

SECRET AND PERSONAL

Daily Coal Report - Friday 23 November 1984

	<u>Number</u>
(i) Working normally	45
(ii) Turning some coal	14
(iii) Some men present	74
(iv) On strike/picketed out	41

By 5.00 pm a further 941 striking miners had returned (compared to 383 last Friday). This brings the total for the week to 5,923 and the total since 5 November to 13,143. Of the 222,000 in the industry, some 98,000 (including NUM, NACODS, BACM etc) are not on strike.

In Scotland a further 65 men reported on the morning shift. Attendance at Bilston Glen rose to 804.

In the North East a further 276 reported, bringing a total morning shift attendance of 2,618 (1,700 more than last week). Attendance at Ellington rose to 507, Whittle 441, Wearmouth 286, Vane Tempest 165.

In Yorkshire a further 207 men reported bringing a total morning shift attendance of 2,245 (up 970 on last week). Attendance at Manton rose to 411.

In North Derbyshire the 24 hour attendance total of 4,282 was 836 up on last Friday. The Western Area figure of 10,946 was up 531.

Coal Movements

187,000 tonnes were moved yesterday.

29 coal trains ran.

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Law and Order

By far the worst incident of the day was at Castleford (Yorkshire) where a gang of masked men broke into the home of a working miner (Michael Fletcher) and savagely beat him with baseball bats and other weapons. He was left with a broken shoulder, dislocated elbow, severe bruising and suspected broken ribs. By late afternoon the NUM had issued no comment.

12 people were arrested early this morning after clashes outside Askern pit, near Doncaster; though elsewhere in Yorkshire police reported a generally quieter morning.

Four policemen were hurt and 17 men arrested after picket line violence in South Wales.

No Compulsory Redundancies

The Board have strenuously denied reports that they have gone back on their guarantee of no compulsory redundancies in the industry. A copy of their denial is attached.

Pay

The Board announced this afternoon that they intend to pay working miners and those who return to work up to and including Friday 30 November an additional wages payment on account, pending the final settlement of the 1983/84 wage claim. The payments will be subject to a maximum of £175 and will depend on the number of shifts a man has worked since 1 November 1983. In other words the main beneficiaries will be the working miners of Nottinghamshire and those others who returned to work at an earlier stage.

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The Board will be taking advertisements in many Sunday newspapers drawing attention to the total sums on offer to those miners who now return to work.

Line to Take

Today's savage attack on a working miner in Castleford shows mining communities who their real enemies are. The Coal Board has made a generous offer to those who now wish to return to work. They can earn up to £1,200 before Christmas. No wonder more than 13,000 have returned in the last two weeks alone.

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

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TEXT OF COAL BOARD STATEMENT

There is no change in the National Coal Board's policy that there will be no compulsory redundancies of mineworkers when collieries close or are re-organised in the normal way under the industry's review procedure.

The Board will continue to operate the jointly agreed review procedure and their guarantee of no compulsory redundancy in these circumstances is absolute.

Of course, in exceptional circumstances beyond the Board's control, where the industry's assets are destroyed or become unworkable because of strike action or vandalism, it may not be possible to apply this guarantee.