

Clip 7 – NHS letter

From: audio 5/2/1/1 1950 programme American radio studio speech

In: 00:00:00

Out: 00:01:43

Dur: 00:01:43

**Jennie Lee:** American friends – I have in the studio with me a letter I would like to read to you. It is addressed to my husband Aneurin Bevan, Minister of Health, here it is:

“Dear Mr Bevan, I wonder if you will ever find time to read this letter. I keep reading the papers and you seem to get kicks and blows, and I am writing to let you know that here at least is one that is ever thankful and grateful for all the National Health Service has done for me and to thank you for my new set of teeth. I well remember the old Tory days and to make a long story short I am 64 years of age, left an orphan at the age of 8 years, have had a fight all along the line. When I got my last set of teeth, I had to work at nights to pay for them, but God is good. I have now a little cottage at the foot of the Pennines and can keep my own home going and what a bon [bonus?]. I well remember the days when all the old people were toothless and wearing any old kind of glasses. Now we can go in to any company. I am putting in a little hankie for your wife to show my love and thanks for all this government has done for us. If only everybody would pull together as individuals and help. It is the individual that matters every time. I close now with a prayer of a Chinese Christian which might well be a slogan for England today ‘Lord, reform thy world, beginning with me.’”

And that’s the end of the letter. I can’t tell you how much happiness letters of that kind bring into our home.