

112②

NOTES FOR THE PRIME MINISTER
FOR THE OPENING OF EBER BUNKER'S HOUSE, COLLINGWOOD,
LIVERPOOL, 6 SEPTEMBER 1975

1. I IMAGINE IN MELBOURNE TODAY THERE WOULD BE A MUCH BIGGER CROWD TO SEE COLLINGWOOD THAN THERE IS HERE IN LIVERPOOL. IN MELBOURNE THEY HAVE A MUCH GREATER SENSE OF HISTORY. COLLINGWOOD FANS ARE NUMBERED IN THEIR THOUSANDS - ESPECIALLY ON SATURDAY AFTERNOONS.

2. COLLINGWOOD WAS THE HOME OF CAPTAIN EBER BUNKER, THE FOUNDER OF THE AUSTRALIAN WHALING INDUSTRY. I HOPE NO ONE WILL CONFUSE EBER BUNKER WITH CLEAVER BUNTON. ONE LIVED IN A HOUSE IN LIVERPOOL AND THE OTHER SITS IN A HOUSE IN CANBERRA. BOTH HOUSES HAVE 19TH CENTURY ASSOCIATIONS AND ARE BADLY IN NEED OF REPAIR.

3. LOOKING BACK THROUGH THE LIST OF FORMER OWNERS OF COLLINGWOOD, AFTER EBER BUNKER, I FIND THERE WERE INDUSTRIALISTS, PASTORALISTS, MEAT TYCOONS, LANDOWNERS AND DEVELOPERS, A FORMER TREASURER OF N.S.W., SIR SAUL SAMUEL, AND A SECRETARY OF THE AUSTRALIAN JOCKEY CLUB, GEORGE ROWE. THEY WERE ALL ADMIRABLE CITIZENS BUT NOT THE SORT OF PEOPLE WHO NORMALLY SUPPORT MY GOVERNMENT. WERRIWA WASN'T SUCH A SAFE LABOR SEAT IN THE OLD DAYS. SO IT'S AN UNEXPECTED HONOUR TO BE ASKED TO PERFORM THIS OPENING.

4. WHENEVER I AM GIVEN THE KEYS TO A HOUSE, THE PRESS AND THE OPPOSITION ACCUSE ME OF ACQUIRING ANOTHER OFFICIAL RESIDENCE. THE LODGE, KIRRIBILLI, AND NOW COLLINGWOOD. I WANT IT TO BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT WHILE COLLINGWOOD IS IN MY ELECTORATE, IT IS NOT FOR MY PERSONAL USE. I HAVE TO MAKE THAT CLEAR BECAUSE WE ARE SPENDING A LOT OF PUBLIC MONEY ON THE RESTORATION.
5. MANY PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THIS SPLENDID PROJECT. THE FIRM OF STOCKS AND HOLDINGS HAVE COLLABORATED WITH LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL IN THE RESTORATION. STOCKS AND HOLDINGS HAVE GIVEN \$10,000 AND CARRIED OUT RESTORATION WORK TO THE VALUE OF \$3,000. MY GOVERNMENT HAS MADE GRANTS TOTTALLING \$35,000 THROUGH THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAM. THE FINAL COST OF THE RESTORATION WILL BE ABOUT \$110,000.
6. WE HAVE BEEN SLOW TO GRASP THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR HISTORIC HOUSES AND BUILDINGS. ALL TOO FEW OF THEM HAVE BEEN PRESERVED OR RESTORED. I AM DELIGHTED THAT ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND FAMOUS OF OUR OLD BUILDINGS IS BEING PRESERVED HERE IN LIVERPOOL, A PART OF SYDNEY WHICH FOR ALL ITS HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS IS LACKING IN EXAMPLES OF HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE.

1875 photo

was a Council of Lord Wellington

Isabella Wellington

7.

I AM HOPEFUL THAT FURTHER FUNDS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAM. THE COUNCIL'S REQUEST FOR A FURTHER GRANT OF \$15,000 HAS BEEN REFERRED TO THE INTERIM COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE, WHO WILL SHORTLY BE FORMULATING THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS TO MR UREN ON THE 1975/76 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEXT NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAM IS NOT EXPECTED BEFORE NOVEMBER, AFTER THE APPROPRIATION BILLS HAVE BEEN PASSED AND PROGRAMS APPROVED BY STATE AND AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT MINISTERS.

8.

MY GOVERNMENT FROM THE BEGINNING HAS GIVEN STAUNCH SUPPORT TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE - THE UNIQUE AND BEAUTIFUL THINGS, THE THINGS WORTH KEEPING IN OUR COUNTRY. IN OUR FIRST FULL FINANCIAL YEAR, 1973-74, NO FEWER THAN 101 NATIONAL ESTATE PROJECTS WERE APPROVED AT A COST OF \$2.5 MILLION. LAST FINANCIAL YEAR WE PROVIDED \$8 MILLION FOR NATIONAL ESTATE PROJECTS.

(*1975-76 Budget allocates only \$5M.)

9.

I LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN THE RESTORATION OF THIS BUILDING IS COMPLETED AND IT CAN BE SEEN IN ALL ITS FORMER DETAIL AND PAST GLORY. IT WILL DRAW VISITORS TO LIVERPOOL FROM ALL OVER AUSTRALIA. IT WILL BE A FITTING REMINDER OF ONE OF OUR GREAT PIONEERS AND THE SUPERB ARCHITECTURE OF A PAST AGE. I CONGRATULATE ALL THOSE WHO HAVE MADE POSSIBLE THIS PROJECT.
