

Conservative and Unionist Central Office

Box

MINERS.
INDUSTRY

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Memorandum from: Mrs. Margaret Daly
Date: 18th February, 1981.

To: Dr. Linda Rouse
cc. see below

As promised I give below a brief summary of the reactions we have had from various areas in the country about the miners dispute.

North West Area

Miners are very angry indeed and if a vote was taken tomorrow between Gormley and Scargill, Scargill would win hands down. Situation building up very quickly.

Yorkshire Area

Likely to be out within the next two days. Situation building up very quickly. All tied in with Scargill's election campaign. If Orgreave Pitt, Sheffield and Leadstone Luck are selected for closure there is likely to be immediate walk-out. Pattern of co-ordination developing between power workers, water workers and miners. TGWU/GMW agreed to support and will not cross picket lines. When this happens coal fired stations could close in 24 hours. Workers at Killingly were earning £82 bonus last week and Scargill was unable to persuade them to strike. He therefore spent two days in Wales stirring things up and returned to Yorkshire seeking support for the Welsh miners. Our members in Yorkshire feel that much more emphasis should be placed on the fact that Selby and Thorne will provide jobs within bussing distance which will be able to produce cheaper coal.

Kent

A number of people have telephoned expressing support for the views expressed by David Crouch MP on the radio this morning to the effect that he understood their problems. Workers cannot understand why CEBG should import so much coal when Britain is producing more than we can use.

East Midlands

Jim Lester's speech in the Commons yesterday conveyed the same views as we have received.

Scotland

Mick McGahay is busy organising support which will be forthcoming.

The general feeling overall is that Jo Gormley cannot pull out the chestnuts for the NCB. It is important in the talks today that the Government demonstrates that where pits have to be closed for economic reasons every effort will be made to find alternative employment which have a long term future. (There is some suspicion that transfers to short life pits will not be in their long term interests).

Overall it is important that we do not underestimate the work that has been done by Mick Costello (Industrial Organiser of the Communist Party) ~~in~~ on the last two weeks to escalate and exploit the situation.

I will be having lunch with the General Secretary of one of the Steel Unions and will report when I return.

12.30

C.O.S.A. Setting on Fence - will have a national ballot if required
C.O.S.A. men in Yorkshire will strike immediately if Doncaster Pits close

Rumours that Coalthorpe and Highgates Pits to close - if true will create serious industrial action

Tony Garnett
pp M. Daly

copies to:

Alan Howarth
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Rob Shepherd