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Prime Minister ②

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DAILY COAL REPORT - FRIDAY 4 JANUARY 1985

	NUMBER	PLUS ON HOLIDAY
(i) Working normally	46	1
(ii) Turning some coal	23	1
(iii) Some men present	56	12
(iv) On strike/picketed out	32	3

The only change in these totals from yesterday is that one pit in North Yorkshire, Ackton Hall, is taking a rest day today.

86 New faces reported back this morning. With yesterday's 24 hour figure of 251, the total number of new faces this week is 705 - more than any week in December.

The number of men working in South Wales today was 136. This was the highest figure since the strike began.

The area breakdown of new faces this morning was:-

North Derbyshire	36
North East	31
South Yorkshire	7
North Yorkshire	6
Western	3
Barnsley	2
Doncaster	1

COAL MOVEMENTS

Yesterday was a good day given the holiday season. 37 coal trains ran, 30 of these being to Midlands power stations.

PICKETING

Yesterday's picketing was somewhat heavier than recently. 400 pickets assembled at Seaham colliery in Durham, and 300 at Easington colliery, also in the North East. Just before midnight 150 pickets assembled at Eppleton colliery near Sunderland, although working miners were not due till around 8.00 am. Police were pelted with stones and bottles, and telegraph poles were uprooted to form a barricade. 13 arrests were made. This morning 200 pickets assembled at Easington and 400 at Vane Tempest but there were no serious incidents.

There has also been disorder in the Kent coalfield. Yesterday there were scuffles between police and 100 pickets at Tilmanstone colliery. One arrest was made and four policemen were slightly injured. At Snowdown colliery yesterday, 60 pickets assembled, five arrests were made and one policeman was slightly injured. This morning there was further disorder at Snowdown - 200 pickets appeared and 6 were arrested.

West Yorkshire police are investigating an arson attack on the home of a working miner at Whitwood, near Castleford. A cloth soaked with inflammable liquid was set alight and pushed through the letterbox. Fortunately the fire was contained to the doorway and the damage caused was estimated at £100.

FURTHER APPEAL TO MR KINNOCK

Mr Bill Goode, NUM agent in Gwent, has called on Neil Kinnock to follow up his visit to the Celynon South colliery picket line (reported yesterday) by keeping his long-standing promise to arrange a public meeting in his constituency in support of striking miners. This follows Eric Heffer's attack on Mr Kinnock on Tuesday, when he accused the Labour Leader of failing to show full support for the pitmen.

LINE TO TAKE

The NCB hope for a further substantial return to work on Monday, the first full day back after the holidays. The time has come for those miners remaining on strike to recognise that they will gain nothing, and lose a great deal, if they do not join the very considerable number of miners now working in the industry.

A copy of the full page advertisement being placed by the NCB in the popular press this Sunday is attached.

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

ENQUIRIES: John Neilson, SoS for Energy's Office
(01-211 6070).