

[00:00.000 --> 00:07.560] and it's on now. Right. So as far as I know and what I'm going to say is today is the date today

[00:07.560 --> 00:18.620] is the 25th of October 2008. Yes. And we are I'm my name is Gaby Weiner and you are

[00:18.620 --> 00:28.700] Maureen. Maureen Colquhoun. And we're doing and we are sitting in your study in the Lake District

[00:28.700 --> 00:38.980] and we're going to just do a brief interview, biography of your life. Is that OK? Yes. OK.

[00:39.580 --> 00:47.620] So off we go. Now I've given you these questions beforehand so you kind of. Yeah. But first

[00:47.620 --> 00:53.880] of all I'd like to know about your family background. Yes. Well that's that's a very

[00:53.880 --> 00:57.480] vast question in many ways.

[00:58.700 --> 01:06.640] I don't I know very little about my mother's family. I never met any of them.

[01:08.580 --> 01:22.360] My mother came over here to this country aged 14 to work from Ireland to work for the gentry.

[01:23.060 --> 01:27.720] A servant? As a servant. Certainly.

[01:28.700 --> 01:37.920] And she duly did that for a number of years. Now, I never knew my father. I was illegitimate.

[01:39.720 --> 01:49.080] So I don't know anything about my father's family whatsoever. I don't even know his name.

[01:49.780 --> 01:52.480] So did you? Were you given your mother's name?

[01:52.480 --> 02:00.460] I was given my mother's name. I didn't swap that name until I married.

[02:01.360 --> 02:02.340] Oh, right, of course.

[02:02.500 --> 02:16.960] Well, yes, when I thought it was a very good swap, because her name was Elizabeth Smith, and I was Maureen Smith.

[02:19.720 --> 02:22.360] So there isn't a lot of family.

[02:23.360 --> 02:26.600] What did she do? What kind of servant? Who did she work for?

[02:26.600 --> 02:52.400] She worked for an allegedly very nice French family in Eastbourne, who looked after her when I was born, and took her back after I was born, and also provided considerable fees when I got older for my education.

[02:52.480 --> 03:10.280] I was convent-educated, brought up as a Roman Catholic in the early years, and rejected it when I was old enough to think clearly for myself.

[03:10.440 --> 03:11.560] What's your date of birth?

[03:11.980 --> 03:15.200] 12th of August, 1928.

[03:15.320 --> 03:18.320] Two years older than the Queen. Two years younger than the Queen.

[03:18.860 --> 03:20.560] Younger, if you don't mind.

[03:22.480 --> 03:31.120] And so what, so your mother was a kind of servant in that, or she did for, what did she do? Did she clean or cook?

[03:31.120 --> 03:47.220] She cleaned, cooked, everything. She was a very, very competent woman. Very hard-working, and extremely able within the domestic scene.

[03:47.560 --> 03:49.100] And where were you born? You were born in?

[03:49.100 --> 04:01.940] Well, I was actually born, I was very surprised to find this out later on. I was born at St. Mary's Hospital in Eastbourne, which was then the workhouse.

[04:02.800 --> 04:06.820] So I was actually born in the workhouse at Eastbourne.

[04:07.280 --> 04:09.300] And did your mother ever talk about that?

[04:09.620 --> 04:10.120] Never.

[04:10.380 --> 04:11.620] So that's...

[04:11.620 --> 04:21.340] Never under any circumstances. In fact, the isolation of my childhood was quite unbelievable.

[04:22.480 --> 04:26.480] So did you live in the house that your mother was in?

[04:26.480 --> 04:37.480] No, I lived with a family in Eastbourne. I was, went straight from the workhouse to this family.

[04:37.480 --> 04:41.480] I suppose I must have been about 12 days old.

[04:41.480 --> 04:46.480] And I was with them until I was seven years old.

[04:46.480 --> 04:51.480] And their name was Hetty and Charlie Loughlin.

[04:51.480 --> 05:00.480] He was an Eastbourne taxi driver. And I suppose Hetty Loughlin was a housewife.

[05:00.480 --> 05:10.480] And I believed them to be my mother and father for the first seven years of my life.

[05:10.480 --> 05:17.480] How my real mother emerged from all this, I knew her as Elizabeth.

[05:17.480 --> 05:22.480] And she used to come and take me out for a walk.

[05:22.480 --> 05:23.480] Like a family friend.

[05:23.480 --> 05:25.480] Yes, once a week.

[05:26.480 --> 05:33.480] And I only tolerated her because she actually bought me lovely ice creams.

[05:35.480 --> 05:45.480] So, in a way, my childhood was hideously fragmented after the age of seven.

[05:45.480 --> 05:47.480] Yes, what happened then?

[05:47.480 --> 05:49.480] Well, one morning...

[05:50.480 --> 05:55.660] I woke up and I was dressed, ready to spend the day.

[05:55.660 --> 06:06.000] And I noticed that everybody around me was crying, or had been crying, and I couldn't understand it.

[06:06.740 --> 06:15.120] And I was taken down to Eastbourne Railway Station and put on a train to Haywards Heath,

[06:15.840 --> 06:19.400] where I was told Elizabeth would be meeting me.

[06:20.480 --> 06:31.640] And that was the beginning of, I suppose, the appalling isolation I felt as a child.

[06:32.040 --> 06:35.840] Nobody told me anything other than that.

[06:36.480 --> 06:38.600] So what happened? Why were they crying?

[06:39.120 --> 06:41.100] Because I was going away.

[06:42.160 --> 06:45.840] Because they'd been my. They had me for seven years.

[06:45.840 --> 06:49.240] And my mother had now got a job.

[06:50.480 --> 06:57.560] At Lindfield, in East Sussex, as a housekeeper, where she could have me.

[06:59.180 --> 07:08.520] But the problem is, I had an enormous sense of isolation and loss.

[07:09.220 --> 07:13.780] And it didn't leave me until the next seven years.

[07:13.780 --> 07:17.160] It wasn't until I was fourteen,

[07:18.500 --> 07:20.460] and decided to go to Eastbourne,

[07:20.480 --> 07:22.480] when I was born, to see the Lallans,

[07:22.480 --> 07:30.480] that I realised that I really didn't have anything in common with them at all.

[07:30.480 --> 07:34.480] And that was another isolating factor.

[07:34.480 --> 07:40.480] So did you go, you went to stay in this new place that your mother was working in?

[07:40.480 --> 07:41.480] Yes.

[07:41.480 --> 07:43.480] And you had to make new friends all over again?

[07:43.480 --> 07:44.480] Yes.

[07:44.480 --> 07:46.480] You went to school there? That was your first school there?

[07:46.480 --> 07:47.480] Yes.

[07:47.480 --> 07:49.480] And I think going to school was the...

[07:49.480 --> 07:53.480] No, it was because she'd got a job, your mother had got a job.

[07:53.480 --> 07:54.480] Yes.

[07:54.480 --> 07:59.480] I felt very isolated from everybody.

[07:59.480 --> 08:04.480] That was the looking back, I feel.

[08:04.480 --> 08:09.480] Do you remember when your mother told you that she was your mother?

[08:09.480 --> 08:10.480] Can you remember that?

[08:10.480 --> 08:16.480] She told me, after I'd been there a day or two,

[08:16.480 --> 08:19.480] and asked when I was going home.

[08:19.480 --> 08:24.480] She told me that she was my mother,

[08:24.480 --> 08:32.480] and that Hetty and Charlie Lallan had been looking after me for her,

[08:32.480 --> 08:36.480] but now she'd got a home for me,

[08:36.480 --> 08:39.480] and I was to call her Mummy.

[08:39.480 --> 08:42.480] And had you called Hetty Mummy?

[08:42.480 --> 08:45.480] Yes, of course.

[08:45.480 --> 08:48.480] So that was some...

[08:49.480 --> 08:54.480] I think that was a blow for a young child.

[08:54.480 --> 08:57.480] And I didn't get over it there,

[08:57.480 --> 08:59.480] well, not really,

[08:59.480 --> 09:03.480] until I was fourteen and made that journey back.

[09:03.480 --> 09:08.480] But I was always very aloof from people.

[09:08.480 --> 09:10.480] You didn't trust people?

[09:10.480 --> 09:12.480] Very arm's length.

[09:12.480 --> 09:18.480] I'd recently returned to Linfield this year.

[09:18.480 --> 09:20.480] My eightieth year.

[09:20.480 --> 09:23.480] To see my old home.

[09:23.480 --> 09:27.480] I was extremely well looked after.

[09:27.480 --> 09:31.480] I had books full,

[09:31.480 --> 09:35.480] rooms with books, absolutely.

[09:35.480 --> 09:37.480] I was always reading,

[09:37.480 --> 09:42.480] because that was my only real escape route.

[09:42.480 --> 09:46.480] And I had a pony,

[09:46.480 --> 09:52.480] a beautiful pony of my own.

[09:52.480 --> 09:56.480] And everything a child could wish for.

[09:56.480 --> 10:00.480] But what I never had was peace of mind.

[10:00.480 --> 10:01.480] Now was this...

[10:01.480 --> 10:03.480] Linfield was where your mother...

[10:03.480 --> 10:05.480] Had gone to work.

[10:05.480 --> 10:07.480] So she could afford to give you all these...

[10:07.480 --> 10:08.480] Yes.

[10:08.480 --> 10:09.480] These things.

[10:09.480 --> 10:11.480] Yes.

[10:11.480 --> 10:15.480] She never spoke with me about the situation.

[10:15.480 --> 10:23.480] And I never felt on strong enough ground to speak with her.

