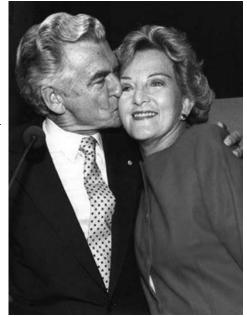
Late Hazel Hawke was not only a first lady who looked after a P.M.and brought success to him. She was the real strength and the anchor that Bob Hawke depended on for his long career as Prime Minister of

When Bob Hawke decided to proceed to England to study at Oxford, his fiance Hazel tok the bold decision to give up her work and go with him perhaps aware of the nature of the man she had become attached to

Hazel Peterrson, a young girl from Perth, met the young .an at a church function. Miss Peterson was perhaps the second such girl to give up everything and accompany her man to England. The otherperthat such a lady was left to mind her own business late in life. Is it a tradition with Australian politicians to give up their wives when they have done their duty? In any caes Hawke was followed by his successor Paul Keating in dumping his wife soon after losing his job. Anita Keating was someone he met in the air, when she was working for a Dutch Airline. The other notable politician to dump his wife was John Hewson, who how-



Hazel Hawke earned the respect and admiration of a nation for her genuine interest and generosity in working with a variety of disadvantaged persons including Ahstralianothr social gruops. Aborigenes and other social

She must be admiresd as a lady whon did not want to enjoy the glory of being the P.M.'s wife, but was keen to use that position as a lever to reach out to the needy and the helpless. None of her children wanted to bask in the glory of their father. In fact, one son, who went to the Northern Territory to work for the Aborigines even refuesed to use the father's surname because that gave him an unwanted advantage

For her social work and dedication Hazel Hawke was honoured by the nation and praised by all irrespective of their political differences. This was obvious when Opposition Leader Toony Abbott spoke in Parliament on the motion of condolence moved by the P.M.

With all the work done by Australian feminists and activists, women in Australia still lag behim most developed countries in the avenues and recognition that they have One must not forget the way ,

Dr.Carmen Lawrence and even Chervl Kernot were pulled down from their pedestals. If they were men they would

have been excused easily

The accusations and attacks that are a constant feature as regards the current P.M, also oes tom prove this tendency very popular with the local press. Even her dress becomes a target for attack; whereas no man is ever attacked for what he wears unless, of course, it is something horribly wrong.

time. In this regard, I think, Julia Gillard does pretty well. The nation's admiration and respect should go to this lady who did serve her motherland up to her last moment, bringing the position

of woman respectabilty and recognition that it

Some of these critics fail to understand that a

woman has to think of her appearance all the

ınterpoin

son I can think of is Mrs. Dhypna Clarke, already married to Dr. Manning Clarke, She was an educated woman who knew a number of languages in addition to English, with bright future prspects, but all that did not matter when it came to the future of her man.

Hazel too was such a woman giving up everything for the sake of her future husband. Not only did she tolerate him when he went for contests like the beer drinking show which he won, she even stood by him when he was notb fiaithful to her. It is not a rare thing for a woman to do, but in the case of Hawkes it was in broad day light. I feel the whole country admired the lady for

Although I have no right to criticise a man for giving up his woman. I feel rather sad

ever did not get the job

My mind goes back to my of politicians have done far HAZEL THE FIRST better. Therevwerev three P.M.s who did not have a

wife of his own. Sir John has had a wife, but was a bachelor when he bacame P.M. Dudley and W.D. were confirmed bachelors though of two different kinds, D.S., SWRD, J'R', and Premadasa had their wives wth them right through their political life and one went on to take the job held by her husband. She in fact, created a political dynasty which ended with her daughter becoming the first woman President of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka now has no dynasty to look for

power, except pedrhapds the almost dead dynasty of E. Premadasa. His son has messed up his chances, while all the Senanayakes and Bandaranaikes have exhausted their stock.

Coming back to,our subject, the lady who accompanied Bob Hawke to England came back with him and saw him becoming the P. M. of the county. She stood with him all the way until he decided to give her up, of course

Her childern were all behind her when she developed alziema and still continued to work for the commnunity. Just like Jim styne later, she used her illness as a source of inspiration to offer comfort and advice to others who needed help. This is a rather rare Australian quality which I find lacking even in my own motherland.

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