

SECRET AND PERSONAL

Prime Minister

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Daily Coal Report - Monday 5 November 1984

	<u>Number</u>	<u>plus on holiday</u>
(i) Working normally	45	-
(ii) Turning some coal	10	-
(iii) Some men present	29	-
(iv) On strike/picketed out	90	-

Killoch (Scotland), Bentley (Doncaster) and Cynheidre (S Wales) have moved from category (iv) to category (iii).

The return to work picked up sharply this morning. A total of 802 miners returned to work and there were record attendances in all areas. The most startling increase was in North Derbyshire. Attendances improved at 8 of the 9 pits. At Shirebrook 432 reported, 134 up on Friday's figure and 209 up on last Monday. In South Wales the strikers' stranglehold was broken when 15 miners returned to Cynheidre pit.

Since this was the day when the NUM were having their special delegate conference such a manifestation of grassroots feeling could not have been better timed.

Coal Movements

Last week did indeed prove to be a good one. 943,000 tonnes were moved, of which 680,000 went to the CEGB.

Law and Order

Picketing this morning was generally light.

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Miner Killed

A striking miner was killed and another was injured whilst digging for coal on a disused railway embankment in Yorkshire.

Delegate Conference

Today's NUM special delegate conference in Sheffield predictably endorsed Scargill's negotiating tactics. Delegates passed a resolution supporting the proposals which the union put forward at last week's ACAS negotiations and deplored the "intransigence" of the Coal Board and the Government. They also passed a resolution deploring use of legal action and the courts. They confirmed the decision of the NUM executive to give no co-operation to the sequestrators and called for the union to ensure that funds remained available for immediate use. The moderates at the meeting were given a rough ride.

Mr Kinnock's Decision

Mr Kinnock told the union tonight that he will not be able to attend or to speak at any of their five forthcoming rallies. He claimed prior engagements.

High Court

A High Court judge this afternoon ordered the Derbyshire NUM area to stop spending union funds in support of the strike. He granted two working miners an injunction effective until Friday, when the Derbyshire area representatives will have the opportunity to state their case for continuing the area's support.

The same judge today ordered an end to the blacking by Cardiff dockers of lorries belonging to the two haulage firms whose contempt action three months ago led to the sequestration of the funds of the South Wales NUM. However he suspended operation of the order until Friday to give time for ACAS to conciliate between the local parties.

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An Irish High Court judge has reportedly frozen £8.5 million assets claimed to have been deposited in a Dublin bank, via the Isle of Man, by the NUM.

Line to Take

Today's record attendances show that the tide has turned. Ordinary miners are voting with their feet. As more go back, more still will join them.

The move back is the voice of sanity, for there is no objective person who could deny that what is on offer is the best since nationalisation.

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