[10:23.480 --> 10:27.480] If only someone had talked it through with me,

[10:27.480 --> 10:29.480] had communicated,

[10:29.480 --> 10:31.480] had understood.
[10:31.480 --> 10:33.480] But nobody did.
[10:33.480 --> 10:34.480] Do you think...
[10:34.480 --> 10:35.480] Why do you think that was,
[10:35.480 --> 10:36.480] as far as she was concerned?
[10:36.480 --> 10:37.480] Why do you think she...
[10:37.480 --> 10:42.480] Well, I think it was shame about my being
illegitimate.
[10:42.480 --> 10:44.480] Because in those days,
[10:44.480 --> 10:46.480] back in those days,
[10:46.480 --> 10:51.480] it wasn't acceptable in society.
[10:51.480 --> 10:53.480] But I don't...
[10:53.480 --> 10:56.480] Did she feel that by talking to you about it,
[10:56.480 --> 10:58.480] you would think less of her,
[10:58.480 --> 11:00.480] or that you would feel less about yourself?
[11:00.480 --> 11:01.480] I don't know,
[11:01.480 --> 11:03.480] because I never discussed it with her.
[11:03.480 --> 11:04.480] I would have liked to.
[11:04.480 --> 11:07.480] I would have liked to have discussed it with
her
[11:07.480 --> 11:10.480] even before she died.
[11:10.480 --> 11:13.480] But I never had that...
[11:13.480 --> 11:17.480] particular kind of braveness.
[11:17.480 --> 11:20.480] I channelled that braveness
[11:20.480 --> 11:22.480] into my political work
[11:22.480 --> 11:27.480] and ultimately as a feminist woman
[11:27.480 --> 11:29.480] in society.
[11:29.480 --> 11:35.480] So I could fight all these outside issues,
[11:35.480 --> 11:39.480] but the inside ones were so painful
[11:39.480 --> 11:42.480] and still are in part.
[11:42.480 --> 11:44.480] Why?
[11:44.480 --> 11:45.480] I mean, I...
[11:45.480 --> 11:46.480] Actually, I don't know.
[11:46.480 --> 11:47.480] I'm an illegitimate, too.
[11:47.480 --> 11:49.480] My parents never married.
[11:49.480 --> 11:52.480] I was born in 1944, which is...
[11:52.480 --> 11:53.480] And I didn't...
[11:53.480 --> 11:55.480] My mother never told me until...
[11:55.480 --> 11:58.480] And I only found out after she died.
[11:58.480 --> 12:01.480] So I've got to kind of share that history with
you.
[12:01.480 --> 12:03.480] But why do you feel...
[12:03.480 --> 12:05.480] Why is it so affecting you now?
[12:05.480 --> 12:07.480] Why do you think you feel so,
[12:07.480 --> 12:10.480] having achieved all that you've done?
[12:10.480 --> 12:12.480] I don't know.
[12:12.480 --> 12:14.480] I wish I could...
[12:14.480 --> 12:16.480] relinquish it.
[12:16.480 --> 12:19.480] And intellectually,
[12:19.480 --> 12:22.480] I realise I should have done.
[12:22.480 --> 12:25.480] But sometimes...
[12:25.480 --> 12:28.480] I was always introspective
[12:28.480 --> 12:30.480] as a consequence.
[12:30.480 --> 12:32.480] Whether I would have been
[12:32.480 --> 12:33.480] if that hadn't happened
[12:33.480 --> 12:35.480] in my early childhood,
[12:35.480 --> 12:37.480] I don't know.
[12:37.480 --> 12:40.480] But I was always very introspective

[12:40.480 --> 12:44.480] and could get mood swings.
[12:44.480 --> 12:45.480] But...
[12:45.480 --> 12:47.480] And you think that that is due to...
[12:47.480 --> 12:49.480] I think so, yes.
[12:49.480 --> 12:51.480] It was when I...
[12:51.480 --> 12:53.480] And when I had my own children,
[12:53.480 --> 12:57.480] it was the reason why,
[12:57.480 --> 12:59.480] as a feminist,
[12:59.480 --> 13:03.480] I would look after them myself
[13:03.480 --> 13:07.480] over their young childhood
[13:07.480 --> 13:10.480] to make absolutely sure that
[13:10.480 --> 13:14.480] they had communication,
[13:14.480 --> 13:16.480] freedoms, love.
[13:16.480 --> 13:20.480] I'm not saying my mother didn't love me.
[13:20.480 --> 13:23.480] What I'm saying is
[13:23.480 --> 13:26.480] she didn't communicate with me.
[13:26.480 --> 13:29.480] And the other difficulty
[13:29.480 --> 13:32.480] that she had
[13:32.480 --> 13:36.480] was that she just couldn't
[13:36.480 --> 13:38.480] bring herself
[13:38.480 --> 13:40.480] to mix with anybody.
[13:40.480 --> 13:42.480] So she did look very isolated.
[13:42.480 --> 13:43.480] She did.
[13:43.480 --> 13:45.480] And I mean,
[13:45.480 --> 13:47.480] I went to extremely good
[13:47.480 --> 13:49.480] common schools.
[13:49.480 --> 13:51.480] I was well educated.
[13:51.480 --> 13:55.480] She was absolutely keen
[13:55.480 --> 13:59.480] that I should never have to do housework.
[13:59.480 --> 14:00.480] There you are.
[14:00.480 --> 14:02.480] Like she did.
[14:02.480 --> 14:06.480] But there it was.
[14:06.480 --> 14:08.480] So she, in a way,
[14:08.480 --> 14:10.480] the cycle is...
[14:10.480 --> 14:13.480] that she wanted for you
[14:13.480 --> 14:14.480] what she couldn't have.
[14:14.480 --> 14:15.480] Exactly.
[14:15.480 --> 14:16.480] You want for your children
[14:16.480 --> 14:17.480] what you couldn't have.
[14:17.480 --> 14:18.480] Yes.
[14:18.480 --> 14:19.480] It's a kind of...
[14:19.480 --> 14:20.480] Oh, yes.
[14:20.480 --> 14:21.480] That kind of...
[14:21.480 --> 14:22.480] Reflex.
[14:22.480 --> 14:23.480] Yeah.
[14:23.480 --> 14:24.480] Yes.
[14:24.480 --> 14:25.480] I know.
[14:25.480 --> 14:29.480] And I did grieve
[14:29.480 --> 14:31.480] over that seven years
[14:31.480 --> 14:34.480] I spent in Sussex.
[14:34.480 --> 14:36.480] And I was talking to you about
[14:36.480 --> 14:38.480] when I went back,
[14:38.480 --> 14:40.480] I realized, well,
[14:40.480 --> 14:44.480] what a beautiful village it was.
[14:44.480 --> 14:46.480] And yet,
[14:46.480 --> 14:49.480] I'd never thought of it as that before.
[14:49.480 --> 14:51.480] And you've never gone back?
[14:51.480 --> 14:53.480] Never gone back.

[14:53.480 --> 14:55.480] So, really,
[14:55.480 --> 14:58.480] the person who saved me,
[14:58.480 --> 15:01.480] who put me
[15:01.480 --> 15:03.480] on the right path
[15:03.480 --> 15:05.480] was Keith Colquhoun
[15:05.480 --> 15:08.480] because he was a
[15:08.480 --> 15:10.480] gentle,
[15:10.480 --> 15:12.480] kind,
[15:12.480 --> 15:15.480] very clever man.
[15:15.480 --> 15:18.480] And he looked after me.
[15:18.480 --> 15:19.480] Right.
[15:19.480 --> 15:21.480] I met him when I...
[15:21.480 --> 15:23.480] And he gave you a kind of...
[15:23.480 --> 15:26.480] He gave me total security.
[15:26.480 --> 15:29.480] I met him when I was 18.
[15:29.480 --> 15:30.480] Right.
[15:30.480 --> 15:31.480] Yes.
[15:31.480 --> 15:33.480] And we married when I was 21.
[15:33.480 --> 15:34.480] Right.
[15:34.480 --> 15:36.480] And I stayed married to him
[15:36.480 --> 15:39.480] until I fell in love with Babs.
[15:39.480 --> 15:42.480] How many years after that?
[15:42.480 --> 15:45.480] Well, it was from
[15:45.480 --> 15:48.480] '49 to
[15:48.480 --> 15:51.480] '75 we were married.
[15:51.480 --> 15:53.480] So it's 25 years.
[15:53.480 --> 15:54.480] Yes.
[15:54.480 --> 15:57.480] Can I just ask you before we get on to that?
[15:57.480 --> 15:58.480] Yes.
[15:58.480 --> 16:00.480] About your education?
[16:00.480 --> 16:01.480] Yes.
[16:01.480 --> 16:02.480] What kind of education?
[16:02.480 --> 16:04.480] Could you take us through?
[16:04.480 --> 16:06.480] Because that's of particular interest to me.
[16:06.480 --> 16:07.480] Yes.
[16:07.480 --> 16:10.480] I had the usual rather formal education.
[16:10.480 --> 16:12.480] Convent education, you know.
[16:12.480 --> 16:14.480] Was it a private school?
[16:14.480 --> 16:15.480] Yes.
[16:15.480 --> 16:17.480] Always private.
[16:17.480 --> 16:19.480] And in Eastbourne?
[16:19.480 --> 16:22.480] In Eastbourne and then later
[16:22.480 --> 16:23.480] Haywards Heath.
[16:23.480 --> 16:24.480] Right.
[16:24.480 --> 16:25.480] Yes, I know Haywards Heath.
[16:25.480 --> 16:27.480] There's a convent there.
[16:27.480 --> 16:31.480] And I got all my necessary qualifications
[16:31.480 --> 16:34.480] and went to LSE
[16:34.480 --> 16:36.480] to read Economics.
[16:36.480 --> 16:39.480] Why did you decide to go to LSE?
[16:39.480 --> 16:41.480] I suppose presumably there were other
[16:41.480 --> 16:43.480] you could have gone to Oxford or Cambridge.
[16:43.480 --> 16:44.480] I don't know.
[16:44.480 --> 16:45.480] I didn't apply to them.
[16:45.480 --> 16:47.480] I only applied to LSE
[16:47.480 --> 16:50.480] because I felt that
[16:50.480 --> 16:52.480] it was very radical.
[16:52.480 --> 16:53.480] Right.

