SECRET AND PERSONAL

Prime Minister (1)

6 AT 23/10

Daily Coal Report - Tuesday 23 October 1984

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

Again little change in attendances today.

Coal Movements

172,000 tonnes were moved yesterday, a good total for a Monday.

28 coal trains ran.

Law and Order

Although picketing was heavier than yesterday, no major disturbances have occurred.

Scargill's Outburst

Scargill today repeated his false claim that the NUM had agreed to two ACAS proposals. A copy of Mr Walker's rebuttal is attached.

Talks with ACAS

At the time of writing the talks at ACAS are continuing. At NACODS request the TUC have gone to the ACAS building. There are no reliable indications about the possible outcome.

Line to Take

Since the recent ballot of NACODS members the Coal Board has made major concessions to meet their points of concern. There can be no justification for strike action in these circumstances.

Distribution: Members of MISC 101, Paymaster General, Sir Robert Armstrong, Mr Gregson, Cabinet Office

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Poor Mr Scargill how he wriggles. The public know that he endeavoured to suggest that there were two ACAS documents that he agreed with and there were two that he disagreed with. He did not make it clear to the public that the two he agreed with were papers expressing his views. One cannot do better than put on record very clearly the statement which the Chairman of ACAS made publicly on the World at One programme on 17 October as to the four documents which were tabled during the ACAS negotiations.

> The first two papers ... one was prepared by the NUM and it was headed "Suggestions arising out of discussions with the NUM on 6 October" and that set out what we understood to be the NUM's requirements for dealing with the particular clause in question.
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> The NCB drafted their own ideas - that document didn't carry a heading.
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> The third document is the only one that carries the title "ACAS proposals". That was a document we prepared to try and reconcile the differences between the two sides in respect of the first two documents.
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> The fourth document which is headed "Modified suggestions arising out of discussions with the NUM" was a document which the NUM asked us to prepare at the time which set out their ideas as to how the ACAS proposal should be varied. But the important point to make is as far as ACAS is concerned there was in fact only one document which carries the title "ACAS proposal" and represents in fact an ACAS proposal."

So let the whole nation be aware in the words of the Chairman of ACAS that there was "only one document which carries the title ACAS proposal which represented in fact an ACAS proposal." That

was the one document which the National Coal Board agreed to and the National Union of Mineworkers rejected. The only two documents that Mr Scargill agreed to was the one setting out what ACAS understood to be the NUM's requirements and the one which was headed "Modifying suggestions out of discussions with the NUM". A document which the NUM asked ACAS to prepare to set out their ideas.

Mr Scargill has been exposed. The only proposal made by ACAS was the one which he rejected.