

SECRET AND PERSONAL

Daily Coal Report - Friday 1 February 1985

	<u>Number</u>
(i) Working normally	49
(ii) Turning some coal	30
(iii) Some men present	73
(iv) On strike/picketed out	22

Ashington (North East), Kiveton Park (Yorkshire) and Renishaw Park (North Derbyshire) are again turning coal.

The return of Renishaw Park means that all 52 pits in the Midlands coalfields of Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire and Staffordshire are now in production.

*Not bad in the circumstances* A total of 1,587 new faces have reported back this week. More than 79,000 NUM members are not on strike - more than 42% of the total membership of 187,300.

Area attendances were as follows:-

			<u>Change on last Friday</u>
Scotland	(24 hr attendance)	4,180	+ 205
North East	(24 hr attendance)	5,636	+ 155
Yorkshire	(24 hr attendance)	5,588	+ 417
North Derbyshire	(24 hr attendance)	6,348	+ 61
Western	(24 hr attendance)	11,742	+ 104
South Wales	(morning shift)	338	- 4
Kent	(morning shift)	137	+ 5

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Coal Movements

Yesterday was another good day: 188,000 tonnes were moved.

52 coal trains ran.

*More trains do not seem to be raising  
movements. Perhaps 90,000 tons is the maximum  
that can be loaded at present.*

Law and Order

There were reports of skirmishing in Scotland, South Wales and Yorkshire, though no major disorder.

Eleven striking South Wales miners have been charged with "criminal damage, endangering life" following an incident last November when stones were thrown at an M4 lorry convoy.

NUM/NCB Negotiations

Following an appeal by the union, ACAS are to meet the NUM National Executive on Monday. A reasonable presumption must be that ACAS will again recommend their compromise proposal which the NCB accepted but the NUM rejected. A further presumption must be that the TUC's attempted initiative has probably failed.

Copies of today's exchange of correspondence between the union and the Board are attached. Also attached is a copy of the Board's press release this evening which stresses that the NUM have provided no further grounds to enable discussions to continue because they have publicly and rigidly refused to move from their impossible demand that all uneconomic pits should remain open.

Following further signs of anxiety by the NACODS leadership, the NCB are again publicly reiterating that their agreement with NACODS stands unaffected by the negotiations with the NUM.

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Mr Kinnock

*Attached*

Mr Kinnock acknowledged today that commercial considerations must play a part in determining pits' futures, but said there had to be a "honourable" settlement to the dispute.

*He was quite wrong to claim that he had made the point "firelessly"*

Fire at Scottish Pit

The fire at the Frances colliery is now so severe as to cause serious concern that the pit may be lost.

Line to Take

The Coal Board stand ready for a settlement. But the NUM is still clinging to its impossible demand that all uneconomic pits should remain open. There can be no prospect for negotiations whilst this demand remains on the table. Miners wishing to end the strike should return to work on Monday.

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# Press Release

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## 'NO GROUNDS FOR PRESENT ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS TO CONTINUE'

### NUM Avoid the Central Issue of Uneconomic Capacity

At today's (Friday's) meeting the National Coal Board made this statement:

"The National Coal Board regret that the National Union of Mineworkers have provided no further grounds to enable the present round of discussions to continue, because they have publicly and rigidly refused to move from their impossible demand that all uneconomic pits should remain open.

"The Board remain ready to resume negotiations when the Union make it clear they are prepared to have meaningful talks to accept the procedure to deal with the problem of uneconomic coal mining capacity.

"This is the central issue to resolve in order to reach a negotiated settlement of the NUM's dispute. However, in all the correspondence of the past few days, a procedure to deal with uneconomic capacity has not once been mentioned by the union.

"A way to deal with the problem of uneconomic capacity is the essential issue in view of the many public statements that have been made by the leaders of the NUM.

"The Board made it clear to the Union, at Tuesday's informal talks and in writing, that they required the NUM to put forward proposals to provide a basis for the Board to determine that it was worthwhile to enter negotiations to reach a settlement of the dispute.