

## Clip 9 – Post 1945 with Nye

Clip:gb2315jl5231\_clip5

From: James Cox meets Jennie Lee, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1982

From: audio 5/2/3/1 - BBC interview 1982

In: 00:19:14

Out: 00:20:52

Dur: 00:01:38

### **James Cox:**

What were you doing all this time because there would be people who would say you were a pretty formidable politician in your own right and somehow you lost yourself in the shadow of Nye Bevan?

### **Jennie Lee:**

No, it was a deliberate decision, I was very much doing my own thing until 1945, I was going abroad, I was lecturing in America, we had a wonderful home life, but I was not a Member of Parliament, I was doing freelance journalism, lecturing, all the rest of it. But when I re-joined the Labour Party and we both were Members of Parliament in that '45 Parliament, Nye was given the job of Minister of Health and Housing and I carried out my constituency duties. In time I became a member of the NEC but my first concern after '45 was not something Nye asked me to do but he obviously needed help. I was his nearest ally. Let me put it this way – Nye was my alter ego and I was his alter ego and by 1945 we'd been together long enough that he was more concerned with my happiness and wellbeing than his own and I was more concerned with his happiness and wellbeing. Now he was carrying—, I wasn't a senior minister, he was the one who was carrying those fantastic burdens at that time and therefore I worked in very close collaboration.