

Clip 13: Leaving the Labour Party 1931

Clip:gb2315jl5231_clip010

From: James Cox meets Jennie Lee, 22nd June 1982

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

In: 00:08:52

Out: 00:10:00

Dur: 01min 08sec.

JC: And yet of course, the whole Labour Government collapsed in ruins and disaster didn't it?

Jennie: Yes.

JC: And that must have been appalling really, all your hopes and dreams shattered?

Jennie: Well it was appalling and very difficult because the most idealistic members of the Scottish Labour Movement and the ILP were so antagonised by the record of the 1929-1931 Labour Government and by MacDonald, they insisted on disaffiliating. I did not want to leave the broad Labour Party, but I was a prisoner of geography. I did not want them to feel that I stayed with the broad movement for selfish reasons, and my friends – Aneurin Bevan called me a Salvation Army Lassie, pure but impotent, he poured every form of abuse over my head to try to get me to stay in the Labour Party and then in more polite language, my great friend Sir Charles Trevelyan who belonged to an older generation and Frank Wise that I would have married had he lived, they all did their best, but I just couldn't do it. I stayed with the ILP.