2 46 PM. ADD: ASSISTANTS GO. D. FIRST ROUND LEADING SCORES:-J HITCHCOCK (COOMBE HILL) 69 A J HARMAN (BERKSHIRE) 74 D T BEATTIE (BANSTEAD DOWNS) 75 R L' MOFFITT (COVENTRY) 75 K DASH (FULWELL) 76

2-53 PM. JK 'GL. PFS.

MRT

2-54 PM. AUSTRALIA KEEPING THE ASHES? LINDSAY HASSETT, CAPTAIN OF THE AUSTRAL'IAN TOURING TEAM SAID TODAY THAT HE THOUGHT THAT THE TEAM WHICH AUSTRAL'IA WILL PUT INTO THE FIELD WILL BE GOOD ENOUGH TO KEEP THE ASHES.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON OF THE INSTITUTE OF JOURNAL ISTS IN LONDON.

ONE MEMBER OF THE PARTY, COLIN MCDONALD, WAS UNABLE TO BE PRESENT AS HE IS CONFINED TO HIS ROOM WITH STOMACH TROUBLE. MR. HASSETT SAID THAT THIS SUMMER THE CRICKET WOULD BE GOOD. "IT DOES NOT MATTER AT ALL WHO HAS THE ASHES," HE SAID. "THE MAIN THING IS THAT WE SHALL PLAY ONE GOOD SEASON OF CRICKET AND I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT THE CRICKET LOVERS IN ENGLAND ARE GOING TO SEE A GOOD SEASON.

WE SHALL TRY TO DO OUR BEST AND I THINK IT WILL JUST BE GOOD ENOUGH TO KEEP THE ASHES. WE SHALL NOT GO ON THE FIELD WITH ANY FALSE CONFIDENCE BUT WE KNOW THAT THE ENGLISH TEAM WILL

PLAY THE TYPE OF CRICKET WHICH EVERYONE WANTS."

REFERRING TO KEITH MILLER'S NEW BOOK "BUMPER" IN WHICH CRITICISMS ARE MADE OF HIS OWN CAPTAINCY, MR. HASSETT SAID "KEITH IS ALSO A JOURNAL'IST AND ALL THE OTHER JOURNALISTS IN LONDON HAVE BEEN RINGING ME UP ABOUT HIS BOOK. I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT YET."