

Delinquency as a Reason

Camberwell Referendum

SIR,—HAVING RECEIVED a leaflet outlining certain points to consider why a "Yes" vote is vital in the Camberwell referendum, I am appalled at the weakness of the case presented.

The first point mentioned is that "vandalism and delinquency are at their worst on Sundays," and the third point is that "parents' responsibilities would be made easier by the provision of Sunday sport."

How many Christian parents living in the city of Camberwell desire to shirk their responsibility of bringing the right influence to bear upon their children? None to my knowledge. The introduction of tempting, competitive, non-commercialised, Sunday sport, however, could make parental control more difficult.

Face Facts

Let us face the facts, the issue so far has only been raised by tennis-club leaders, with whom I have no personal axe to grind, but if the players require more time for tennis why not arrange for all courts to be electrically lit so that they can play at night as well as during the week. This would involve some expense, but surely it would not be an insuperable difficulty to enthusiasts of the game to raise some funds towards the cost.

My objection to "council-approved non-commercialised Sunday sport" is one of principle. If tennis-club members are granted the use of council facilities on Sunday, what right has the council to refuse the use of reserves for football, cricket and every other sport?

A leaflet issued by the Anti-Delinquency Council gives a telephone number. No office bearers or addresses are shown. After repeated telephone calls to the number only the vaguest information was forthcoming.

If this council is genuine in its attempts to counter delinquency, why hide its light under a bushel? I may be entirely wrong, but I have the feeling the name is but a cloak to hoodwink ratepayers in casting a "Yes" vote in order to gratify the selfish wishes of a minority of sport lovers.

F.P. (North Balwyn).

SIR,—WOULD YOU ALLOW me to express my hope that Mr. Crutch ("The Age, 26/5) speaks for himself alone and not for the bulk of reasonable fellow-Catholics when discussing the Camberwell referendum on Sunday sport.

It is not part of the Catholic belief to make a point of abusing opponents and traducing their motives.

Indeed, I trust that the majority of Catholics would agree with me in regarding these tactics as flagrantly un-Christian.

KENNETH HINCE (East Hawthorn).

Opening Door to All Sport

SIR,—I DON'T THINK the granting of tennis facilities on Sundays by Camberwell council will necessarily produce a Sunday "bedlam" as has been suggested by one correspondent, but the granting of such facilities must surely be the forerunner to other forms of sport as well as tennis.

If permission is granted for tennis, why exclude football, baseball, soccer, hockey, running, jumping—in fact, any kind of sport that attracts crowds of spectators who certainly do create a noise?

Once a precedent is made in the case of tennis, then the door is open for other sports too. That is only fair.

Do the people of Camberwell want their district to be available to sport generally on Sundays?

Let some residents call us "narrow-minded" if they wish. A great many prefer a quiet and peaceful Sunday with a little reverence for one day of rest in the week for all.

Must we throw every value overboard? Cannot we keep just a few—reverence for the Sunday as one—just to show that every day of the week is not the same and that it is good to pause for a moment once a week and think.

DIANE L. WATERS (Su