

1.                      Whenever I perform functions of this kind a few unkind people accuse me of grandstanding. No one can say I have neglected sport during my visits to Queensland. Only yesterday I was at the Australian hardcourt tennis championships in Gympie. Two weeks ago I visited an Australian Rules Club in Brisbane. This is one of the biggest crowds I have drawn during my election campaign. Of course it's a completely non-political occasion. If it was as lively as some of the meetings I've addressed, your Premier would be declaring a State of Emergency.
  
2.                      I was delighted to accept the invitation from Clem Jones. He has revealed some unusual talents lately. Last May I asked him to run for the Federal Parliament but the people of Brisbane preferred him to play on his home ground. I always accept the umpire's decision.
  
3.                      Unfortunately I don't get to cricket matches as often as I should. My distinguished predecessor Sir Robert Menzies was a great lover of the game. I don't know whether he ever actually played cricket, but he used to watch it at Lords whenever he went to London, which was quite often. He had a longer innings in politics than anyone, so perhaps there is a lesson somewhere. A Prime Minister should either follow cricket or go overseas. If he does both it is very hard to get him out.
  
4.                      This ground was the scene of a test match that has come to be known as the greatest game of cricket ever played. It was the tied test between Australia and the West Indies in 1960. I wish we had such close results in Queensland elections. At all events, there is not a cricketer or a lover of the game in the world who has not heard of the Brisbane Cricket Ground. Such a ground deserves the very best facilities for players and spectators. You are getting such facilities in this Arthur Dibdin complex. They will be a lot better than those at many other leading grounds in Australia, including the S.C.G. where conditions are still appalling.
  
5.                      My Government has done a lot for sport. We are the first Federal Government to assume a responsibility in this area and make direct and regular grants to sporting bodies. We have given more than \$500,000 in Queensland for sporting projects. We have at last dragged sport into politics, or politics into sport, and I am proud that we have.
  
6.                      Brisbane City Council is campaigning strongly to make Brisbane the venue of the 1982 Commonwealth Games. That will be decided at Monreal in 1976. Brisbane is already planning the facilities which could allow it to stage the Games. Sites have been chosen and work has started on the athletics complex. I am glad to announce that the Australian Government through the Department of Tourism and Recreation, will contribute \$250,000 to the cost of the running track. That is in addition to the \$500,000 we have given.
  
7.                      I have pleasure in declaring open the Arthur Dibdin complex at the Brisbane Cricket Ground.