



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA



Rt Hon Peter Walker MP
Secretary of State
Department of Energy
Thames House
Millbank
London SW1P 4QJ

1st November 1984.

Dear Peter,

I was shocked and disheartened by the frivolous tone of your response to my letter yesterday.

I hope you will acknowledge that from the very outset of this dispute I, in my capacity as Energy Spokesman for the Labour Party, have done everything possible to enable a negotiated settlement to be reached. My activities were those that should have been pursued by yourself and your colleagues.

Instead of answering my letter seriously you have replied in a way that is neither constructive nor helpful. We in the Official Opposition appear to be the only ones who are tackling the issues inherent in this dispute in a responsible manner.

I would therefore be grateful if you would answer my specific questions:

1. Do other such projections exist for other NCB areas, and if so, will you publish them?
2. Is Herrington colliery still scheduled for closure by the NCB?

You stated that the secret document on the North East coalfield had been prepared by mining engineers in the North East. Yet newspaper reports today indicate that the document was prepared by the NCB in London, and indeed, that it is causing serious embarrassment to the North East area coal board management.



Following the breakdown of the talks at ACAS it is incumbent on the Government, and yourself in particular, to take positive steps to facilitate the return of the parties to the negotiating table.

Yours sincerely

Stan Orme MP

(Dictated by Stan Orme and signed in his absence)