



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP

DOORSTOP, 'LET'S GO AUSTRALIA' LIFE BE IN IT CAMPAIGN, MCG,
MELBOURNE, 11 MARCH 1992

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J: I don't know whether you might have seen him, but Ian Botham is training with the rest of the squad down on the ground. Do you have a mind to go out and discuss certain matters with him?

PM: I'll send Norm down to see him, he's about his weight.

J: Yesterday Dr Hewson accused you of phoney jingoism. Is that what we've been hearing?

PM: Well, the thing about "Let's Go Australia", the thing about this campaign, it is about getting away from the negatives. And Life Be In It, I think, has chosen the right theme for this year, "Let's Go". There's nothing to hold this country back. Basically we can come out of the recession into a recovery, and see the place go into a better decade than perhaps we've had for a long time. So, there's much to be cheerful about, including pride in ourselves. If Dr Hewson thinks that's jingoism, that's his problem.

J: What do you do to keep fit, Mr Keating?

PM: Well I did 25 laps of the Lodge pool this morning. I was 'being in it'!

J: How often do you do that?

PM: Every day or so, if I can do it.

J: Is fitness important to the economy, then?

PM: Well it's important to keep the old respiratory system moving, to keep the blood circulating, keep the mind sharp.

J: Do you think on the issue of sport, that perhaps Australians concentrate too much on sport and not enough on business, on the economy?

PM: Oh no. We've got a nice mix, we've got a good mix in this country. We have a nice balance between what's sensible and good for us, what's serious. And we've built all this ourselves in 200 years, what we see is what's been built by only a few generations. So we have had it together for a long time, and we can keep it together.

J: You said this country was on cruise during the 1980s, does that include the Government?

PM: No, the country was in the Rip Van Winkle years in the '50s and '60s and early '70s, and I think it probably got on the cruise in the '80s, and we've now in the late '80s and early '90s got it focussing on the need to be competitive, the need to nurture our growth resource - our people, our kids - to produce innovative products, to sell them to the world, and to understand the quality of our lifestyle here, and to preserve it. These are the things, I think, we have to be clear about to make a success of in the '90s - pulling it all together, getting Australia moving, getting Australia cracking.

J: It has been reported that you are going to visit Indonesia, do you have ...?

PM: I'll do questions to all that stuff later. OK.

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