



PRIME MINISTER

- E & - O E - PROOF ONLY

TRANSCRIPT OF COMMENTS BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE FRONT STEPS
OF PARLIAMENT HOUSE - THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY 1987

PM: ... that I hope that we were gracious winners in 1983 and we will certainly be gracious losers in 1987, and we will be very very tough competitors again in 1990-91. But I want to say as I did last night when I spoke to him, congratulations to Dennis Conner I admired the way he took his defeat in 1983 and I have admired his tenacity and single-mindedness in setting about regaining the Cup. So he has our best wishes and I hope he enjoys it for the next 3 or 4 years. Finally I want to say to Iain Murray, as I did last night, don't feel let down you did your best, you and your crew did your very very best, you did Australia proud and we know that you will be in there helping fight for Australia to get it back next time.

JOURNALIST: Have you ordered the Akubra, Mr Hawke?

PM: No, but I have taken steps to see that it is safe and it will be sent with my best wishes to the President.

JOURNALIST: Is Mr Reagan a better punter than you are?

PM: Oh well I don't know, you never judge a punter or a politician on one performance. I have got a pretty good record over the years in the punting stakes.

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, are you also enjoying the competition in the opposition?

PM: It gets better and better doesn't it. It's longer and more amusing than Blue Hills. But really there are some very devastating things being said by Sir Joh about his friends and by his friends about Sir Joh but really I don't spend very much time thinking about that I am just getting on with the task of governing and running the country and I think that people are able to see the contrast between the steadiness of this Government and the perthetic nature of the opposition.

JOURNALIST: What are the odds on Andrew Peacock?

PM: Interesting.

ends