

SECRET AND PERSONAL

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Pine Martin

Daily Coal Report - Friday 9 November 1984

	<u>Number</u>	<u>plus on holiday</u>
(i) Working normally	45	-
(ii) Turning some coal	11	-
(iii) Some men present	34	-
(iv) On strike/picketed out	84	-

A further 221 men returned today (the day of the week when attendances normally decline) bringing the total for the week to 2203. As the Board pointed out to the media this afternoon this total is more than 6 times greater than last week - which itself was the best week since the strike began in March.

Again the most significant movement back was in North Derbyshire. There were 669 at Shirebrook (286 last Friday), 383 at Warsop (186), 269 at Bolsover (233), 138 at Markham (24), 50 at Whitwell (29), 43 at Arkwright (14), 25 at Renishaw Park (21), 7 at High Moor (4), 4 at Ireland (1).

In Yorkshire the two particular highlights were the increase in attendance at Manton to 64 (12 last Friday) and the bravery of the single miner who for the second day running reported to Cortonwood. A total of 271 reported in the Yorkshire area on the morning shift.

In the North East a total of 89 men reported at 7 pits.

In Scotland numbers on the morning shift rose to 470 with 260 at Bilston Glen (201 last Friday).

In Wales the number of men reporting at Bersham following yesterday's ballot rose to 77.

There were also record attendances in all other areas.

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al Movements

Another good day yesterday: 195,000 tonnes were moved.

35 coal trains ran.

Law and Order

The main trouble today was at Cortonwood where 4,000 pickets gathered. A police van was overturned and set on fire. Police came under attack from a barrage of missiles including air rifles and ball bearings fired from catapults. Four policemen were injured, one of them seriously. There were a number of arrests. The lone miner who braved these mobs is having to be found a new home by the Coal Board since it is too dangerous for him to live near the pit in present circumstances.

Board Statement

The Board's head of communications, Michael Eaton, today hinted that the Board would be prepared to see pits remain closed if militant strikers refused to work with men who had gone back during the strike.

Transport Unions

Press reports tonight suggested that the transport unions and the NUM had agreed to make a further attempt to step up their efforts to block the import of coal and oil for power stations. Their previous efforts have met with little success, despite the reports of some difficulties in getting oil into the (small) West Thurrock power station.

It appears that one specific proposal to emerge from the unions' discussion is that the TUC should lead a delegation to try and persuade the Dutch TUC to prevent movements of coal or oil from Rotterdam.

The CEGB has a stockpile of coal in Rotterdam, but has not sought to import any during the dispute.

High Court Action

The sequestrators appointed by the High Court have reported that they have so far recovered NUM assets worth only £8,178. A further £8.8 million had been transferred to the Irish Republic in a process allegedly started some months ago. Some £2.75 million of this is understood still to be frozen by order of the Irish High Court.

Line to Take

This week's surge back to work by miners in all areas is a massive setback for the militants. Ordinary miners now recognise that Mr Scargill is leading them to disaster. By voting with their feet they can save their industry from the brink.

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