[16:53.480 --> 16:55.480] And it suited me politically.
[16:55.480 --> 16:57.480] And you were quite political, was it?
[16:57.480 --> 16:59.480] I joined the Labour Party.
[16:59.480 --> 17:01.480] Keith Colquhoun was a member of the Labour Party
[17:01.480 --> 17:03.480] when I met him.
[17:03.480 --> 17:05.480] We've got some parallels here.
[17:05.480 --> 17:08.480] And so I joined the Labour Party
[17:08.480 --> 17:09.480] and the Labour Party...
[17:09.480 --> 17:11.480] How old were you?
[17:11.480 --> 17:12.480] Eighteen.
[17:12.480 --> 17:15.480] And the Labour Party has really been
[17:15.480 --> 17:19.480] my family over all those years.
[17:19.480 --> 17:22.480] I would never leave it.
[17:22.480 --> 17:28.480] I've had many great friendships within it.
[17:28.480 --> 17:32.480] And I've always worked for it.
[17:32.480 --> 17:33.480] Right.
[17:33.480 --> 17:35.480] It was a bit of a shock
[17:35.480 --> 17:37.480] going into the House of Commons
[17:37.480 --> 17:39.480] and becoming its voting fodder.
[17:39.480 --> 17:42.480] That was a bit of a wobbly period.
[17:42.480 --> 17:44.480] But on the other hand,
[17:44.480 --> 17:47.480] having decided I wouldn't be its voting
fodder,
[17:47.480 --> 17:49.480] it wasn't that difficult.
[17:49.480 --> 17:51.480] So, let's get back now.
[17:51.480 --> 17:53.480] So you go to the LSE
[17:53.480 --> 17:57.480] because you've met...
[17:57.480 --> 17:59.480] Well, and you talk about your husband.
[17:59.480 --> 18:02.480] But you went as a married person.
[18:02.480 --> 18:04.480] You got married at 21, you say?
[18:04.480 --> 18:05.480] Yes.
[18:05.480 --> 18:06.480] After you finished your degree.
[18:06.480 --> 18:07.480] Yes, yes.
[18:07.480 --> 18:08.480] Right.
[18:08.480 --> 18:09.480] And so you studied Economics.
[18:09.480 --> 18:10.480] Yes.
[18:10.480 --> 18:13.480] And after that?
[18:13.480 --> 18:16.480] What did you want to do as a result of
studying Economics?
[18:16.480 --> 18:19.480] Well, just before I married,
[18:19.480 --> 18:21.480] I joined the civil service.
[18:21.480 --> 18:22.480] Right, yes.
[18:22.480 --> 18:26.480] And in the principal grade,
[18:26.480 --> 18:28.480] administrative grade.
[18:28.480 --> 18:34.480] And I was in the minister's private office.
[18:34.480 --> 18:36.480] And that was very interesting,
[18:36.480 --> 18:38.480] but I wasn't there long enough
[18:38.480 --> 18:41.480] because in those days when you married,
[18:41.480 --> 18:45.480] you had to leave the civil service.
[18:45.480 --> 18:47.480] That was it.
[18:47.480 --> 18:52.480] It was demonstrably unfair and quite wrong.
[18:52.480 --> 18:59.480] So I didn't have a long and illustrious
career.
[18:59.480 --> 19:02.480] But one of the interesting things about it was
[19:02.480 --> 19:07.480] that I was there long enough to understand
[19:07.480 --> 19:12.480] the role between the civil service
[19:12.480 --> 19:16.480] and members of parliament.

[19:16.480 --> 19:18.480] I understood quite clearly
[19:18.480 --> 19:21.480] what civil servants thought of members of
parliament.
[19:21.480 --> 19:22.480] Right, right.
[19:22.480 --> 19:23.480] It was an insight.
[19:23.480 --> 19:26.480] It was a very early insight.
[19:26.480 --> 19:29.480] Although I wasn't...
[19:29.480 --> 19:31.480] I hadn't stood for the Labour Party
[19:31.480 --> 19:34.480] in any elections then.
[19:34.480 --> 19:38.480] I didn't stand until I was much older,
[19:38.480 --> 19:41.480] when my children had grown up
[19:41.480 --> 19:44.480] and stabilised on their own.
[19:44.480 --> 19:46.480] So you met your husband,
[19:46.480 --> 19:48.480] you said, in the Labour Party?
[19:48.480 --> 19:49.480] Yes. In Eastbourne.
[19:49.480 --> 19:50.480] No.
[19:50.480 --> 19:52.480] No, no, no, no.
[19:52.480 --> 19:57.480] I met my husband on the London Brighton train.
[19:57.480 --> 20:04.480] He offered me his Evening Standard.
[20:04.480 --> 20:06.480] Well, that's a pick-up line, I know.
[20:06.480 --> 20:07.480] Yes, yes.
[20:07.480 --> 20:09.480] So...so
[20:09.480 --> 20:12.480] And we carried on from there, really.
[20:12.480 --> 20:14.480] Was he the same age as you?
[20:14.480 --> 20:15.480] He was a year older.
[20:15.480 --> 20:16.480] Oh, right.
[20:16.480 --> 20:17.480] Yes.
[20:17.480 --> 20:19.480] So we were young together.
[20:19.480 --> 20:21.480] And as a result of that,
[20:21.480 --> 20:23.480] you joined the Labour Party
[20:23.480 --> 20:24.480] because he was in it,
[20:24.480 --> 20:26.480] or you said...
[20:26.480 --> 20:27.480] Yes.
[20:27.480 --> 20:29.480] Not at once.
[20:29.480 --> 20:34.480] I had a little folage around and read all of
that
[20:34.480 --> 20:36.480] and went into its history
[20:36.480 --> 20:38.480] and read all the books.
[20:38.480 --> 20:40.480] And he was an activist, was he?
[20:40.480 --> 20:44.480] He was very much an activist, yes.
[20:44.480 --> 20:47.480] And he was...
[20:47.480 --> 20:49.480] He was a writer,
[20:49.480 --> 20:52.480] modern English novelist.
[20:52.480 --> 20:53.480] Oh.
[20:53.480 --> 20:55.480] He is now.
[20:55.480 --> 20:57.480] And so he was a writer,
[20:57.480 --> 20:59.480] but at that time
[20:59.480 --> 21:01.480] he was working for
[21:01.480 --> 21:05.480] a newspaper in Fleet Street.
[21:05.480 --> 21:06.480] Right.
[21:06.480 --> 21:07.480] He lived in London.
[21:07.480 --> 21:08.480] The Daily Herald.
[21:08.480 --> 21:09.480] Oh, right.
[21:09.480 --> 21:10.480] Well, I used to go.
[21:10.480 --> 21:11.480] Yes.
[21:11.480 --> 21:12.480] Well, I used to, too.
[21:12.480 --> 21:13.480] Gosh, I must look at it.
[21:13.480 --> 21:14.480] Presumably I read what he wrote

[21:14.480 --> 21:15.480] in some particular...
[21:15.480 --> 21:16.480] Yes.
[21:16.480 --> 21:18.480] He's written quite a few novels,
[21:18.480 --> 21:21.480] major novels.
[21:21.480 --> 21:24.480] He's currently writing another one,
[21:24.480 --> 21:26.480] he told me on the phone.
[21:26.480 --> 21:28.480] We're still in touch.
[21:28.480 --> 21:29.480] Right.
[21:29.480 --> 21:30.480] We still talk.
[21:30.480 --> 21:32.480] He's still a friend.
[21:32.480 --> 21:33.480] Yes.
[21:33.480 --> 21:34.480] And you had children,
[21:34.480 --> 21:36.480] when did you have children then?
[21:36.480 --> 21:38.480] When were your children born?
[21:38.480 --> 21:40.480] How old were you really?
[21:40.480 --> 21:42.480] Twenty-eight.
[21:42.480 --> 21:44.480] Twenty-two when I had Andy,
[21:44.480 --> 21:46.480] my first son.
[21:46.480 --> 21:47.480] Andy.
[21:47.480 --> 21:50.480] Mary.
[21:50.480 --> 21:52.480] Edward, the last one.
[21:52.480 --> 21:53.480] Right.
[21:53.480 --> 21:54.480] And then you stayed,
[21:54.480 --> 21:55.480] you looked after them at home,
[21:55.480 --> 21:56.480] or you...
[21:56.480 --> 21:59.480] Yes, I looked after them at home.
[21:59.480 --> 22:01.480] And you lived in London?
[22:01.480 --> 22:02.480] No.
[22:02.480 --> 22:03.480] Lived in Brighton.
[22:03.480 --> 22:04.480] Oh, lovely.
[22:04.480 --> 22:05.480] Yes.
[22:05.480 --> 22:06.480] I love Brighton.
[22:06.480 --> 22:07.480] It's a wonderful place to live.
[22:07.480 --> 22:08.480] Bring up your children.
[22:08.480 --> 22:09.480] And then we moved to Shoreham-by-Sea.
[22:09.480 --> 22:10.480] Which is...
[22:10.480 --> 22:11.480] Further along the coast.
[22:11.480 --> 22:12.480] That's fine.
[22:12.480 --> 22:13.480] It's between...
[22:13.480 --> 22:14.480] How do you say it?
[22:14.480 --> 22:15.480] Worthing and Shoreham.
[22:15.480 --> 22:16.480] Right.
[22:16.480 --> 22:30.480] So, you lived by the census?
[22:30.480 --> 22:35.480] My first foray into politics was...
[22:35.480 --> 22:46.480] I took over running the Kempton Labour Party
as its secretary back in the past, and that
[22:46.480 --> 22:47.480] was rather...
[22:47.480 --> 22:52.480] How old were you then when you did it?
[22:52.480 --> 22:54.480] Twenty-five, something like that.
[22:54.480 --> 22:56.480] So, you became an activist then?
[22:56.480 --> 22:57.480] I became an activist then.
[22:57.480 --> 22:58.480] And I'd been a...
[22:58.480 --> 22:59.480] I'd been an activist ever since.
[22:59.480 --> 23:00.480] So, what...
[23:00.480 --> 23:01.480] How did...
[23:01.480 --> 23:02.480] So, how did you progress?
[23:02.480 --> 23:03.480] Actually, let's just check.
[23:03.480 --> 23:04.480] How did I progress?

