new office employment should be concentrated in Central London."

Communications were interrupted by sheer congestion, he said. "It is the firms who are moving out . . . who know best where their own business interests lie."

I'LL GO BACK FOR HER SAYS ALDO RAY



300 people with