

PRIME MINISTER

Coal Dispute

I have spoken to the Department of Energy who tell me that there is little more to report on the current state of play than you will have heard on the radio. Only seven pits were scheduled to open today; all of them did and produced coal despite heavy picketing at two. The police are geared up for serious picketing tomorrow when all the Nottinghamshire pits are scheduled to be open.

Since the Home Secretary will be preparing for his statement at 3.30 he has asked if Mr. Waddington may attend <sup>MISC 101</sup> in his place. Mr. Younger will also not be present; Lord Gray will attend in his place.

TF  
24 April 1984