[23:04.480 --> 23:05.480] How did you progress?
[23:05.480 --> 23:06.480] Yes.
[23:06.480 --> 23:07.480] To...
[23:07.480 --> 23:08.480] How did you become MP?
[23:08.480 --> 23:09.480] What was that?
[23:09.480 --> 23:10.480] Well, it...
[23:10.480 --> 23:18.480] It was through a route taken by many Labour
MPs, which is election to a local authority.
[23:18.480 --> 23:22.480] And Shoreham-by-Sea was a very Tory authority.
[23:22.480 --> 23:23.480] I lost...
[23:23.480 --> 23:27.480] On my first fight, I lost the seat by seven
votes.
[23:27.480 --> 23:40.480] On my second fight, I won it by 12, and during
the course of the next few years, I was winning
[23:40.480 --> 23:41.480] it by 980.
[23:41.480 --> 23:42.480] So, it was your...
[23:42.480 --> 23:43.480] You were a councillor?
[23:43.480 --> 23:44.480] A councillor.
[23:44.480 --> 23:45.480] Of course.
[23:45.480 --> 23:54.480] I was an urban district councillor, then a
district councillor, then a county councillor,
[23:54.480 --> 23:56.480] then I was persuaded to stand as...
[23:56.480 --> 23:57.480] As a prospective parliamentary candidate.
[23:57.480 --> 23:58.480] And in Shoreham?
[23:58.480 --> 23:59.480] No.
[23:59.480 --> 24:00.480] In Tonbridge Wells.
[24:00.480 --> 24:01.480] So, that was a hiding to nothing.
[24:01.480 --> 24:02.480] But that's where we get our training.
[24:02.480 --> 24:03.480] Yes.
[24:03.480 --> 24:04.480] That's where the whole of the training...
[24:04.480 --> 24:05.480] And then after that, Northampton, which I won.
[24:05.480 --> 24:06.480] Oh, I thought it was Wolverhampton.
[24:06.480 --> 24:07.480] It was Northampton.
[24:07.480 --> 24:08.480] Renée Short was for Wolverhampton.
[24:08.480 --> 24:09.480] My friend Renée, who is now dead, alas.
[24:09.480 --> 24:36.480] Oh. So...
[24:36.480 --> 24:37.480] So, when did you...
[24:37.480 --> 24:38.480] So, you stood for?
[24:38.480 --> 24:39.480] Sorry...
[24:39.480 --> 24:40.480] What did you say?
[24:40.480 --> 24:41.480] Shoreham-by-Sea.
[24:41.480 --> 24:42.480] No, after that.
[24:42.480 --> 24:43.480] Then when you became an MP?
[24:43.480 --> 24:44.480] It was Tonbridge, and then...
[24:44.480 --> 24:45.480] Northampton North.
[24:45.480 --> 24:46.480] Northampton North.
[24:46.480 --> 24:49.480] And so when did you become MP, then?
[24:49.480 --> 24:50.480] I've...
[24:50.480 --> 24:51.680] In 1974...
[24:51.680 --> 24:52.680] Harold Wilson...
[24:52.680 --> 24:53.680] I loved Harold.
[24:53.680 --> 24:55.480] We ended up with Jim...
[24:55.480 --> 24:56.480] Jim Callaghan...who I loathed.
[24:56.480 --> 25:01.480] Because that was when he stood down, was it?
[25:01.480 --> 25:04.480] Harold stood down, yes. Unexpectedly.
[25:04.480 --> 25:07.480] So what was the majority of Labour?
[25:07.480 --> 25:09.480] No, it was very small.
[25:09.480 --> 25:11.480] So that's why you were fodder then?

[25:11.480 --> 25:13.480] Yes, about three.
[25:13.480 --> 25:14.480] Yes, that's right.
[25:14.480 --> 25:17.480] It was a very tough Parliament.
[25:17.480 --> 25:20.480] Now, I've got...
[25:20.480 --> 25:23.480] So, I've got here...
[25:23.480 --> 25:26.480] And you might like to take it in different ways.
[25:26.480 --> 25:29.480] Who were your key mentors, you know,
[25:29.480 --> 25:34.480] as a potential political person?
[25:34.480 --> 25:36.480] Who were the people who helped you on your way?
[25:36.480 --> 25:38.480] Or did you have people?
[25:38.480 --> 25:40.480] I had Keith Colquhoun?
[25:40.480 --> 25:41.480] Right.
[25:41.480 --> 25:47.480] He was very much a supporter and a prop and a believer.
[25:47.480 --> 25:50.480] He never wanted to take office himself?
[25:50.480 --> 25:51.480] No.
[25:51.480 --> 25:53.480] Well, he was really a writer.
[25:53.480 --> 25:54.480] Yes.
[25:54.480 --> 25:56.480] And you had the skills?
[25:56.480 --> 25:57.480] Yes.
[25:57.480 --> 25:59.480] Well, I had learnt the skills.
[25:59.480 --> 26:01.480] I knew what the job entailed.
[26:01.480 --> 26:02.480] Right.
[26:02.480 --> 26:06.480] And so, anybody else apart from him helped you on your way?
[26:06.480 --> 26:08.480] Not really, no.
[26:08.480 --> 26:11.480] Politics is a hard game, you know.
[26:11.480 --> 26:14.480] One is mostly on one's own.
[26:14.480 --> 26:18.480] You don't really have mentors.
[26:18.480 --> 26:21.480] Do you have to have a belief in yourself then?
[26:21.480 --> 26:22.480] What did you...
[26:23.480 --> 26:25.480] Why did you go for it in a way?
[26:25.480 --> 26:26.480] Did you enjoy it?
[26:26.480 --> 26:27.480] Was it a thing you enjoyed?
[26:27.480 --> 26:30.480] Or did you feel you wanted to change the world?
[26:30.480 --> 26:35.480] Well, I thought I was going to until I realised I wasn't.
[26:35.480 --> 26:43.480] But I always had a belief that one could change injustices.
[26:43.480 --> 26:48.480] And I was always on the side of the underdog.
[26:48.480 --> 26:52.480] So, it seemed a reasonable proposition.
[26:52.480 --> 26:57.480] That there should be someone like that in Parliament.
[26:57.480 --> 27:00.480] And there were, of course, many people.
[27:00.480 --> 27:01.480] Right.
[27:01.480 --> 27:06.480] I mean, MPs get a very raw deal from the press.
[27:06.480 --> 27:08.480] Most of them.
[27:08.480 --> 27:13.480] The absolute overwhelming majority of them are good people.
[27:13.480 --> 27:14.480] And are committed to...
[27:14.480 --> 27:19.480] And are committed to making changes and making life better.
[27:19.480 --> 27:20.480] Is that in all parties?
[27:20.480 --> 27:21.480] In all parties.

