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SECRET AND PERSONAL

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Daily Coal Report - Friday 21 December 1984

	Number
(i) Working normally	47
(ii) Turning some coal	20
(iii) Some men present	72
(iv) On strike/picketed out	35

Run Mark

DR

21/12

Eleven new faces reported back this morning. The Yorkshire area set a new 24 hour attendance record - surprising and welcome news. Detailed attendance figures were as follows:-

			Change on yesterday
Scotland	(24 hr attendance)	2,464	+ 2
North East	(24 hr attendance)	3,156	+ 23
Yorkshire	(24 hr attendance)	3,036	+ 25
North Derbyshire	(24 hr attendance)	3,824	- 691
Western	(24 hr attendance)	10,343	- 269
South Wales	(morning shift)	128	+ 3
Kent	(morning shift)	108	no change

Coal Movements

The Board provisionally estimate that 900,000 tonnes will be moved this week.

43 coal trains ran yesterday.

Picketing

Generally light and without major incident, though there are no signs that picketing activities will cease over the holiday period.

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NUM Nottinghamshire Area Rule Change

Scargill has made it clear he intends to fight the Nottingham area decision reported yesterday, though by what means is not yet clear.

Sequestrators

The NUM has won the right to unfreeze part of the £2.7 million of its assets held in a Dublin bank. The exact sum in question is reportedly to be decided by the High Court today. Counsel for the sequestrators has indicated that they will appeal against this decision.

The TUC has been ordered by a High Court judge to give details of its financial dealings with the NUM since 1 January. The National Union of Railwaymen has been given until 16 January to give details of a £100,000 loan to the NUM.

Line to Take

Striking miners should consider carefully this Christmas what 1985 holds for them. There is no prospect that Scargill and his fellow militants can win this strike. More than 100,000 in the coal industry have already voted decisively with their feet to reject everything he stands for. Pits are working, power stations are working, industry at large is working. It will be a long, fruitless, miserable winter for those miners who continue to support his political campaign. Far better instead, to accept the best offer made by the Coal Board since nationalisation and to return to work as soon as the pits re-open after the holiday period.

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Daily Coal Report

Most of the working pits will shut down over the holiday period and little activity is expected. Accordingly the next scheduled edition of the daily coal report will be circulated on Wednesday 2 January. Earlier reports will of course be made if major events unexpectedly occur.

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