

Clip 6 – Turning point 1926

Clip:gb2315jl5231_clip2

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

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

Dur: 00:01:14

I taught, to begin with, as a relief teacher, but 1926 was for me the turning point. I thought the hardships of my grandfather's early life was past history but when I saw the hunger and the suffering and the despair, and I taught children remember. Some of them came to school badly clothed with wet feet in winter-time. I tried to tell this you know, in my book 'My Life with Nye'. Now it was *that*, what happened in 1926 that conditioned the rest of my life.

I couldn't tolerate to see people I knew and loved, family, friends, neighbours, humbled, humiliated. 1926 was bad, 1927 was worse.

But in 1926, 1927, 1928, I was, every weekend I was off on holidays, I was enormously active, and I'd addressed a great meeting in Shotts in North Lanark and after that, quite out of the blue, I got a telegram inviting me to go forward as their Parliamentary candidate.