[27:21.480 --> 27:22.480] Yes.
[27:22.480 --> 27:25.480] I'm sorry to have to say that about the Tories.
[27:25.480 --> 27:26.480] No, no.
[27:26.480 --> 27:27.480] But there it is.
[27:27.480 --> 27:37.480] And it's interesting, in the House, I always have the ability to make friends across the floor.
[27:38.480 --> 27:44.480] Which didn't really go down very well with some of my Tribune group colleagues.
[27:44.480 --> 27:45.480] Who...
[27:45.480 --> 27:46.480] Who...
[27:46.480 --> 27:47.480] Do you think that...
[27:47.480 --> 27:49.480] Oh, we're chewing, what you're telling me?
[27:49.480 --> 27:50.480] Yeah.
[27:50.480 --> 27:51.480] I think...
[27:51.480 --> 27:52.480] I've always thought of politics as too...
[27:52.480 --> 27:53.480] Particularly left-wing politics.
[27:53.480 --> 27:54.480] Yes.
[27:54.480 --> 27:55.480] As too confrontational.
[27:55.480 --> 27:56.480] Too...
[27:56.480 --> 27:57.480] You know...
[27:57.480 --> 27:58.480] And I just wondered...
[27:58.480 --> 27:59.480] And I've always argued...
[27:59.480 --> 28:00.480] I want to always...
[28:00.480 --> 28:01.480] You know, I always felt that perhaps more women in power would have made it less confrontational
[28:01.480 --> 28:02.480] in that...
[28:02.480 --> 28:03.480] You know, that kind of...
[28:03.480 --> 28:04.480] I remember when I went to South Bank and the unions were locked in with the management
[28:04.480 --> 28:05.480] against each other, really.
[28:05.480 --> 28:21.480] And...
[28:21.480 --> 28:23.980] They were concerned about anything else, it was just conflict.
[28:23.980 --> 28:24.980] Yes.
[28:24.980 --> 28:26.980] And I just wondered if...
[28:26.980 --> 28:30.380] And you're just saying that you actually managed to bridge the conflict, in a way...
[28:30.380 --> 28:34.400] Well, I think you've got to.
[28:34.400 --> 28:36.000] I have never...
[28:36.000 --> 28:45.260] Ever, even if I've had the bitterest exchange with a political enemy, ever felt that after
[28:45.260 --> 28:49.080] that exchange I should ignore them.
[28:49.080 --> 28:53.020] I suppose it's just a matter of how you feel about these things.
[28:53.020 --> 28:59.320] But I think it's terribly important to be able to say what you feel without malice.
[29:00.860 --> 29:03.520] And I always followed that through.
[29:03.860 --> 29:09.380] Although I sometimes did feel very malicious towards the Chief Whip,
[29:10.020 --> 29:15.800] who was a nasty, bigoted Roman Catholic.
[29:16.280 --> 29:17.140] The Labour Chief Whip.
[29:17.160 --> 29:17.600] Yes.
[29:17.600 --> 29:22.600] And tried to keep me off the abortion amendment bill.
[29:23.060 --> 29:30.100] But I had a bit of luck there, because we only had a majority of three.

[29:30.680 --> 29:35.360] And I said, try that on, and I won't come in to vote.

[29:36.700 --> 29:39.240] So he changed his mind rather rapidly.

[29:40.140 --> 29:42.200] Right, so there was some kind of bullying.

[29:43.320 --> 29:46.080] Oh, total bullying by some of them.

[29:46.080 --> 29:46.560] Yes.

[29:47.600 --> 29:49.400] Very distasteful.

[29:50.540 --> 29:58.400] And let me just, what would you, how would you describe, you said that the Labour Party was your family.

[29:58.540 --> 29:59.720] What about the House of Commons?

[30:00.040 --> 30:02.840] How did you feel about that as a place to work?

[30:03.720 --> 30:07.660] Well, I was a bit appalled by it in the beginning.

[30:08.620 --> 30:10.300] But it grows on you.

[30:10.860 --> 30:15.080] And you tend to rather like it after a while.

[30:15.480 --> 30:16.280] And.

[30:17.600 --> 30:22.440] The men, and I was one of 16 women MPs.

[30:22.540 --> 30:23.580] Only in the whole.

[30:23.680 --> 30:25.300] In the whole House then.

[30:26.080 --> 30:29.060] And the men were pretty damn good.

[30:29.960 --> 30:33.180] They treated us with great equality.

[30:34.360 --> 30:36.160] That was important to me.

[30:37.500 --> 30:44.900] There was never any patronising, unless you happen to be a patronising man.

[30:45.120 --> 30:45.660] You're right.

[30:45.660 --> 30:46.220] You know.

[30:46.300 --> 30:49.180] They didn't particularly patronise women.

[30:49.180 --> 30:49.680] No.

[30:49.680 --> 30:54.440] There was just equality of opportunity there.

[30:54.440 --> 30:57.440] So I was very pleased about that.

[30:57.440 --> 31:02.440] But, I mean, I've read, for instance, if we [...], some of her stuff.

[31:02.440 --> 31:02.940] Yes.

[31:02.940 --> 31:09.940] Book fiction, where she describes it in very male terms, she says it's a very, and of course, very, very male.

[31:10.940 --> 31:16.220] Well, it, it, it, she didn't manage very well, did she?

[31:16.220 --> 31:16.720] No.

[31:16.720 --> 31:19.880] Um, quite honestly.

[31:20.640 --> 31:29.980] Um, but on the other hand, of course it's a very male club, because of the number of men in it.

[31:30.760 --> 31:37.800] But on the other hand, from my experience, I never found it anti-woman.

[31:39.040 --> 31:39.480] Never.

[31:40.460 --> 31:45.100] So who, who were the key people who you worked with at the time?

[31:45.220 --> 31:46.700] Who do you remember for the people?

[31:46.720 --> 31:51.960] Well, I worked very closely with Renée Short.

[31:53.380 --> 31:54.000] And, um.

[31:54.000 --> 31:54.740] With red hair.

[31:54.820 --> 31:55.600] Didn't she have red hair?

[31:55.620 --> 31:55.860] Yes.

[31:55.860 --> 31:56.840] You all had red hair.

[31:56.940 --> 31:58.140] She was lovely.

[31:59.060 --> 32:07.580] She was a wonderfully clever woman who was very, very badly treated by Neil Kinnock.

[32:08.200 --> 32:12.280] I'll never forgive Neil for what he did.

[32:12.280 --> 32:12.800] What did he do?
[32:12.800 --> 32:14.060] He promised.
[32:14.680 --> 32:26.500] When a trade unionist appeared to take over Renée's seat, that if she didn't make a fuss, he would
[32:26.500 --> 32:34.040] send her to the Lord's, and when she didn't make a fuss, because she could see that was
[32:34.040 --> 32:41.280] her only option, he never spoke to her again, and never sent her.
[32:41.280 --> 32:44.680] Well, couldn't she go to ask him, couldn't he do that, couldn't he?
[32:44.680 --> 32:45.680] She did.
[32:48.680 --> 32:49.680] He didn't reply.
[32:49.680 --> 32:50.680] A despicable act.
[32:50.680 --> 32:51.680] Why do you think?
[32:51.680 --> 32:52.680] Who knows?
[32:52.680 --> 33:01.540] He had someone of his own, and he preferred to send some crony, because Renée was never
[33:01.540 --> 33:04.640] a person who would hedge and trim.
[33:04.640 --> 33:12.900] You always knew where you were with her, and she was a brilliant woman in the Labour Party,
[33:12.900 --> 33:16.460] and chair of very important Select
[33:16.460 --> 33:38.460] committee. You mentioned Harold Wilson. You said you were fond of him. Oh yes, I loved Harold. He was a lovely, lovely man. And very able. Then there's Gwyneth, Gwyneth Dunwoody.
[33:38.460 --> 33:49.460] Who's only recently died. Who has only recently died. Brilliant woman. She got the reputation of being a bit of a battle-axe, but she still kind of went on, didn't she?
[33:49.460 --> 34:02.460] Yes, she wasn't a battle-axe. She just said what she meant, and propagated that. She was her own person. And very strong, and very determined.
[34:02.460 --> 34:07.460] So she was another one of my greater friends.
[34:07.460 --> 34:08.460] There was...
[34:08.460 --> 34:20.460] Joan Maynard. Joan died of cancer about three years ago. And she was a lovely woman too.
[34:20.460 --> 34:26.460] Do you think that the women who went into Parliament in that particular era had to be outstanding to get there?
[34:26.460 --> 34:37.460] Yes, I think so. They were outstanding, all of them. They all had their own roads they went along.
[34:37.460 --> 34:47.460] And, I have been surprised at New Labour because I feel that they haven't fulfilled their promise to women.
[34:47.460 --> 34:56.460] It's kind of interesting, isn't it? Because it seems that... I think of New Labour a bit like, a bit like professional politicians.
[34:56.460 --> 34:57.460] Yes.
[34:57.460 --> 35:04.460] As opposed maybe to your generation, that were, you know, politicians first, so maybe you became a professional second.
[35:04.460 --> 35:05.460] Yes. They were gut politicians in my day.
[35:05.460 --> 35:06.460] Yes.
[35:06.460 --> 35:14.460] They really believed. And they really believed they were going to change things.
[35:14.460 --> 35:28.460] And of course, when we come up to women's issues today, I was quite pleased to notice that some of the young Blairite women were coming out in almost the same way that we did.
[35:28.460 --> 35:31.460] So that is rather a comfort.
[35:31.460 --> 35:32.460] Yes.
[35:32.460 --> 35:34.460] Now, what are the big... What were the big policy issues that you fought...

[35:34.460 --> 35:41.460] you fought during your period with the same people, or even afterwards all?

[35:41.460 --> 35:45.460] What were the big issues that you felt were important and you contributed to?

[35:45.460 --> 35:47.460] Well, it was equal pay.

[35:47.460 --> 35:48.460] Yes, it's amazing.

[35:48.460 --> 35:52.460] Yes. Equal pay was certainly one of them.

[35:52.460 --> 35:55.460] Were you there when the Sex Discrimination Act was passed?

[35:55.460 --> 35:59.460] I was on the committee of the Sex Discrimination Act.

[35:59.460 --> 36:07.460] So I've always been interested in every area surrounding that. That was very important.

[36:07.460 --> 36:21.460] And... Oh, there were many issues. Almost every aspect of parliamentary life, there is a specific, clear woman's viewpoint.

[36:21.460 --> 36:23.460] And you took... You adopted... That's what you...

[36:23.460 --> 36:35.460] That was... I saw that as my role when it was being overlooked, to gently point out that it should be considered.

[36:35.460 --> 36:40.460] Did you have any connections with the women's movement generally? I mean, outside Parliament?

[36:40.460 --> 36:50.460] Yeah. Well, I didn't... Yes, of course, I was always very supportive of them.

