

Prime Minister

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Daily Coal Report - Wednesday 17 October 1984

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	<u>Number</u>	<u>plus on holiday</u>
(i) Working normally	45	-
(ii) Turning some coal	10	-
(iii) Some men present	23	-
(iv) On strike/picketed out	96	-

Despite the dark clouds on the NACODS front, some welcome news: there has been slight, but perceptible, increase in attendance in 3 areas. In Scotland a total of 341 men reported this morning (up 6 on the previous record); North Derbyshire and the Western area had new 24 hour attendance records of 1,030 and 8,789 respectively.

Coal Movements

A very good day yesterday.

186,000 tonnes were moved.

47 coal trains ran.

Law and Order

The scale of violence has increased over the last 24 hours.

There was trouble throughout the night at Grimethorpe in South Yorkshire. The police station was again stoned, a car was overturned and set on fire, as were barricades including one outside the fire station. The pickets then moved on to Rossington where police were again stoned.

SECRET AND PERSONAL

At Woolley pit in West Yorkshire darts were thrown at the police. At the Inkerman opencast mine in County Durham there were serious disturbances. 12 policemen were hurt and there were 7 arrests.

High Court Action

Scargill's £1,000 fine for contempt of court was paid this morning - though by whom is not clear. The £200,000 fine imposed on the NUM itself has not been paid.

The NACODS Strike Decision

It is too early to judge whether the NACODS strike call will prove effective. A delegate conference of the Midland area of NACODS today voted unanimously to join the strike. However there will be strong pressure from working NUM members upon NACODS members to keep the pits open.

The TUC General Secretary, Norman Willis, said on the radio today that the TUC would try to bring about a re-opening of talks before the NACODS strike was due to start. He did not, however, offer any new suggestions for overcoming NUM intransigence on the basic issue of pit closures.

Though NACODS leaders have today attacked the Coal Board for its attitude the fact remains that the Board has already made major concessions. It has conceded on the question of payments for deputies who refuse to cross picket lines and has withdrawn its earlier guidelines to area managers. On the other issues on the NACODS ballot paper - capacity cutbacks and the Board's attitude to conciliation procedures - the Board has accepted the ACAS formulation for an independent advisory body which itself derived from a NACODS proposal.

In other words the Board has made substantial concessions which the NACODS executive is now trying to ignore. This itself could be a factor which might weigh in the minds of NACODS members in the working areas.

SECRET AND PERSONAL

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Line to Take

All striking miners should focus carefully on what is actually on offer from the Coal Board. It is a generous offer, with the needs of miners, their families and the future of the industry much in mind.

NACODS members must understand that the Board has already made major concessions to deal with the issues of concern expressed on their recent ballot paper. There cannot be any justification for strike action now. NACODS members should be asked to vote again on what is now on offer.

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SECRET AND PERSONAL