

Prime Minutes ②
 AT 6
 22/1

Daily Coal Report - Tuesday 22 January 1985

	<u>Number</u>
(i) Working normally	49
(ii) Turning some coal	25
(iii) Some men present	76
(iv) On strike/picketed out	24

Ellington pit, the largest and most profitable pit in the North East, started turning coal today. Production at Herrington pit (also North East), which was suspended on 10 January because of mechanical problems, was also resumed today.

By 6.00 pm 642 new faces had reported back, compared to 580 last Tuesday. The week's total now stands at 2,489.

Area attendances were as follows:-

			<u>Change on yesterday</u>
Scotland	(24 hr attendance)	3,804	+ 169
North East	(24 hr attendance)	5,192	+ 96
Yorkshire	(24 hr attendance)	4,875	+ 393
North Derbyshire	(24 hr attendance)	6,247	+ 520
Western	(24 hr attendance)	11,186	+ 197*
South Wales	(morning shift)	304	+ 16
Kent	(morning shift)	137	None

* Change on last Tuesday.

Coal Movements

163,000 tonnes were moved yesterday of which 103,000 tonnes went to the CEGB.

34 coal trains ran, of which 32 went to the CEGB. Of some significance, these included the first two trains to run in Yorkshire and the North East.

Law and Order

Still generally quiet, although isolated incidents were reported from Yorkshire.

A six month jail sentence on a striking Yorkshire miner who attacked a policeman was upheld in the Appeal Court today.

NUM

There were claims today, by some NUM leaders and by Mr Kinnock, that the NUM was prepared to talk to the Coal Board without pre-conditions. However, there was no evidence from yesterday's discussion between the NUM and Coal Board officials that Scargill had shifted his position on uneconomic closures. As the Prime Minister pointed out in the Commons today there could be no point in talks resuming, only to fail because of the NUM's continued intransigence.

A statement issued today by the Coal Board is attached.

High Court

The High Court today refused to hear a claim by a striking miner that the Government was unlawfully cutting supplementary benefit to strikers' families. The Court said that, at this stage, the case should be brought through the statutory benefit appeals system.

SECRET AND PERSONAL

Line to Take

It is a total nonsense to suggest that the Coal Board have been unwilling to negotiate a settlement of this dreadful and unnecessary dispute. It is also totally untrue that there has been any pressure from the Government to stop negotiations.

The Government wishes to see the Board and the union achieve a settlement, but there can be no point in another round of talks whilst the NUM persist with their one impossible demand that every uneconomic pit should be kept going until the last tonne of coal is exhausted. We were disappointed that in yesterday's discussions between the NUM and Coal Board officials there was no indication that the NUM were prepared to face reality. We join with the Coal Board in hoping that, in the interests of miners, their families, their communities and the industry the NUM will quickly think again.

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SECRET AND PERSONAL