

DAILY COAL REPORT - THURSDAY 23 AUGUST 1984

34

PIT CATEGORIES

| | NUMBER | PLUS ON HOLIDAY |
|------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| WORKING NORMALLY | 41 | 4 |
| TURNING SOME COAL | 8 | 1 |
| SOME MEN PRESENT | 8 | - |
| ON STRIKE/PICKETED OUT | 98 | 14 |

THESE TOTALS ARE THE SAME AS YESTERDAY.

MEN ARE NOW WORKING AT 9 OF THE 11 SCOTTISH PITS, IN TOTAL 154 APPEARED TODAY (UP 2).

PICKETING IN YORKSHIRE WAS GENERALLY QUIETER THAN YESTERDAY, WHEN THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE LOOTING AND DAMAGE TO PROPERTY. A TOTAL OF 18 MINERS TURNED UP FOR WORK IN YORKSHIRE TODAY, 4 MORE THAN YESTERDAY AND ONE MORE THAN THE PREVIOUS RECORD SET ON TUESDAY.

COAL MOVEMENTS

MOVEMENTS ON WEDNESDAY WERE ENCOURAGING. 127,000 TONNES WERE DESPATCHED AND 35 COAL TRAINS RAN. THIS WAS THE HIGHEST FIGURE ON A WEDNESDAY FOR 6 WEEKS. FOUR TRAINS RAN FROM WESTHOUSES AGAIN YESTERDAY. HOWEVER, PRESSURE FROM STAFF THERE FOR A SECRET BALLOT ABOUT A RETURN TO NORMAL WORKING OF COAL TRAINS SEEMS TO HAVE DISAPPEARED.

THE NCB IS MANAGING TO SUPPLY 75% OF THE NORMAL DEMAND FROM ITS INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMERS AT THIS TIME OF YEAR. THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF IMMEDIATE DIFFICULTIES FROM INDUSTRY, BUT CONCERNS FOR THE FUTURE REMAIN, PARTICULARLY IN THE FOUNDRY INDUSTRY. THERE ARE SOME SIGNS THAT MORE DRIVERS IN THE MIDLANDS MAY BE PREPARED TO RUN COAL TRAINS, HOWEVER A SIMILAR IMPROVEMENT IN THE ATTITUDE OF GUARDS AND SIGNALMEN WILL BE REQUIRED TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF MOVEMENTS.

LAW AND ORDER

THE ORGANISED VIOLENCE IN YORKSHIRE YESTERDAY WAS PARTICULARLY SERIOUS. POLICE DISCOVERED MAPS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS WHICH INDICATED TARGETS FOR PICKETING IN YORKSHIRE WHEN THEY SEARCHED A CAR OUTSIDE A YORKSHIRE COLLIERY. THERE HAS BEEN RELATIVELY LITTLE TROUBLE TODAY, AND THE MINERS WHO WISHED TO WORK IN YORKSHIRE ALL GOT IN WITHOUT MUCH DIFFICULTY. HOWEVER, 3 PETROL BOMBS WERE FOUND BY POLICE IN THE VILLAGE OF ARMTHORPE, NEAR MARKHAM MAIN COLLIERY, WHERE SOME OF THE WORST SCENES OCCURRED YESTERDAY. 2,000 PICKETS GATHERED THERE BEFORE DISPERSING WHEN BEING CONFRONTED BY POLICE. 2,000 PICKETS RETURNED TO GASCOIGNE WOOD AGAIN THIS MORNING, ALLERTON BYWATER WAS ONLY LIGHTLY PICKETED.

PICKETS AT NEARMOUTH COLLIERY IN THE NORTH EAST ARRIVED AFTER 16 MEN HAD GONE IN THERE, LATER IN THE MORNING THEY LEFT THE PIT ENTRANCE AND RAN AMUCK IN THE TOWN CENTRE SOME DISTANCE AWAY.

