

File

38.

Daily Coal Report - Thursday 20 September 1984

	<u>Number</u>	<u>plus on holiday</u>
(i) Working normally	42	3
(ii) Turning some coal	8	1
(iii) Some men present	17	-
(iv) On strike/picketed out	103	-

In Scotland a record 168 men have reported at Bilston Glen.

In the North East the position is much as yesterday.

The number working in Yorkshire has risen to 38. This includes 6 contractorsmen, NUM members, who have reported at Maltby for the first time.

In North Derby 231 men have reported at Bolsover (up 6 from yesterday), 166 (best yet) at Shirebrook, and 157 at Warsop. As before there are also men in at Markham, Renshaw Park, Whitwell, Arkwright and Highmoor.

Attendances in the working areas remain good. In the NCB's Western area there were record attendances yesterday at Holditch, Hem Heath, Parkside and Point of Ayr.

Coal Movements

172,000 tonnes were moved yesterday. 40 coal trains ran.

↪ Last week the CEGB added a net 79,000 tonnes to stocks.



Law and Order

The heaviest concentration of picketing is again in Yorkshire with 3,000 at Yorkshire Main (5 men in), and 1500 at Carcroft (1 man in).

3 Derbyshire miners today obtained High Court Injunctions against the Derbyshire Area NUM. The Area's representatives agreed not to take any steps to suspend the men from union membership, nor to take any other disciplinary action against them because of their refusal to comply with the strike call and their crossing of picket lines.

Industrial Relations

A meeting between the Coal Board and the TUC has now been arranged for Monday evening.

The Coal Board are still pressing the pit supervisors union, NACODS, to meet them before the ballot of NACODS members next week. The text of the question believed to be on the NACODS ballot paper is attached.

The TGWU General Secretary Moss Evans today announced that the union is to black all coal deliveries to power stations with immediate effect. It is too early to assess the likely response. Earlier calls by the TGWU have met with little success.

This move appears to be an attempt to preempt the unions involved with the electricity supply industry who are due to meet the NUM next Tuesday, under the auspices of the TUC, to discuss possible support for Scargill. The main power unions, and the moderate sections of the GMWU, have already made clear their opposition to any action which would stop electricity supplies.



Line to Take

This needless strike is putting at risk the jobs and welfare of ordinary miners, and all who depend on the industry. It is time for a national ballot.

Any workers asked to take sympathy action in support of Mr Scargill and his fellow militants should remember that the third of the miners who have been able to vote have voted overwhelmingly to continue working. All those who believe in democratic values should respect and support the democratic decisions of these working miners.

[See also statement issued by Mr King tonight].

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17th September 1984

NACODS . BALLOT PAPER

The question on the NACODS ballot paper is believed to read as follows:

"The NEC unanimously and strongly recommend strike action under Rule 21 on the following grounds and opposes:

1. The Board's cut-back in capacity.
2. The Board's attitude in the implementation of conciliation procedures.

and calls for the complete rejection of the Board's guidelines of August 15".



# THE ENEMY WITHIN

Who are these McGibbons, and where do they come from?  
What are their motives for being in Kent?  
And who is behind them?



## Who are they?

The McGibbons' first appearance was at British Leylands Cowley Plant in 1974. They led a victimisation campaign against an elected TGWU shop steward. It was a successful campaign which led to his removal from office. The main thrust of that campaign, led by Irene McGibbon, involved collecting signatures, agitating and spreading despondency amongst the wives of striking men. Robert McGibbon said then "the time has come for responsible people to do something, anything, to end this stupid and wasteful destruction" (*Oxford Mail* 25.4.74) . . . sounds familiar . . . ?

In 1976 Robert McGibbon moved to Betteshanger Colliery in Kent.



## ● **Why are they in Kent and what are their motives?**

Betteshanger Colliery has always had, and is proud to have, a long tradition of strong effective trade unionism. The Kent coalfields played a leading role in both 1972 and 1974. What better place for a right wing extremist such as McGibbon to attempt his 'disruption tactics'? Since this dispute began he has been doing just that. McGibbon seized upon the NCB's timely announcement that Betteshanger Pit was in danger and unsafe, and said he would return to work. In anticipation of his return, and to ascertain the state of the pit themselves, miners occupied the pit. The NCB obtained an injunction but the police refused to enforce it, knowing that an agreement was imminent. That day McGibbon, in the presence of his solicitor, and witnessed by Terry Harrison (NUM), Frank Redman and John Keenan (NACODS), signed the following agreement:

**"In view of arguments put to us by individual members of unions which would be affected by any closure of the Colliery, we have agreed as a gesture to help keep the peace, not to return to Betteshanger Colliery while the present strike lasts."**

The NCB also signed an agreement subsequently that: **"There would be no inherent danger to the pit"**.

McGibbon lied, he cares nothing for the long term survival of the pit, nor for miners' jobs, or communities. When he and three others reported for work on 3 September, he knew this provocative gesture would ensure:

- \* the immediate withdrawal of 300 officials in NACODS, COSA and APEX, depriving the pit of effective safety cover;
- \* the loss of coal deliveries to the retired, elderly, sick and disabled;
- \* and a massive police presence in the pit villages.

100 men have already been arrested, 8 remanded in custody for a week and 29 have been sacked.

Mrs McGibbon meanwhile, true to form, agitates amongst the miners' wives, with offers of help, providing you can convince your man to cross picketlines.

## **So who is behind them?**

The Freedom Association is known to be actively involved, and they have a long record of such intervention. In 1976 they helped Notts. miner Will Richards take the NUM to an Industrial Tribunal. They have undermined strikes and broken closed shops in British Rail, Grunwicks, Local Government, the Post Office, Hotels in Oxford, Rank Toshiba in Plymouth, and are notorious in the construction industry. Not content with industrial disputes, they have consistently supported the white minority in South Africa, reactionary elements in Eastern Europe and campaigns for privatisation.

On 26 July this year Tony Cook interviewed both Norris McWhirter, Chairman of the Freedom Association, and McGibbon, on Radio Four's 'Decision Makers' programme.

When asked about his involvement with the Freedom Association McGibbon said: "Yes . . . during the Cowley dispute they used to phone, and have regularly been in touch in the present situation to ask how things are going; they suggested I put an answering machine on my phone to record conversations". McWhirter admitted that he had "personally talked with people involved", that he believed the situation in Kent was "...the worst in the country", and said "...we want to know more about it so we can be MORE EFFECTIVE in helping an extremely courageous man". He then freely admitted that if people "came to us we would be happy to assist them and show them the ropes" in setting up an alternative organisation to the NUM. No further proof is needed that McGibbon and the Freedom Association are actively pursuing a strong, longstanding relationship.

McGibbon is a man who in 1974, in response to leaked information that the CIA had drafted 40 extra agents into Britain because they were concerned at the course the trade union movement was taking said: **"If they are alarmed, we most certainly should be"** — a man who has turned his back on his Union and industry, has willingly acted as a tool of MacGregor, broken signed agreements and the trust of his workmates, and acted as a provocateur in providing the police with the excuse to place his neighbourhood and community under curfew —

**He is the enemy within.**