

SECRET

Peter Walker

2

MR TURNBULL

9 November 1984

9/11

COAL DISPUTE

The return to work is gathering momentum with a major increase in the numbers returning this week. The conclusion of the NACODS dispute, and the unambiguous statement of no further concessions for the NUM, have been instrumental. The growing realisation that there will be no power cuts this winter (which we must reinforce), Libya, the sequestration of the NUM's assets and the excellent publicity by the NCB of £1,400 nearly tax free that miners could earn before Christmas are all supporting factors.

Scargill's Delegate Conference and provincial rallies look like damp squibs. After initial confusion, the pickets at Esso's Stanwell terminal were rebuffed by the tanker drivers. Short of a mass picket there seems little danger of any further oil supply problems of this type.

It is essential to maintain the momentum, to create the anticipation of a return to work that is the first stage for a striker making it a reality. The impetus created by so many events crystallising at the same moment is unlikely to recur for many months. We must capitalise on it, even at some risk.

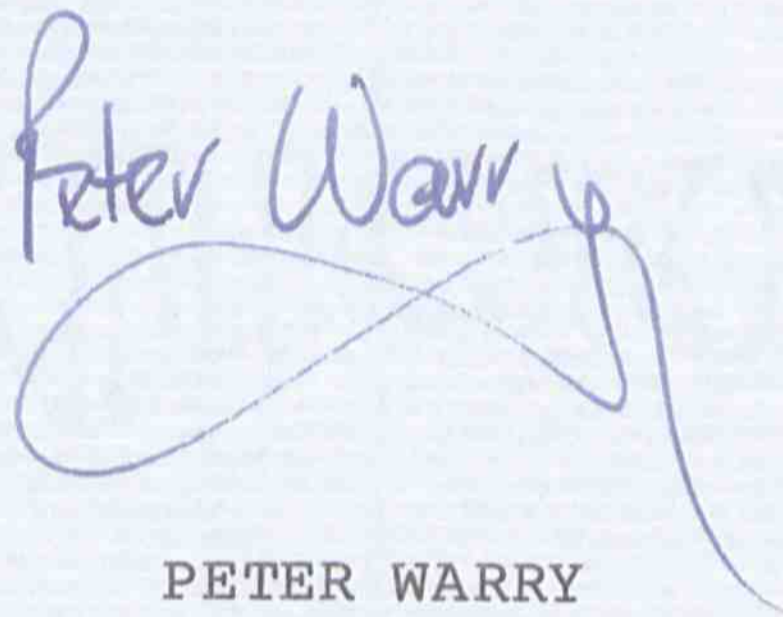
The screw needs to be gradually tightened along the line suggested in previous notes. In particular, there should be regular publicity of faces under threat and their deteriorating condition. Some will have to be closed. The NCB and Peter Walker should start talking about the possibility of withdrawing capital investment promises in non-working areas - much along the lines that Michael Edwardes was successful with in the BL strikes. Guarantees of no compulsory redundancies in non-working areas where pits are facing damage should be brought into question.

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Behind the scenes we need to start work on the 5 year plan for coal as promised to NACODS. Assuming the strike continues at least to next spring, we should also start considering the decisions that we have deferred in British Steel. Any action here should not endanger power supplies. Carefully handled, any consequential redundancies could be used as a further pressure point on the TUC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Warry". The signature is stylized with a large loop at the end of the last name.

PETER WARRY

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