



## PRIME MINISTER

E & O E - PROOF ONLY

TRANSCRIPT OF DOORSTOP - PARLIAMENT HOUSE - 22 DECEMBER 1986

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, can we talk to you for a moment or two about the cricket?

PM: Why not?

JOURNALIST: All the fortunes for a great day tomorrow.

PM: Yes indeed.

JOURNALIST: And we should be flattered I guess that the English have picked something like a full strength side?

PM: Well, that is not entirely an accident. I told them they would be deported if they didn't.

JOURNALIST: And we gather that a bit of Prime Ministerial muscle has been brought to bear in the selection of Ian Botham tomorrow?

PM: Well, I just told Ian that I am sure he enjoyed his time out here and that if he wanted to stay for the remainder of the tour that he and the selectors had better make sure he was playing and they have done that. But seriously I am very glad that Ian and David Gower and Mike Gatting are playing because this is a very important match for many reasons. Important for all the young fellows that I have chosen. They want to feel that they are playing against the best side. It is important for Australian cricket that we have the opportunity of seeing whether these young fellows have got what it takes. I am sure they have. It is just a question of whether they show it tomorrow. And also from the Englishmen's point of view in the lead up to the next test it is important for them. And then finally and very importantly for the people of the ACT and this region it has become a very important fixture. We have been fortunate for the first two games in 84 and 85 with the West Indies. We had two great games there. Unfortunately the last one against New Zealand was washed out and so I was very keen that this be a good game so that the people who did miss out last time get their moneys worth in 1986.

JOURNALIST: The weather looks absolutely superb.

PM: It is working out great.

JOURNALIST: We do hear that ticket sales are a wee bit down. Any message for employers tomorrow?

PM: I am sure it should be a full house by the time it starts tomorrow.

ENDS