

JANET BENNETT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Beginning in the FS

- Admiration for predecessor in Melbourne
- Job as research assistant
- Managed her affairs before marrying into the FS
- Fascinating to move into world of her research subject
- Felt FS wasn't really her life
- Minor health breakdown

Spouses in the FS

- Found service expectations for spouses an anachronism
- Women who marry bright, energetic, vital men don't make a full time career of husband support
- Spouse can be a useful gatherer of information at events
- Unable to take job and be wife of consul general, which she took seriously
- Department, local community expect volunteer input from wives

Financial Problems

- After academic life, wardrobe needed for diplomatic life was a financial problem
- Finding funds for official residence expenses inflexible
- A public service couple should not have financial strain to represent well

General Discussion

- Regrets time spent with people of marginal interest to U.S.
- Contrasts successful party given for young Fabians, future Labor leaders in Australia
- Finds demands of consular corps less valuable
- Will continue to work on thesis on migrant studies
- Has spent 20 years in Australia, uncertain she wants to return to U.S. to live
- House hunting
- Advised to give up evening walks for security reasons