



SIR JOHN GREY GORTON PC, GCMG, AC, CH

BORN: 1911 DIED: 2002
POLITICAL PARTY: LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA
TERM AS PRIME MINISTER: 1968–1971

John Gorton first entered Federal Parliament in 1949 as a Senator for Victoria. He served as Minister for the Navy, Works, Interior, Education and Science, and became Leader of the Liberal Party following the disappearance of Harold Holt in 1967. Gorton was sworn in as Prime Minister in January 1968.

JOHN GORTON AND THE NFSA COLLECTION

The NFSA collection holds many records relating to Gorton throughout his parliamentary career. His Ministerial portfolios are well represented with records concerning the navy, the Colombo Plan, election campaigns (1969 and 1975), policy speeches, controversy regarding Liberal Party leadership, and Gorton's resignation from the Senate and re-election to the House of Representatives.

As Prime Minister, Gorton is featured opening Tullamarine Airport (1970), the Trans-Continental Railway, the National Library and National Botanic Gardens in Canberra.

He is also shown opening the North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club, launching the *Australian Enterprise* container freighter and at the opening of the Harold Holt Memorial Swimming Centre at Malvern, 1969.

Gorton welcomes Pope Paul VI (first visit of a Pope to Australia) and the Royal Family to Australia, and visits Vietnam, the United States, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand.

Unusual footage includes Prime Minister John Gorton receiving Aboriginal girls making their debut at Parliament House, and the unveiling of his official portrait at Parliament House as well as a unique ALP advertisement from 1975 where Gorton pleads with Australians to 'Right the Wrong' of the Dismissal and vote Labor.

John Gorton has a cameo roll in the 1976 Australian feature film *Don's Party*.

Tributes following his death in 2002 are also held in the collection.

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

TITLE	MEDIUM	TITLE NO.
[Senator John Gorton interviewed by Barry Jones]	Radio	570838
Australian Information Service TV News, Government Party elects new Australian Prime Minister	Television	58259
Don's Party	Moving Image	
The Ballad Of John Grey Gorton	Recorded Sound	328248
ALP: John Gorton: Right the Wrong	Television	6838

SEARCHING THE COLLECTION

Go to www.nfsa.afc.gov.au/searchthecollection

Search for Gorton records using the sequence **Name: "John Grey Gorton"**

Other interesting key words

Vietnam	Liberal Party	Policy speeches	Navy
Debutantes	Senate	Harold Holt	
Papal Visit	Leadership	Don's Party	

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON AUSTRALIA'S PRIME MINISTERS

Australian Prime Ministers Centre www.apmc.oph.gov.au
National Archives of Australia www.primeministers.naa.gov.au
Prime Minister of Australia www.pm.gov.au
Australian Dictionary of Biography www.adb.online.anu.edu.au