



FUE

M/C: D. PASCALL

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

27 June, 1984

COAL DISPUTE: NUMBERS AT WORK

At today's MISC 101 there was a discussion of how many miners were now at work. The figure of 50,000 has entered the public domain but it is not clear whether this applies solely to NUM members, men on colliery books, or some wider definition. Your Secretary of State said that within the industry there were 63,000 people not on strike - a further 4,000 at head office. He then deducted 10,000 managers and clerks. I suspect some members of the Committee may have been left with the impression that the remaining figure corresponded to the "50,000 miners at work".

The note you sent us for Questions on Tuesday analyses the figures rather differently. First, there appears to be an additional category of employees called "officials" who are distinguished from managers and clerks; secondly, it scored the number of miners at work at 36,000.

I think it would be helpful if you could provide us with a table setting out, for the various categories of NCB manpower,

- (i) the normal complement at the start of the strike.
- (ii) the numbers working.
- (iii) the numbers not on strike but effectively idle during the dispute.

We would also like advice on whether the formulation of 50,000 miners at work should continue to be used.

(Andrew Turnbull)

M. Reidy, Esq.,
Department of Energy

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