



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	Fraser, John Malcolm (Rt Hon.)
ACCESSION NO	106/23 (formerly NAA M1363)
CATEGORY	Community and Political, Individuals
ACTIVITY	Prime Ministers, Politicians, Farmers
DATE RANGE	1973–1976
SIZE OF COLLECTION	0.61 metres (4 boxes)
HISTORICAL NOTE	<p>John Malcolm Fraser was born in Toorak, Melbourne on 21 May 1930.</p> <p>His grandfather, Sir Simon Fraser (1832–1919), had emigrated from Canada in 1853, initially to work as a prospector, but later moving into business, farming and politics. He was elected to the Victorian Legislative Assembly in 1874 and later served as a delegate to the Australasian Federal Convention (1897–1898) and a senator representing the Free Trade Party (1901–1913).</p> <p>Malcolm’s father, John Neville Fraser (1890–1962), studied law at the University of Oxford, but on his return to Australia concerned himself largely with his work as a pastoralist. In 1926, he married Una Woolf. Neville and Una had two children: Lorraine (1926–) and (John) Malcolm (1930–).</p> <p>The Fraser family lived at Balpool-Nyang near Moulamein in New South Wales before moving to ‘Nareen’, a station in western Victoria, in 1943. During this period Malcolm attended Tudor House School in New South Wales (1940–1943) and Melbourne Grammar (1944–1948). In 1949, he was admitted to the University of Oxford to study ‘Modern Greats’ (Politics, Philosophy and Economics).</p> <p>After graduating, Malcolm Fraser returned to Victoria and decided to embark on a political career. He succeeded in being elected as Liberal member for the seat of Wannon in western Victoria at his second attempt in 1955. A backbencher under Menzies for ten years, Fraser gained his first cabinet post as Minister for the Army under Prime Minister Harold Holt in 1966. He went on to become Minister for Education and Science (1968–1969 and 1971–1972) and Minister for Defence (1969–1971). Following the Labor government’s election win in 1972, he served as Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations. He became leader of the Liberal</p>

	<p>Party in March 1975 and in November became caretaker Prime Minister after the Governor-General, Sir John Kerr, dismissed the Whitlam government. He was returned to office through election victories in 1975, 1977 and 1980, before losing to Bob Hawke at the 1983 election. He resigned from politics in March 1983.</p> <p>Following his formal political career, Malcolm Fraser has continued a presence on the world stage, as Chair of the United Nations Panel of Eminent Persons on the Role of Transnational Corporations in South Africa (1985); as Co-Chair of the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons campaigning for an end to apartheid in South Africa (1985–1986); and Chair of the UN Secretary-General’s Expert Group on African Commodity Issues (1989–1990). In 1987 he founded CARE Australia, the country’s largest non-political and non-religious overseas aid organisation and was president of CARE International from 1990 to 1995. In 1997, he led a Commonwealth Observer Mission to Pakistan to monitor the national elections.</p> <p>Malcolm Fraser remains actively interested in issues associated with human rights, multiculturalism and reconciliation with indigenous Australians. He has been highly critical of the Howard government’s involvement in the war in Iraq, as well as of its treatment of asylum seekers.</p>
DATE OF TRANSFER	February 2006
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Open
DESCRIPTION	<p>This series contains folders of material relating to the ‘Loans Affair’, maintained by J M (Malcolm) Fraser as Leader of the Opposition (March–November 1975). A few papers date a little earlier, however, and some others were added in 1976.</p> <p>The ‘Loans Affair’ involved controversial arrangements, initiated in 1974 by the Whitlam Government, to borrow \$4 billion from overseas sources through a Pakistani dealer, Tirath Khemlani. The affair reached its peak in mid-1975, but contributed to the Opposition blocking supply in the Senate and the subsequent downfall of the government in November that year. Two senior Whitlam Ministers involved, Rex Connor (Minister for Minerals and Energy) and Dr Jim Cairns (Treasurer), had already lost their portfolios. The Queensland government under Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen prompted further investigations in early 1976, but with no significant result.</p> <p>The folders are essentially of two types. The first are those folders including reference material sourced from media coverage of the Loans Affair (news cuttings, transcripts of interviews). The second group of folders comprises other documents (mainly photocopies of statutory</p>

	<p>declarations, affidavits, telexes, extracts from Hansard) which would have assisted the Opposition in its campaign for full disclosure of the affair. These include a bound collection of papers authorised by the House of Representatives in July 1975 and copies of others relating to the Queensland investigations.</p>
NOTE ON COLLECTIONS	<p>This series was transferred from the National Archives of Australia in February 2006.</p> <p>Part of the series (items 14–15, 19) is currently held at the National Archives of Australia.</p>
NOTE ON LISTING	<p>Single number system imposed by the National Archives of Australia</p>
LISTED BY	<p>NAA</p>
DATE	<p>8 November 2006</p>

