

**Entry type:** Resource  
**Entry ID:** AWH000089

## Dame Enid Lyons interviewed by Mel Pratt in the Mel Pratt collection [sound recording]

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**Repository** National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection

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**Reference** [ORAL TRC 121/30](#)

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**Date Range** 13-Mar-72 - 22-Mar-72

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**Access** Access open for research, personal copies and public use.

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**Finding Aid** Timed summary (11 p) and uncorrected transcript (typescript, 62 leaves)

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### Details

Dame Enid comments on her husband's schooling, interests and persuasiveness; George Pearce; Joe's "illiteracy"; his character; myth of support of Victorian establishment; his relationship with Casey; his qualifications for political eminence ; her conversion to Catholicism; accusation of her dominating Joe; conscription; Father O'Donnell; her early life in Tasmania; King O'Malley; educational changes in Tasmania; Mr Neale; honeymoon at the Premiers' Conference; Mrs Holman; the Labor Party and class consciousness; interest in politics; Blackburn interpretation; problems faced by Joe as Premier; relationship with trade unions; Lyons entry into Federal government; difference between Federal and Tasmanian Labor Parties; Lyons as Acting Treasurer; break with Labor Party; standards of values in politics; Theodore; Albert Ogilvie; conversion of loan campaign; Nationalist Party; relations between UAP and Country Party; Frank Green; Catholic education; Australian Women's National League and United Australia party; preparing Australia for war; Lyons' relationship with Menzies; Menzies and Murdoch; Menzies and Mussolini; Munich Crisis; Germany and Czechoslovakia; Chamberlain; Lyons' death; the Baldwins; her running for Parliament; opposition from the Labor party; Dorothy Tangney; attitude of colleagues to women in parliament; Calwell and immigration; her relationship with Menzies; Menzies' attacks on Curtin; her maiden speech; workload as a politician; endowment for first child; inclusion in Cabinet; Henry Gullet; leakages from Cabinet; retirement from politics; experiences in journalism; Australian Broadcasting Commission; Boyer; being made Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire.

### Author Details

Clare Land

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