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Daily Coal Report - Friday 18 January 1985

	<u>Number</u>
(i) Working normally	47
(ii) Turning some coal	25
(iii) Some men present	75
(iv) On strike/picketed out	27

Excellent for a Friday.

218 new faces reported today, bringing the week's total to 2,870 (third highest weekly total), the 1985 total to 5,947 and the total returns since the start of the strike to 28,695.

Area attendances were as follows:-

			<u>Change on yesterday</u>
Scotland	(24 hr attendance)	3,401	+ 481
North East	(24 hr attendance)	4,446	+ 656
Yorkshire	(24 hr attendance)	4,208	+ 617
North Derbyshire	(24 hr attendance)	5,909	+ 299
Western	(24 hr attendance)	11,432	+ 142
South Wales	(morning shift)	109	- 57*
Kent	(morning shift)	117	- 3*

* attendances adversely affected by bad weather.

Coal Movements

Yesterday's rail strike failed to achieve the scale of disruption to coal movements that union leaders must have hoped for.

167,000 tonnes were moved. 27 coal trains ran of which 21 went to power stations. These included 14 trains from the Coalville depot and 3 from Shirebrook - both at the centre of the dispute with BR.

Law and Order

Although mass picketing on the scale seen throughout much of 1984 seems, temporarily at any rate, to be a thing of the past there are still regular reports of skirmishing in many areas. In Yorkshire four men, one believed to be a local NUM official, were arrested on picket lines at the NCB Carcroft workshops. Another NUM official was said to have been outside Dinnington colliery on a public order offence.

NUM

The threat of a breakaway movement is now clearly worrying the NUM leadership, as the tone of Scargill's speech at Ashington shows. Meanwhile there are stories circulating in the coalfields that the Nottingham plan, if it goes ahead, may be followed in a number of other moderate areas.

However the Nottingham NUM executive called off today's intended meeting at Mansfield. The acting general secretary was reported as saying there was no need for a meeting today, as one was already scheduled for next Wednesday.

CEGB

The CEGB, who have met a succession of record demands for electricity in recent days, repeated again tonight that they remain confident there will be no power cuts this year due to a fuel shortage.

Line to Take

The return to work is gathering pace again. The sad evidence is that ordinary miners now realise how badly they have been misled

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by Mr Scargill and his militant colleagues. They can cut their losses now by returning to work and accepting the Coal Board's offer, which is the best offer available in the history of the industry since nationalisation.

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