HUNTERSTON AND THE THREATENED DOCK STRIKE

TGWU TUGBOAT MEN AND REGISTERED DOCKERS AT HUNTERSTON WALKED OUT WHEN ISTC EMPLOYEES OF BRITISH STEEL STARTED UNLOADING THE OSTIA THIS MORNING. MR JIMMY GILLIGAN, SCOTTISH DOCKS SECRETARY OF THE TGWU, SAID THE WALK OUT BY HIS HUNTERSTON MEMBERS WAS "THE START OF A SCOTTISH REGIONAL DOCKS STRIKE". HE SAID LATER THAT 7 SCOTTISH PORTS HAD HELD MEETINGS AND DECIDED TO STRIKE, AND THAT DECISIONS ON THE STRIKE CALL FROM THE OTHER PORTS COULD BE EXPECTED EITHER LATER TONIGHT OR TOMORROW.

A DOCKS DELEGATE CONFERENCE OF ALL UK PORTS IS BEING ARRANGED IN LONDON TOMORROW MORNING. MR CLIVE LEVIS, THE ISTC'S SCOTTISH ORGANISER, IS REPORTED TO HAVE REJECTED A PLEA FROM MR SCARGILL THAT ALL TRADE UNION MEMBERS SHOULD REFUSE TO HANDLE THE COAL FROM THE OSTIA. BOTH BSC AND THE ISTC POINTED OUT THAT THEIR CRANE OPERATORS WERE DOING NO MORE THAN THEIR NORMAL JOB. UNLOADING OF THE OSTIA IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT 4 DAYS. THE OSTIA'S CARGO WILL BE BLENDED WITH OTHER TYPES OF COAL BEFORE BEING SHIPPED TO RAVENSCRAIG IN LORRIES NEXT WEEK. MR JOHN CULLEN, ASSISTANT TGWU CONVENOR AT FELIXSTOWE, SAID TODAY: "THERE IS LIKELY TO BE SOME RELUCTANCE IN THIS PORT TO A STRIKE CALL." ANY STRIKE IS UNLIKELY TO BITE BEFORE NEXT TUESDAY. A MISC 101 HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR 6PM ON TUESDAY.

CHANNEL 4 DEBATE MR ORME'S 'PEACE PROPOSAL'

THE NCB ISSUED A STATEMENT TODAY ABOUT THE ORME PEACE FORMULA, WHICH MR SCARGILL CLAIMED IN LAST NIGHT'S DEBATE HAD BEEN IGNORED BY THE BOARD. THE STATEMENT MADE IT CLEAR THAT MR ORME HAD BEEN TOLD THAT HIS FORMULA OF 2 AUGUST DID NOT PROVIDE A BASIS FOR PROGRESS, BECAUSE IT FAILED TO FACE UP TO THE PROBLEMS OF DEFINING UNECONOMIC CAPACITY. THIS PROPOSAL FROM MR ORME HAD BEEN PREPARED AFTER 35 HOURS OF FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS WHICH ENDED WHEN THE NUM REJECTED THE NCB'S REQUIREMENT THAT A COLLIERY SHALL BE DEEMED EXHAUSTED IF IT HAS NO FURTHER RESERVES WHICH CAN BE "BENEFICIALLY" DEVELOPED.

STATEMENT BY CBI PRESIDENT

SIR JAMES CLIMINSON SAID TODAY THAT TRADE UNIONISTS WHOSE JOBS WOULD BE PUT AT RISK BY A DOCKS STRIKE SHOULD PRESSURISE THEIR LEADERS NOT TO EMBARK ON "ANOTHER DAMAGING AND UNJUSTIFIED STOPPAGE". HE ADDED: "THERE IS ONE BASIC LESSON THAT SOME TRADE UNIONS HAVE YET TO LEARN - STRIKES DO NOT PRESERVE JOBS, THEY DESTROY THEM."

REPORT ENDS

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