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Mr Turnbull

1/ Mr Butler to see

JK gave this

19 October 1984

PRIME MINISTER

THE COAL DISPUTE

You may like a check list of subjects for your general meeting on Sunday at Chequers.

Endurance

1. What progress is there with increased open-cast?
 - a. Maximising output under existing contracts.
 - b. Letting more contracts on sites which have planning permission.
 - c. Obtaining more planning permissions.
 - d. Moving more.
2. Oil-burn and nuclear has gone well. Are we satisfied that we are using to full extent the opportunities to mix oil or gas in coal-fired stations?
3. Would it be worth pursuing the idea of converting one more power station to take gas? Some technical advice which John Wybrew has received from Robin Nicholson and

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others, suggests that this could be done in a matter of a few months.

4. Can we import any more coal, and can we start using more imported coal in power stations?
5. In the event of NACODS striking, can we still gain access to the stockpiles of coal in the areas where the NUM are working? How much coal is there in such stockpiles?
6. The private sector has quite a lot of unused stand-by generating capacity. Do we know how much there is, and is there any point in encouraging them to use more of it or even to supply the grid?

Publicity

1. Are Ian MacGregor's new advertising agents going to launch a good campaign quickly?
2. Will they offer Ian MacGregor advice on how to create more media events, and to use the ready access he and his colleagues can have to the media? They remain very newsworthy but do not exploit this.
3. Have we at last resolved the question of putting into place one or two of Ian MacGregor's colleagues who are

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better at media presentation, so that they appear more frequently on television and radio?

4. How well and fiercely is the NACODS campaign being fought? What sort of letter is being sent to all NACODS personnel? How many more television and radio appearances can leading Coal Board figures and Ministers fit in before the putative strike?

5. David Young suggests that it is vital to relaunch yet again NCB industries. A suitable opportunity would be press releases at the time of the executive management being appointed, or at the time of the first project being discussed. We need to extend this into a wider argument, demonstrating Government concern for the future of certain communities. Could we not also investigate a project or two under land reclamation and clearance schemes, which would benefit a pit valley or village?

The Criminal Law

1. How many more stipendiaries are going to be drafted in, and what kind of delays are now being experienced in hearing cases?

2. Are the Coal Board ensuring that men convicted of serious offences against Coal Board property or

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personnel are sacked? Is it well known enough that they will be sacked?

3. Does the Home Office have any more ideas on how to encourage some greater security for those giving evidence?

If a substantial number of militants can be sacked as a result of convictions for violence, it will of course make the transition back to a working industry much easier, and may reduce the possibility of violence on the return to work. It is important that every working miner should know and be reassured that anyone perpetrating violence - particularly below ground - which is seen by an independent witness and/or a manager or NACODS official, will be sacked.

The Civil Law

If NACODS do go out on strike on Thursday, it is difficult to see there are any more reasons for the NCB to leave its injunction standing idle.

1. Shouldn't the NCB be encouraged to use the civil law if the NACODS strike is a strong one?
2. Isn't there an argument anyway for using the civil law - and it must be made clear that it is using the civil

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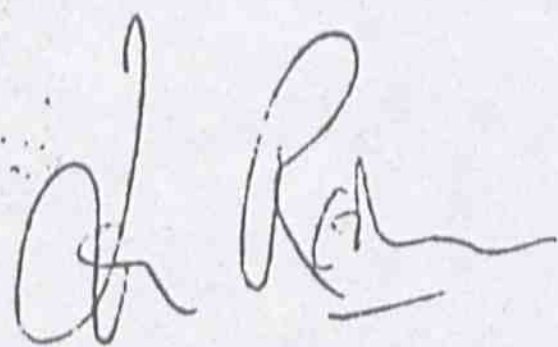
law against the Yorkshire NUM, as it is this branch of the NUM which has substantial resources and is most disliked by the working areas - whatever happens on Thursday?

Talks

Holding talks over the next few days to try and prevent a NACODS strike is a sensible part of the strategy. These talks will naturally entail comings and goings with the NUM as well, as that is part of the NACODS leadership's strategy.

If, however, the strike is fairly solid on Thursday, and there are no signs of hope, there is an argument for breaking off all talks. All the time there are talks in play, it will act as a deterrent to NUM and to NACODS members to return to work.

Peter Walker is moving towards fuller government involvement in the talks. Are we happy with this? Only do it if he can see a way through, and then make a virtue of it. We fear it is more likely to backfire.



JOHN REDWOOD