

SECRET AND PERSONAL

Daily Coal Report - Tuesday 25 September 1984

	<u>Number</u>	<u>plus on holiday</u>
(i) Working normally	44	1
(ii) Turning some coal	9	-
(iii) Some men present	20	-
(iv) On strike/picketed out	100	--

Kellingley and Markham (Yorkshire) have moved from category (iv) to category (iii).

In Scotland attendance at Bilston Glen has risen to 178.

In the North East the situation is unchanged.

49 men have reported in Yorkshire, including 1 man at Barnborough for the first time.

In North Derby 237 men have reported at Bolsover, 168 at Shirebrook (a new record) and 148 at Warsop.

In Kent 7 men reported at Betteshanger and 25 at Tilmanstone. As expected, the single man who reported yesterday at Snowdown, and was then seen by the NUM, did not turn up this morning.

Coal Movements

156,000 tonnes were moved yesterday, of which 113,000 tonnes went to the CEGB.

29 coal trains ran.

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Coal Movements

There were 1500 pickets at Yorkshire Main this morning, but elsewhere picketing was generally light.

However, pickets lined most of the motorway bridges between Port Talbot and Llanwern steelworks and stoned lorry convoys. There were also reports of high powered air rifles being used. 10 lorries were damaged, and 2 drivers injured.

Yorkshire Miners Court Case

The High Court has started hearing the case brought by two Yorkshire miners who are seeking a number of orders against the NUM, including one requiring the union to hold a national ballot. Both the National NUM and the Yorkshire NUM have decided to boycott the proceedings. The Coal Board believe that the case could be concluded later this week, perhaps Thursday.

Industrial Relations

Mr MacGregor and his colleagues met the TUC last night. Copies of the statements issued by both sides after the meeting are attached.

The Board made clear that whilst they are prepared to continue talking to ACAS, the crucial question is whether the NUM are prepared to acknowledge the management's right to close colliery capacity for reasons other than exhaustion or safety. The TUC statement acknowledges that detailed negotiations must be settled between the Board and the union. The Board expressed their continuing concern over the violence taking place at the coalfields.

The Board are meeting the pit supervisors union, NACODS, tomorrow. Although early returns from the unions ballot are disappointing it is too early to predict whether the two-thirds

majority will be achieved.

At a meeting with the TUC today, the transport unions reaffirmed their support for the NUM and announced liaison arrangements "to enable the TUC General Council to monitor the situation and give all necessary assistance at local and national levels". From the militants point of view this seems little, if any, advance on the previous position. It is unlikely to bring much comfort to Scargill.

At the time of writing there has been no report on the outcome of a separate meeting, under TUC auspices, between Scargill and leaders of the electricity supply union.

Scargill also met Mr Kinnock today. According to media reports, Mr Kinnock said the meeting was "very constructive" and was concerned with detailed consideration of the Plan for Coal and "the present financial idiocy of the Government".

Line to Take

Stress Coal Board and Government desire to give miners a better future. Stress key elements of Coal Board offer:

- a generous pay offer;
- no compulsory redundancies;
- continuing investment in the industry.

Avoid direct comment on NACODS situation for time being.

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COAL BOARD STATEMENT:

MINEWORKERS' DISPUTE - MEETING BETWEEN THE TUC AND NCB

The National Coal Board's negotiators today (Monday) briefed representatives of the Trades Union Congress on the background to the Board's proposals for the future of the industry and on the talks they held recently with leaders of the NUM in an attempt to resolve the dispute.

Both sides expressed their anxiety to achieve a speedy resumption of work.

The NCB indicated their willingness to consider resuming negotiations directly with the NUM. As suggested by the TUC, the NCB would consider the help of ACAS (if the NUM were willing) in order to resolve the problems of the closure of capacity for reasons other than exhaustion of reserves or safety.

The TUC and the Board agreed that a settlement could only come from negotiations between the Board and the NUM. The Board expressed their continuing concern over the violence taking place in the coalfields.

Press Office (1915)

September 24, 1984.

TUC STATEMENT:

MEETING WITH NCB REPRESENTATIVES

At the meeting with NCB representatives this evening, the TUC representatives impressed upon the NCB the importance of not underestimating the degree of active support for the NUM that will be forthcoming. They also pressed for a resumption of negotiations as soon as possible between the NCB and NUM - which stands ready to continue negotiations - if necessary with the assistance of ACAS in a conciliation role. The TUC made clear that negotiations on the detailed matters are between the NUM and NCB and the dispute must be settled by agreement. The NCB presented their side of the dispute and outlined their difference with the NUM.

The TUC is ready to assist in getting negotiations restarted.

September 24, 1984.