

File

CC FERB

MR. TURNBULL

Peter Walker called the Prime Minister this evening. He was very unhappy with the way the appointment of Mr. Eaton had been handled. The impression had been given of a change in policy in handling the miners' strike. To make matters worse, Mr. MacGregor had been unavailable all day. He was, however, planning to see both Mr. MacGregor and Mr. Eaton tomorrow. He would also make a statement in the House tomorrow afternoon to try to set the record straight.

Peter Walker also said that he had heard from a source in the Coal Board (not Mr. MacGregor) that Ned Smith and his deputy were both resigning in early November following a meeting with Mr. David Hart. They objected most strongly to the terms in which Mr. Hart had spoken to them. Mr. Walker asked whether the Prime Minister was aware of this. The Prime Minister said that she was not.

C.D.P.

C.D. POWELL

21 October 1984

CO-ORDINATING THE COAL BOARD CASE

Area Director's New Role

A. Feaney
File

Mr. Michael Eaton, Director of the National Coal Board's North Yorkshire Area, has been seconded on a temporary assignment to assist the Headquarters office of the Chief Executive in co-ordinating communications within the Board and with the public presentation of facts in connection with the current industrial dispute. Mr Eaton continues to hold responsibility for the North Yorkshire Area.

- end -

Press Office (1923)

October 20, 1984

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

William Michael Eaton, who is 50, was born in Chesterfield and educated at Kings School, Pontefract, and Doncaster Technical College. He graduated B.Sc. (Mining Engineering) at Nottingham University in 1955.

His first appointment after completing his managerial training was as Undermanager at New Monkton Colliery, Barnsley, in 1958.

(more)

He became Manager of South Elmsall Colliery, Doncaster, in 1961, and was appointed Agent Manager of Yorkshire Main Colliery, Doncaster, in 1964, becoming General Manager of that colliery in 1965.

After spending a year in Staff Administration Branch at NCB headquarters in London in 1967, which included a course at the Graduate School of Business, Stanford University, California, he was made Managing Director of Tredomen Engineering Ltd in South Wales. He returned to Yorkshire as Deputy Director (Mining) of the Barnsley Area in 1970 and Director of Barnsley Area in November, 1971.

He was appointed Director of North Yorkshire Area with effect from April 1, 1974; and has been responsible for the development of the new Selby coalfield.

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LET'S FIND A WAY TO END THIS DISPUTE NOT PROLONG IT.

Members of NACODS.

This is the position so far.

We have agreed to re-examine our March 6th proposals.

We have withdrawn our August 15th statement and agreed to revert to the 1974 guidelines about payments to NACODS members during disputes.

We have made back-dated payments to officials who lost money under the August 15th guidelines.

And we accepted your Union's suggestion of third party involvement in the Colliery Review Procedure.

We went at your Union's request to ACAS – so that ACAS could produce a settlement we all could agree on.

ACAS produced what they called an "even-handed" proposal – a compromise, fair to all parties.

Despite our own reservations, we agreed to it in an attempt to get the industry back to work.

Your Union rejected the ACAS proposal.

We have offered solutions to all 3 grievances on your September ballot paper.

If, despite this, you still go out on strike, there is nothing more we can offer to bring you back to work.

Much of the industry has been on strike since March.

The Board did all they could at ACAS to end this dispute.

Surely there is no need to prolong it.

NCB

We're doing all we can to keep the pits open.