

Daily Coal Report - Monday 3 September 1984cc B/O  
PRESS  
OLPit categories

	<u>Number</u>	<u>plus on holiday</u>
Working normally	<u>42</u>	3
Turning some coal	7	2
Some men present	14	-
Not working	105	1

Yorkshire Main colliery in Doncaster area has moved from the not working category to the some men present category as 4 men reported for work there last Friday and today. Otherwise the totals are unchanged.

There was a record attendance at Bilston Glen in Scotland today - 145, 11 up on Friday. There was also a new record again for the total number working in Scotland this morning - 205, up 12. 470 pickets were reported to be present outside pits in Scotland today.

In the North East, 15 men went in at Wearmouth colliery, 3 up on Friday, 1 man worked at the Monkton coal preparation plant as before; Paul Wilkinson did not try to enter Easington colliery as he was pursuing his legal action in Manchester (see below).

A record 33 miners reported for work in Yorkshire this morning, 5 more than last Wednesday. Two pits had men in for the first time during the strike - Kellingley in North Yorkshire (2, 300 pickets) and Thorne in Doncaster area (1). Attendances at other pits were as follows: North Yorkshire - Allerton Bywater (5, up 1), Gascoigne Wood (3, up 1), North Selby (3, down 1); Doncaster area - Yorkshire Main (4), Markham (2, up 1), Brodsworth (1, up 1), Carcroft Park workshops (1); South Yorkshire - Kiverton Park (7), Silverwood (2), Brookhouse (2). The Board reported that around 3,700 were out in Yorkshire today, out of a workforce of 55,000.



Attendances in North Derbyshire improved again this morning. Shirebrook had a record 146 men, 3 up on Friday (350 pickets); Bolsover had 222 (19 up on last Thursday); Warsop had 150 (3 less than last Thursday's record, 150 pickets); and Markham had 14.

Today's most important news on attendances was a sizeable return to work in Kent. A bus load containing 26 men went into Tilmanstone colliery, there was considerable violence with 200 pickets present, 4 men went into Betteshanger.

#### Coal Movements

Coal movements last Friday were an encouraging 132,000 tonnes; 35 coal trains ran. The NCB's provisional estimate for total movements last week is 500,000 tonnes, including 355,000 tonnes for the CEGB (holidays on Monday and Tuesday make this total lower than in recent weeks).

#### Law and Order

A total of 101 miners appeared before magistrates in South Wales today, on charges arising from the weekend occupation of cranes at BSC's Port Talbot harbour. All were charged with criminal damage and trespass and were remanded on bail.

Thirty-one pickets were arrested today after a lorry was stoned and its windscreen smashed as it was driven into a privately owned drift mine at Billinge near Wigan in Lancashire.

#### Fresh talks between the NCB and the NUM

Mr Ian MacGregor confirmed today that further talks were being arranged between the NCB and the NUM to see if an end could be found to the present dispute. He said that it appeared the NUM was taking "a more realistic" approach and made it clear the Coal Board was making no new concessions. The Secretary of State for Energy suggested in an interview on the "World at One" programme that the NUM's new attitude followed pressure by TUC leaders.



Both sides have confirmed that Mr Robert Maxwell, the Chairman of Mirror Group Newspapers, has acted as an intermediary in an attempt to get new talks started. Arthur Scargill has welcomed this initiative, but discounted suggestions of a change in the NUM's attitude.

Mr MacGregor and Mr Scargill have agreed to appear on the BBC's Newsnight programme this evening.

#### NUM motion at the TUC Congress

As expected, the TUC Congress voted by a substantial majority to endorse the General Council-NUM motion which called for "total support" for the miners. The 5 amendments to this motion, which called for a 10p a week levy of all trade unionists, for a day of solidarity action, and for no official NUM picket lines to be crossed, were quietly dropped. It is too early to estimate whether the heart of the motion which demanded the blacking of all coal, coke and substitute oil movements will have any effect. Around 5,000 people arrived in Brighton in support of the miners, instead of the 10,000 plus which had been expected. Very little trouble was reported.

#### Dispute in the docks

The National Associate of Port Employers said that 231 more dockers had reported for work today than on Friday. In total, around 65% by volume of the normal level of traffic was being moved. In ports covered by the Dock Labour Scheme, 3447 men were working and 7610 were on strike. All 3,000 dockers in non-scheme ports continued to work.

The 94 dockers at Fleetwood in Lancashire went back to work this morning after being on strike for a week. After an unofficial mass meeting attended by about half of Hull's 800 dockers, it was claimed that the vote for a return to work had been by around 9 to 1 on a show of hands. Liverpool dockworkers voted by a considerable majority to remain on strike this morning.



Mr Scott Morris, Director of Bristol docks, warned today that the Bristol port complex would have to close for good in two or three weeks time unless the dockers there returned to work. The port - the twelfth largest in Britain - lost over £11 million last year.

Mr John Connolly, the TGWU's National Dock's Officer, said that he had no plans to meet the port employers to discuss ways of ending the strike. He claimed that the dispute had not been called to support the miners, but was over the use of "scab labour".

#### Statements by the Labour Party

In a letter to the Prime Minister today, Mr Kinnoch requested that Parliament be recalled to discuss the present industrial situation. Copies of this letter have been circulated, and the request will be discussed in MISC 101 tomorrow. The media do not expect the Government to accede this request.

Labour Party Chairman Eric Heffer pledged full support for the miners at the TUC Conference in Brighton today. He said: "the Labour Party has conducted a campaign on behalf of and with the miners. We do not apologise for that, because we think it right that the miners should get the full support of every section of our great Labour Movement. Law can be class law and such law therefore is bound to be opposed so that it can be changed."

#### Legal case

Paul Wilkinson, the only miner working at Easington colliery in the North East, was granted an injunction at Manchester High Court this morning ordering the Durham NUM not to deny him any of the rights or privileges of the union. The order restrains the Union's Executive Committee from taking any disciplinary action against him. It also orders the NUM not to intimidate Mr Wilkinson, to carry out only peaceful picketing and not to beset his place of work or his home.



Line to Take

Today was supposed to be Arthur Scargill's great day of picketing, designed to demonstrate the solidarity of the striking miners' cause. As usual, Scargill's efforts have failed. Instead, we have seen yet further attendance records broken - both in Scotland, Yorkshire and Kent.

If the real effect of the events at the TUC Congress in Brighton has been to persuade the NUM's leaders that they must adopt a more reasonable attitude in negotiations with the NCB, then the talks which have just been arranged are warmly to be welcomed. If, in the event, we only see further intransigence from Mr Scargill, striking miners who have already lost £4,200 each as a result of the dispute will know who to blame.

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