[36:50.460 --> 36:58.460] I mean, I went to Greenham Common, for example, every fortnight when I was an MP, to talk with...

[36:58.460 --> 37:01.460] I very much admired those women.

[37:01.460 --> 37:04.460] They were marvellous.

[37:04.460 --> 37:07.460] That sort of thing.

[37:07.460 --> 37:10.460] I joined in quite a lot of the groups.

[37:10.460 --> 37:15.460] Because you would be... You would have been, as an MP, very valuable to have your support.

[37:15.460 --> 37:21.460] Yes, they did. I gave them my support wherever and whenever I could.

[37:21.460 --> 37:22.460] Right, right.

[37:22.460 --> 37:27.460] So that was important. But it didn't enamour me to the Chief Whip.

[37:27.460 --> 37:28.460] Yeah.

[37:28.460 --> 37:30.460] Who was Bob Mellish.

[37:30.460 --> 37:31.460] Yes.

[37:31.460 --> 37:33.460] And later Lord Mellish.

[37:33.460 --> 37:36.460] Well, I knew him in London because he was very much a part of the political scene.

[37:36.460 --> 37:40.460] I know. He wasn't a nice man about women.

[37:40.460 --> 37:42.460] The older generation.

[37:42.460 --> 37:43.460] Yes. Yes.

[37:43.460 --> 37:52.460] Okay, let's get now... Is there anything else you... I mean, one of... Is there anything else you want to say more about that particular period?

[37:52.460 --> 37:55.460] Because we're going to come now to when it all kind of blew up.

[37:55.460 --> 38:00.460] And it was... If, you know, you want to talk about that. But is there anything else you want to say?

[38:00.460 --> 38:03.460] In all nature, before we get to that.

[38:03.460 --> 38:14.460] I said your life as an MP. A typical day. What was the impact of you being a woman? Your own impetus? Your achievements? How did you feel?

[38:14.460 --> 38:16.460] Don't think we...

[38:16.460 --> 38:27.460] I just felt... I just felt involved. That was important. Because when you're in the House, and when you're only one of 16, you can have a say.

[38:27.460 --> 38:36.460] Which is probably what's happening to the Blair-ite women now. There are so many of them.

[38:36.460 --> 38:39.460] So they're not quite... They don't have quite...

[38:39.460 --> 38:42.460] They don't have quite the impact.

[38:42.460 --> 38:45.460] So you were in a particular moment of time.

[38:45.460 --> 38:49.460] Oh, when you weren't ignored, you were actually...respected

[38:49.460 --> 38:50.460] Encouraged.

[38:50.460 --> 38:52.460] Phoned up. Asked.

[38:52.460 --> 38:54.460] Right. So it was a quite...

[38:54.460 --> 38:59.460] You never knew when you went into the House to begin your day

[38:59.460 --> 39:02.460] how it was going to end up.

[39:02.460 --> 39:03.460] So it was very exciting.

[39:03.460 --> 39:06.460] It was exciting. I loved it.

[39:06.460 --> 39:07.460] Right.

[39:07.460 --> 39:19.460] So let's get now to this... I didn't know how to put it for me in that paper, but it's about why... what happened when your relationship with Babs came out.

[39:19.460 --> 39:22.460] Can you take us through that?

[39:22.460 --> 39:26.460] I put here political setbacks. That was...

[39:26.460 --> 39:27.460] Well, I suppose that was...

[39:27.460 --> 39:28.460] What happened was...

[39:28.460 --> 39:31.460] Talk about how that happened.

[39:31.460 --> 39:34.460] Well, it was...

[39:34.460 --> 39:46.460] Babs had been appointed by Women in Media to lobby me on behalf of the Sex Discrimination Bill.

[39:46.460 --> 39:53.460] And she used to bring me amendments and things like that.

[39:53.460 --> 39:57.460] And gradually I realised that...

[39:57.460 --> 40:00.460] I had fallen in love with her.

[40:00.460 --> 40:12.460] Now this was very difficult for me because I still loved my husband too, but I had really fallen in love with a woman.

[40:12.460 --> 40:17.460] So that was very difficult too, but I decided that...

[40:17.460 --> 40:19.460] And what about Babs? She felt the same about you?

[40:19.460 --> 40:21.460] Yes. And...

[40:21.460 --> 40:23.460] Were you both married at the time?

[40:23.460 --> 40:24.460] Was she married?

[40:24.460 --> 40:30.460] No, she was in another lesbian relationship.

[40:30.460 --> 40:32.460] And...

[40:32.460 --> 40:36.460] And so there we were.

[40:36.460 --> 40:37.460] And...

[40:37.460 --> 40:39.460] And when was this? What year?

[40:39.460 --> 40:40.460] 1975.

[40:40.460 --> 40:42.460] '75.

[40:42.460 --> 40:43.460] So...

[40:43.460 --> 40:46.460] So...

[40:46.460 --> 40:51.460] I decided that I would have to deal with it.

[40:51.460 --> 40:54.460] And...

[40:54.460 --> 40:59.460] Nigel Dempster of the Daily Mail.

[40:59.460 --> 41:11.460] He got hold of, or somebody sent him, a copy of our housewarming invitation to our friends.

[41:11.460 --> 41:14.460] When you'd separated and...
[41:14.460 --> 41:17.460] When we decided to live together.
[41:17.460 --> 41:18.460] Wow.
[41:18.460 --> 41:24.460] Of course, this was very difficult because I
had to see all my children and talk to them about it.
[41:24.460 --> 41:27.460] In line with communication.
[41:27.460 --> 41:29.460] And about you and also your husband.
[41:29.460 --> 41:33.460] And my husband, who was very upset.
[41:33.460 --> 41:38.460] And immediately offered to buy me a new car.
[41:38.460 --> 41:43.460] If I would stay with him, which was sweet.
[41:43.460 --> 41:47.460] But I explained that I was in love with her.
[41:47.460 --> 41:49.460] How old were you at the time?
[41:49.460 --> 41:53.460] '28 to '75.
[41:53.460 --> 41:57.460] I was 47.
[41:57.460 --> 42:00.460] And Babs was 42.
[42:00.460 --> 42:02.460] So...
[42:02.460 --> 42:06.460] I had to see them and I had to tell my mother.
[42:06.460 --> 42:09.460] Had to introduce them to Babs.
[42:09.460 --> 42:12.460] I had to tell my best friends.
[42:12.460 --> 42:15.460] Who are both dead now.
[42:15.460 --> 42:18.460] I had to see them in Brighton.
[42:18.460 --> 42:20.460] Talk to them about it.
[42:20.460 --> 42:21.460] So it was some...
[42:21.460 --> 42:23.460] Shocks all round.
[42:23.460 --> 42:27.460] Although, it wasn't my first affair with a
woman.
[42:27.460 --> 42:30.460] I'd had one some years earlier.
[42:30.460 --> 42:33.460] That had just fizzled out.
[42:33.460 --> 42:34.460] It didn't mean...
[42:34.460 --> 42:40.460] I wasn't in love as much as sexually
interested.
[42:40.460 --> 42:42.460] If I'm being honest.
[42:44.460 --> 42:47.460] Was that with somebody in politics?
[42:47.460 --> 42:50.460] No, it was somebody outside politics.
[42:53.460 --> 42:55.460] So what was I telling you?
[42:55.460 --> 42:57.460] You were telling me about what happened.
[42:57.460 --> 42:59.460] You told all your family.
[42:59.460 --> 43:00.460] Yes.
[43:00.460 --> 43:03.460] So, Nigel Dempster got the story.
[43:03.460 --> 43:05.460] And I told everybody.
[43:05.460 --> 43:09.460] Everybody suitably absorbed the shock.
[43:09.460 --> 43:14.460] And knew what my intentions were.
[43:14.460 --> 43:19.460] My children were all very supportive.
[43:19.460 --> 43:21.460] They were presumably in their twenties.
[43:21.460 --> 43:22.460] Yes, yes.
[43:22.460 --> 43:24.460] They were all very supportive.
[43:24.460 --> 43:26.460] Always, always have been.
[43:26.460 --> 43:33.460] And my mother could hardly bear to look my
way.
[43:33.460 --> 43:35.460] But...
[43:35.460 --> 43:39.460] And Keith Colquhoun was very upset.
[43:39.460 --> 43:42.460] So I felt dreadful about that.
[43:42.460 --> 43:45.460] Because he'd been...
[43:45.460 --> 43:48.460] Ever since I'd been eighteen.
[43:48.460 --> 43:51.460] But I thought it best, to me,
[43:51.460 --> 43:56.460] to head on and communicate it properly.
[43:56.460 --> 43:59.460] Did you think about political ramifications?
[43:59.460 --> 44:02.460] Well, I didn't mind.