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
		Papers relating to the 'Loans Affair' maintained by J M (Malcolm) Fraser	1973–1976
1	1	Newspaper cuttings, July 1975 [relating to the Loans Affair, dismissal of Dr J Cairns (Deputy Prime Minister), activities of P Cairns]	17 Aug 1974–5 Jul 1975
	2	Newspaper cuttings, February - July 1975 [relating to the Loans Affair]	12 Feb 1975–3 Jul 1975
	3	Newspaper cuttings, June - July 1975 [relating to the Loans Affair, dismissal of Dr J Cairns (Deputy Prime Minister)]	3 Jun 1975–5 Jul 1975
	4	Newspaper cuttings, May - October 1975 [relating to the Loans Affair, activities of G Harris]	20 May 1975–30 Oct 1975
	5	Newspaper cuttings, July 1975 [relating to the Loans Affair, includes Hansard, 9 July 1975]	23 May 1975–22 Jul 1975
	6	Newspaper cuttings, July 1975 [relating to the Loans Affair]	23 May 1975–15 Oct 1975
	7	Hansards [extracts relating to the Loans Affair]	13 Feb 1975–15 Oct 1975
2	8	Questions in the Parliament [relating to the Loans Affair, includes statutory declaration by T Khemlani and transcript of interview (20 Oct 1975)]	9 Jul 1975–5 Nov 1975
	9	Collected papers authorised by the House of Representatives, 9 July 1975 [relating to the Loans Affair]	6 Dec 1974–9 Jul 1975
	10	G Harris papers [relating to the Loans Affair, includes copies of affidavit, exhibits and statutory declaration]	23 Jan 1975–17 Jul 1975
	11	Opposition press statements [and associated papers relating to the Loans Affair]	24 Apr 1975–28 Oct 1975
	12	Papers relating to the Loans Affair [includes copies of statutory declaration by T Khemlani, statements, correspondence, questions upon notice]	28 Feb 1973–23 Oct 1975
3	13	Loans issues [includes briefing note by A O Hay 'Overseas borrowings by the Australian Government', transcripts of E G Whitlam press conference (15 July 1975) and T Khemlani news interview (20 Oct 1975), draft radio talk, news cuttings]	6 Nov 1974–20 Oct 1975
	14	Held at National Archives of Australia Transcripts of interviews [relating to / Loans Affair with E G Whitlam, R B Todd,	4 Dec 1975–8 Feb 1976

Box No	Series No	Description	Date
		J Bjelke-Petersen, G Terry]	
	15	Held at National Archives of Australia Queensland Loans Affair investigations [news cuttings]	4 Dec 1975–18 May 1976
	16	Khemlani materials [includes statutory declaration by T Khemlani, Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin (June 1975), lecture 'Government and the people' (Sep 1975)]	23 Nov 1974–20 Oct 1975
	17	Overseas borrowing [includes papers relating to \$4 billion loan, economic issues, commercial precedents, letters from P Lynch (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), message from Sir Robert Menzies]	17 Jun 1975–10 Jul 1975
	18	Material prior to the renewal of the [Loans] Affair in May 1976 [includes copies of legal opinions, summaries of specific points, chronology of events, news cuttings]	12 Jun 1975–14 Oct 1975
	19	Held at National Archives of Australia Copies of letters from Richard Todd [relating to Queensland investigation of the Loans Affair]	8 Nov 1975–5 May 1976
4	20	R F X Connor documents - spares [relating to the Loans Affair]	6 Nov 1974–27 Oct 1975
	21 PART 1	Transcripts of interviews [relating to the Loans Affair with F Crean, E G Whitlam, P Lynch, G Harris, B Frost, P Cairns etc.]	22 Nov 1974–5 Jul 1975
	21 PART 2	Transcripts of interviews [relating to the Loans Affair with J M Fraser, R F X Connor, K West, Prof T Wheelwright, Dr L Mazzell, E G Whitlam, includes statement to the House of Representatives, 9 July 1975]	6 Jul 1975–27 Oct 1975
	22	'Funny money' - background for special sitting debate [relating to the Loans Affair, includes article by A Reid 'What went wrong with the Whitlam regime' (<i>Bulletin</i> , Nov 1976)]	5 Jun 1975–27 Nov 1976

END
