



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

15 SEPTEMBER 1978

Several months ago I was asked by one of the earlier trustees to have lunch before the Rugby League Grand Final and watch the game. I accepted that invitation.

It now appears that that has involved Mrs Hills, wife of the Chairman of the Trustees, foregoing her seat at the lunch.

As a result, I have sent the following telegram to Mr Hills because I would not dream of displacing Mrs Hills or anyone else at the lunch:

"I understand from press reports that your kind invitation for me to have lunch with you before the Grand Final tomorrow involves your wife giving up her seat.

"I would like to thank you very much for your courtesy but I would not dream for one moment of displacing Mrs Hills, or anyone else, on what must be Sydney's most exciting day of Rugby.

"Therefore, I must decline your invitation, but I would hope to have the privilege of lunching with the Trust on some future occasion before a League game."

However, since I understand my Parliamentary Gold Pass entitles me to attend the Match and since I had arranged to be in Sydney specifically for the Match, I am intending to go with one of my colleagues, and I look forward to seeing the game.