[44:02.460 --> 44:08.460] I just felt that that was my personal choice.
[44:08.460 --> 44:11.460] And I should...
[44:11.460 --> 44:16.460] I should do what my preference was.
[44:16.460 --> 44:18.460] And that was it.
[44:18.460 --> 44:20.460] May have been a mistake.
[44:20.460 --> 44:22.460] I don't know at that time.
[44:22.460 --> 44:27.460] It may have been a mistake to feel like that.
[44:27.460 --> 44:31.460] But the press went absolutely gaga over it.
[44:31.460 --> 44:33.460] So Nigel Dempster blew the...
[44:33.460 --> 44:34.460] Blew the...
[44:34.460 --> 44:35.460] Blew the story.
[44:35.460 --> 44:36.460] Yes, yes.
[44:36.460 --> 44:38.460] And then what happened?
[44:38.460 --> 44:44.460] Well, nothing happened inasmuch as that everybody knew it.
[44:44.460 --> 44:47.460] So I didn't have to tell anybody else.
[44:47.460 --> 44:48.460] Goddamn.
[44:48.460 --> 44:49.460] And...
[44:49.460 --> 44:52.460] And I've been together ever since.
[44:52.460 --> 44:53.460] But it had...
[44:53.460 --> 44:57.460] It did have an impact on your political life.
[44:57.460 --> 44:58.460] Well, it did.
[44:58.460 --> 45:05.460] Because my constituency party were quite upset about it.
[45:05.460 --> 45:06.460] Why were they upset?
[45:06.460 --> 45:08.460] Because you had left your husband?
[45:08.460 --> 45:10.460] Because you'd become a lesbian?
[45:10.460 --> 45:11.460] Or because you hadn't told them?
[45:11.460 --> 45:13.460] Or because of what?
[45:13.460 --> 45:17.460] I think they were upset on every count you can think of.
[45:17.460 --> 45:25.460] But certainly they felt, my opponents, and there were only a handful of them.
[45:25.460 --> 45:29.460] I retain the loyalty of most of the constituency.
[45:29.460 --> 45:38.460] But the people who actually ran the party were very vitriolic.
[45:38.460 --> 45:39.460] It was a very...
[45:39.460 --> 45:45.460] A time of very great particular difficulty for me.
[45:45.460 --> 45:46.460] And...
[45:46.460 --> 45:49.460] But it had to be faced.
[45:49.460 --> 45:50.460] And...
[45:50.460 --> 45:53.460] So everybody knew.
[45:53.460 --> 46:03.460] Now, how it went down in the House was most people were very supportive.
[46:03.460 --> 46:11.460] But some of the Labour women MPs, Jo Richardson, Millie Miller, she was...
[46:11.460 --> 46:12.460] She was Hackney.
[46:12.460 --> 46:13.460] Hackney.
[46:13.460 --> 46:15.460] Millie Miller was Hackney, wasn't she?
[46:15.460 --> 46:16.460] No.
[46:16.460 --> 46:17.460] She wasn't Hackney.
[46:17.460 --> 46:18.460] She was...
[46:18.460 --> 46:19.460] Well, she was a Councillor, I believe.
[46:19.460 --> 46:20.460] I don't know.
[46:20.460 --> 46:21.460] She was my local Councillor.
[46:21.460 --> 46:22.460] She was my local MP.

[46:22.460 --> 46:23.460] They were very offended.
[46:23.460 --> 46:28.460] And Millie Miller said to me, in the lady members' room,
[46:28.460 --> 46:36.460] Well, you've done it now for women MPs, she said.
[46:36.460 --> 46:39.460] They'll think we're all lesbians.
[46:39.460 --> 46:45.460] And I said, well, you should be so lucky.
[46:45.460 --> 46:58.460] And I think it was that frivolous aside that didn't endear me to them.
[46:58.460 --> 47:00.460] But so that was part of that.
[47:00.460 --> 47:10.460] I mean, it was only later, as the women's movement progressed, and gay rights began to be up
[47:10.460 --> 47:13.460] at the forefront of consideration.
[47:13.460 --> 47:19.460] They even began to change their minds.
[47:19.460 --> 47:25.460] Audrey Wise was one of the most vitriolic.
[47:25.460 --> 47:28.460] She had her daughter.
[47:28.460 --> 47:30.460] I shared an office with her.
[47:30.460 --> 47:34.460] And she had her daughter working in the office.
[47:34.460 --> 47:35.460] What's her daughter's name?
[47:35.460 --> 47:36.460] I knew her.
[47:36.460 --> 47:39.460] Went on to the GFCS.
[47:39.460 --> 47:40.460] Yes.
[47:40.460 --> 47:41.460] Valerie.
[47:41.460 --> 47:42.460] Valerie was, that's right.
[47:42.460 --> 47:51.460] And Valerie was moved out of her office in case I permeated her in some way.
[47:51.460 --> 47:56.460] Anyway, eventually the Whips found me an office of my own in the Norman Shore,
[47:56.460 --> 47:59.460] which was much better for me.
[47:59.460 --> 48:04.460] But they weren't kind.
[48:04.460 --> 48:07.460] The women, the MPs weren't supportive?
[48:07.460 --> 48:12.460] Well, Gwyneth was and Renée and Joan,
[48:12.460 --> 48:14.460] and people like that.
[48:14.460 --> 48:25.460] But those left-wingers, and some of them were hard left-wingers,
[48:25.460 --> 48:30.460] were very, very condemnatory.
[48:30.460 --> 48:34.460] Because they felt you were diverting attention from...?
[48:34.460 --> 48:36.460] Well, I don't know.
[48:36.460 --> 48:40.460] I never had a really clear discussion with them,
[48:40.460 --> 48:46.460] because they just didn't like me anymore.
[48:46.460 --> 48:54.460] And in fact, I was then treasurer of the Tribune Group.
[48:54.460 --> 49:01.460] And they replaced me with Arthur Latham.
[49:01.460 --> 49:05.460] It was a deliberate move by them,
[49:05.460 --> 49:09.460] so that they wouldn't be associated with me.
[49:09.460 --> 49:11.460] And...
[49:11.460 --> 49:13.460] Was there fear of the press?
[49:13.460 --> 49:15.460] Fear of the press?
[49:15.460 --> 49:19.460] Well, I think there's always fear of the press in the House of Commons.
[49:19.460 --> 49:25.460] They can do such an extraordinarily nasty job, ruin your career, etcetera.
[49:25.460 --> 49:30.460] But I don't know what it was fear of.
[49:30.460 --> 49:34.460] I assume from Millie Miller,
[49:34.460 --> 49:37.460] I assume from Millie Miller,
[49:37.460 --> 49:42.460] it was afraid of being thought lesbian.

[49:42.460 --> 49:48.460] It was socially unacceptable to them.
[49:48.460 --> 49:50.460] It's much more acceptable now, isn't it?
[49:50.460 --> 49:52.460] It's quite different now.
[49:52.460 --> 49:56.460] And so, presumably, you had a part to play
in...?
[49:56.460 --> 49:57.460] Yes.
[49:57.460 --> 49:59.460] But you were the first woman to come out?
[49:59.460 --> 50:00.460] Yes.
[50:00.460 --> 50:01.460] As a lesbian?
[50:01.460 --> 50:02.460] Yes.
[50:02.460 --> 50:03.460] So...?
[50:03.460 --> 50:05.460] Yes, although...
[50:05.460 --> 50:07.460] What is that woman's name?
[50:07.460 --> 50:10.460] She comes from Liverpool.
[50:10.460 --> 50:11.460] Oh.
[50:11.460 --> 50:12.460] She was the minister.
[50:12.460 --> 50:13.460] Now?
[50:13.460 --> 50:14.460] Yes.
[50:14.460 --> 50:15.460] No.
[50:15.460 --> 50:20.460] The current leader of the Labour Party.
[50:20.460 --> 50:22.460] No, not Harriet.
[50:22.460 --> 50:24.460] No, Harriet's not a lesbian.
[50:24.460 --> 50:26.460] No, but she would have been...
[50:26.460 --> 50:28.460] Was she around when you were...?
[50:28.460 --> 50:30.460] Was she a young MP?
[50:30.460 --> 50:31.460] No.
[50:31.460 --> 50:32.460] She was before her time?
[50:32.460 --> 50:33.460] Yes.
[50:33.460 --> 50:34.460] I don't know...
[50:34.460 --> 50:36.460] I'm sure she would never be prejudiced,
[50:36.460 --> 50:39.460] because we do still keep in touch.
[50:39.460 --> 50:42.460] I think she gets made bad press, doesn't she?
[50:42.460 --> 50:44.460] Oh, they're frightful to her.
[50:44.460 --> 50:47.460] Anyway, so what happened now with your
local...?
[50:47.460 --> 50:48.460] Because, what?
[50:48.460 --> 50:50.460] Then you come to...
[50:50.460 --> 50:53.460] You can continue your work in Parliament.
[50:53.460 --> 50:56.460] Well, yes, because unless I resigned...
[50:56.460 --> 50:57.460] Right.
[50:57.460 --> 51:00.460] ...I was still an MP until the next election.
[51:00.460 --> 51:01.460] Right.
[51:01.460 --> 51:05.460] And so what happened was that...
[51:06.460 --> 51:13.460] Tiny tried to deselect me,
[51:13.460 --> 51:17.460] and they lost their appeal to the NEC.
[51:17.460 --> 51:24.460] We had a wonderful general secretary at that
time of the Labour Party
[51:24.460 --> 51:25.460] called Ron Hayward.
[51:25.460 --> 51:27.460] Oh, I know all these people because I was in
the party.
[51:27.460 --> 51:28.460] Yes.
[51:28.460 --> 51:31.460] Ron had always been a friend of mine,
[51:31.460 --> 51:40.460] and his view was that my constituency party
were trying to kill me.
[51:40.460 --> 51:45.460] He was very upset about it.
[51:45.460 --> 51:49.460] Anyway, the NEC found in my favour.
[51:49.460 --> 51:52.460] So I stood at the next election.

