

Daily Coal Report - Monday 24 September 1984

	<u>Number</u>	<u>plus on holiday</u>
(i) Working normally	44	1
(ii) Turning some coal	9	-
(iii) Some men present	18	-
(iv) On strike/picketed out	102	--

One Nottinghamshire pit (Sutton) is now on holiday.

Attendances in all areas are much as last week. In the working areas of Nottinghamshire, Lancashire and Staffordshire they are holding up well.

In Scotland attendance at Bilston Glen has been maintained at the record level of 174. In the North East both Wilkinsons have reported at Easington. 17 men reported at Wearmouth.

The number reporting in Yorkshire has risen to 52 (Allerton Bywater - 6; Kellingley - 5; Gasgoigne Wood - 2; other Selby sites - 5; Yorkshire Main - 5; Markham - 5; Carcroft workshops - 1; Kiveton Park - 10; Maltby - 7 contractors' men; Brookhouse - 4; Silverwood - 2).

In North Derby 237 men reported at Bolsover (up 6 on last Monday), 153 at Shirebrook (down 2) and 153 at Warsop (up 2). There are also 18 at Markham pit, 16 at Renshaw Park and 14 at Whitwell.

In Kent 24 men reported at Tilmanstone and 7 at Betteshanger. The single miner who reported at Snowdown left the pit after being persuaded by his NUM representative not to work.

Coal Movements

Provisional figures for last week indicate that 840,000 tonnes were moved, of which 625,000 tonnes went to the CEGB: the best week since March.

Law and Order

6,000 pickets, some armed with airguns and catapults firing marbles and ball bearings, created disturbances outside Maltby colliery in Yorkshire. Several arrests were made. After 4 hours many of the pickets moved on to the Yorkshire Main colliery where there were further disturbances.

Amongst the pickets was the Labour MP Mr Kevin Barron, who has now complained to the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire about police behaviour.

The number of policemen injured since the coal dispute started has now risen to 758.

Three working Scottish miners today failed to obtain a temporary court order declaring that the strike is illegal without a ballot. This is disappointing news, though the judge - who is to give the reasons for his decision later - did go on to say that his refusal did not prevent the application being heard again at a later date.

In the High Court tomorrow two Yorkshire miners from Manton colliery are to seek orders against the Yorkshire and National NUM. The Coal Board's assessment is that the Scottish decision does not necessarily impact upon the Yorkshire application.

Industrial Relations

Mr MacGregor and his colleagues are meeting the TUC tonight.

SECRET AND PERSONAL

The pit supervisors ballot is now in progress.

An opinion poll commissioned by the South Wales Echo, and published today, suggests that 6 out of 10 South Wales miners want an immediate return to work. Some 500 miners and their wives were questioned in 42 mining communities across the region.

Bishop of Durham

The Secretary of State for Energy has today written to the Bishop of Durham. A copy of his letter is attached.)

Line to Take

There has never been a plan "to defeat" the miners. The Coal Board's plan, and that of the Government, is to give miners and their families a better future than they have enjoyed in the past. This surely is the reason why those miners who have had the opportunity of balloting have voted overwhelmingly not to strike. It is time for the NUM executive to let all miners have the democratic say to which they are entitled.

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SECRET AND PERSONAL