

Mr Flesher  
To note X

Prime Minister ②

AT  
14/10

19/10

PRIME MINISTER'S BRIEFING - 14 OCTOBER 1983

MAJOR INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

mb

National Coal Board, Monktonhall Colliery (NUM 1500)

1. Miners at Monktonhall voted on 15 September 1983 to strike indefinitely in an attempt to force assurances from the NCB about the future of the pit. The NUM is seeking 300 voluntary redundancies from among the workforce, and the dispute was precipitated by the NCB's sending home of some 100 miners who were too late to begin their shift after attending a meeting to discuss the closures. The NUM National Executive Committee decided on 27 September to give official support to the strike; it is to hold a special Delegates Conference on 21 October 1983 to determine the union's position on closures, and to consider the offer made by the NCB to increase basic pay rates by 5.2%.

2. At a special area conference on Tuesday 11 October Scottish representatives called for a one day stoppage in pits in Scotland on Monday 17 October. Pit head ballots are taking place this week.

Esso contract, Fawley (1200 CSEU)

3 Workers employed by various engineering construction companies have been on strike since 5 September. They are claiming a "substantial" pay increase and a reduction in the working week. The contractors have offered 5%. Talks with both sides have been taking place at ACAS.

Sunderland Shipbuilders (1600 CSEU)

4 The unofficial strike began 2 weeks ago, following a claim by shipyard workers for pay increases similar to those which British Shipbuilders had recently negotiated with crane drivers.

ⓧ  
An example  
worth  
recounting  
in a speech?

5 The strike has caused the shipyard to lose an MOD contract to provide new facilities for docks in the Falklands.

Contract went to Harland and Wolff

- or at question time

mb

Local Authority Residential Social Workers (NALGO 25000)

6 On 11 October NALGO delegates voted to authorise a one day strike on Monday 17 October.

7 The dispute is about a claim for a reduced working week and special shift work payments. A ban on overtime and on new admissions to homes has been in operation for 4 weeks. Response to the call for industrial action has been patchy and the main effect have been to close some homes in inner city areas where the social services are under the heaviest pressure.

British Telecom (POEU 2200)

8 The present industrial action is part of the union's campaigns against the rival Mercury telecommunications system and the plan to sell BT to the private sector

9 On 30 September, having suffered a period of sporadic industrial action, BT began a policy of instructing engineers to do specific essential tasks and suspending those who refused.

10 On 3 October the union called for a work to rule; members are refusing to make Mercury connections, have withdrawn maintenance cover from the international exchange and satellite tracking stations and are on strike at other London exchanges. Staff responsible for telex maintenance in Aberdeen have been on strike since 4 October.

11 Staff from outside London have been brought in to work on exchanges affected by the dispute but many are refusing to cross picket lines. Some 2200 engineers are currently reported to be suspended without pay.

DISPUTES ENDED SINCE LAST REPORT

SILCOCK & COLLING, LIVERPOOL (TGWU 200)

12 Drivers returned to work on Tuesday 11 October. They had voted unanimously to accept a plan for further discussions on redundancies. Production at Ford's Halewood plant resumed 13 October.