[51:52.460 --> 51:57.460] And interestingly, I got the same swing
against me
[51:57.460 --> 52:00.460] as Shirley Williams had against her.
[52:00.460 --> 52:05.460] But still, my constituency party tried to
pretend
[52:05.460 --> 52:08.460] it was much higher than it was.
[52:08.460 --> 52:10.460] And so they blamed...
[52:10.460 --> 52:11.460] They said that you lost...
[52:11.460 --> 52:13.460] Blamed my lesbianism.
[52:13.460 --> 52:14.460] And you lost...
[52:14.460 --> 52:15.460] Lost, yes.
[52:15.460 --> 52:16.460] You lost your seat there.
[52:16.460 --> 52:17.460] Yes.
[52:17.460 --> 52:19.460] And then what happened?
[52:19.460 --> 52:22.460] So what happens to an MP when they lose?
[52:22.460 --> 52:23.460] Ah.
[52:23.460 --> 52:24.460] That must be...
[52:24.460 --> 52:25.460] That's what is...
[52:25.460 --> 52:31.460] I'm a member of the association of former MPs,
[52:31.460 --> 52:34.460] and I'm on their executive committee,
[52:34.460 --> 52:37.460] and I still go up to the House once a month
[52:37.460 --> 52:39.460] when it's sitting.
[52:39.460 --> 52:43.460] And we exist for all former MPs
[52:43.460 --> 52:47.460] to get them various considerations.
[52:47.460 --> 52:51.460] And this is what is exercising our minds at
the moment,
[52:51.460 --> 52:56.460] because there may be a lot of former MPs
[52:56.460 --> 52:58.460] in the...
[52:58.460 --> 52:59.460] in the next...
[52:59.460 --> 53:02.460] after the next election.
[53:02.460 --> 53:03.460] So...
[53:03.460 --> 53:05.460] We're working on that,
[53:05.460 --> 53:10.460] and how we can best help them over the bitter
experience.
[53:10.460 --> 53:12.460] Was it bitter for you?
[53:12.460 --> 53:16.460] Oh, I was glad to get rid of Northampton
North.
[53:16.460 --> 53:19.460] It wasn't a bit bitter.
[53:19.460 --> 53:23.460] I was sorry not to be in the House.
[53:23.460 --> 53:25.460] So I went...
[53:25.460 --> 53:28.460] I had a contract to write a book,
[53:28.460 --> 53:31.460] 'A Woman in the House'.
[53:31.460 --> 53:32.460] And I...
[53:32.460 --> 53:36.460] And I left Parliament to do that.
[53:36.460 --> 53:37.460] And after that,
[53:37.460 --> 53:39.460] I started to look for a job,
[53:39.460 --> 53:46.460] and I ended up as an information officer for
Gingerbread.
[53:46.460 --> 53:47.460] All right.
[53:47.460 --> 53:51.460] Which is an association of one-parent
families.
[53:51.460 --> 53:58.460] And that all turned grievously wrong,
[53:58.460 --> 54:01.460] not because of any prejudice,
[54:01.460 --> 54:06.460] but because we had a general secretary
[54:06.460 --> 54:08.460] who was a hopeless liar.
[54:08.460 --> 54:09.460] Oh, God.
[54:09.460 --> 54:15.460] And she lost all the head office staff.
[54:15.460 --> 54:18.460] It wasn't that she meant to lie...

[54:18.460 --> 54:20.460] Do you want to name her?
[54:20.460 --> 54:22.460] No, I'd rather not.
[54:22.460 --> 54:26.460] It wasn't that she wanted to lie.
[54:26.460 --> 54:30.460] She totally believed everything she said,
[54:30.460 --> 54:32.460] straight between the eyes,
[54:32.460 --> 54:35.460] to whoever she was talking to at the time.
[54:35.460 --> 54:38.460] But it created mayhem.
[54:38.460 --> 54:40.460] And...
[54:40.460 --> 54:42.460] And we came out on strike.
[54:42.460 --> 54:45.460] I asked them at Gingerbread,
[54:45.460 --> 54:46.460] I said,
[54:46.460 --> 54:47.460] Don't.
[54:47.460 --> 54:49.460] For this reason.
[54:49.460 --> 54:51.460] You're not Labour Party people.
[54:51.460 --> 54:54.460] You don't believe in strikes.
[54:54.460 --> 54:57.460] And you won't cope.
[54:57.460 --> 54:59.460] But they insisted.
[54:59.460 --> 55:02.460] So we all came out on strike.
[55:02.460 --> 55:05.460] And it was all sorted out by arbitration
[55:05.460 --> 55:08.460] about three months later.
[55:08.460 --> 55:10.460] So that was the end of that.
[55:10.460 --> 55:13.460] So you stopped working for Gingerbread?
[55:13.460 --> 55:14.460] Yes.
[55:14.460 --> 55:15.460] And then,
[55:15.460 --> 55:18.460] I think there was an election in between,
[55:18.460 --> 55:21.460] just after I stopped working for Gingerbread,
[55:21.460 --> 55:22.460] and I thought,
[55:22.460 --> 55:25.460] I think I'll go back to the House
[55:25.460 --> 55:28.460] and help new Labour MPs.
[55:28.460 --> 55:34.460] If I can find two or three
[55:34.460 --> 55:37.460] to do research and work with.
[55:37.460 --> 55:39.460] And that's what I did.
[55:39.460 --> 55:42.460] And I stayed in the House another 22 years.
[55:42.460 --> 55:43.460] Really?
[55:43.460 --> 55:44.460] Yes.
[55:44.460 --> 55:45.460] So who did you work with?
[55:45.460 --> 55:47.460] And what things did you work?
[55:47.460 --> 55:50.460] I worked on all kinds of things.
[55:50.460 --> 55:54.460] It was very useful to them.
[55:54.460 --> 55:57.460] I'd rather not mention their names,
[55:57.460 --> 56:01.460] because I don't think it's fair to involve
them.
[56:01.460 --> 56:03.460] Did you get paid for that?
[56:03.460 --> 56:04.460] Yes.
[56:04.460 --> 56:08.460] I was paid quite handsomely.
[56:08.460 --> 56:11.460] And then I started a business
[56:11.460 --> 56:13.460] within the structure of the House
[56:13.460 --> 56:17.460] to end paid lobbyists.
[56:17.460 --> 56:21.460] And that was to teach business
[56:21.460 --> 56:24.460] how to lobby for themselves
[56:24.460 --> 56:26.460] without resorting,
[56:26.460 --> 56:28.460] well, I'd seen,
[56:28.460 --> 56:30.460] changing two lines in a bill,
[56:30.460 --> 56:38.460] something to do with steal.
[56:38.460 --> 56:43.460] A lobbyist had charged £8,000
[56:43.460 --> 56:45.460] and got it.
[56:45.460 --> 56:48.460] Such is the limited knowledge of Parliament
[56:48.460 --> 56:51.460] amongst British business.

[56:51.460 --> 56:58.460] And so I formed Westminster Democratic Studies
[56:58.460 --> 57:01.460] and got all the colleagues I knew,
[57:01.460 --> 57:04.460] Labour, Tory, Lib Dem,
[57:04.460 --> 57:07.460] to come and sit round the table
[57:07.460 --> 57:10.460] with up to 20 business people
[57:10.460 --> 57:12.460] once a month
[57:12.460 --> 57:14.460] to learn about it.
[57:14.460 --> 57:20.460] And those courses went very well.
[57:20.460 --> 57:23.460] They were very popular.
[57:23.460 --> 57:25.460] And I finished with them
[57:25.460 --> 57:28.460] when we came up to the Lakes.
[57:28.460 --> 57:30.460] So that's a kind of hidden part now.
[57:30.460 --> 57:31.460] Yes.
[57:31.460 --> 57:32.460] So that's why you retained
[57:32.460 --> 57:34.460] such an affection for the House.
[57:34.460 --> 57:35.460] Yes.
[57:35.460 --> 57:38.460] And I got officers at the House
[57:38.460 --> 57:42.460] and MPs working in the House
[57:42.460 --> 57:44.460] and we'd just sit round a table
[57:44.460 --> 57:48.460] in the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre
[57:48.460 --> 57:52.460] and talk about their role,
[57:52.460 --> 57:54.460] how they saw it,
[57:54.460 --> 57:56.460] and how they did it,
[57:56.460 --> 57:58.460] and how they could help.
[57:58.460 --> 57:59.460] Did you ever regret
[57:59.460 --> 58:01.460] not being back in as a member?
[58:01.460 --> 58:04.460] Oh, I missed it, yes.
[58:04.460 --> 58:06.460] Yes, I sometimes used to look up
[58:06.460 --> 58:09.460] at the monitor in my room
[58:09.460 --> 58:10.460] and think,
[58:10.460 --> 58:13.460] oh, I'd like to be in on that debate.
[58:13.460 --> 58:15.460] But it wasn't to be.
[58:15.460 --> 58:17.460] I did apply for other seats
[58:17.460 --> 58:19.460] but I didn't get them.
[58:19.460 --> 58:21.460] They were damaged goods in a sense.
[58:21.460 --> 58:23.460] I suppose you could say that, yes.
[58:23.460 --> 58:24.460] I don't know.
[58:24.460 --> 58:26.460] There's always new people coming.
[58:26.460 --> 58:27.460] Yes.
[58:27.460 --> 58:29.460] Oh, that's really interesting.
[58:29.460 --> 58:30.460] Yes.
[58:30.460 --> 58:31.460] Right.
[58:31.460 --> 58:33.460] So, I've seen your life since being an MP.
[58:33.460 --> 58:34.460] How are we doing on the time?
[58:34.460 --> 58:35.460] I don't know.
[58:35.460 --> 58:36.460] We can do a bit more.
[58:36.460 --> 58:37.460] Yep, let's do it.
[58:37.460 --> 58:38.460] Have I been talking to them?