

Daily Coal Report - Monday 4 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

By 6.00 pm 2,318 new faces had reported - a new record. 900 of these (including the workforce at Fishburn and Lambton cokeworks) were in the North East. Some 550 were in Yorkshire and nearly 200 were in Scotland.

Area attendances were as follows:-

			<u>Change on</u> <u>last Monday</u>
Scotland	(24 hr attendance)	4,355	+ 293
North East	(24 hr attendance)	6,259	+ 661
Yorkshire	(24 hr attendance)	5,951	+ 658
North Derbyshire	(24 hr attendance)	6,070	+ 170
Western	(morning shift)	6,672	+ 79
South Wales	(morning shift)	364	+ 28
Kent	(morning shift)	156	+ 14

Coal Movements

916,000 tonnes were moved last week.

229 coal trains ran, including 41 on Friday and 2 on Saturday. This was the best weekly total since mid-June.

Law and Order

No reports of major disorder, but skirmishing in a number of areas.

NUM/NCB

This morning the NUM saw ACAS. ACAS are meeting the Coal Board tomorrow to give a report of the union's position. A copy of the ACAS press release is attached.

Scargill described as "concilliatory" the latest letter from the NCB (Spanton's letter of 1 February, circulated with last Friday's report), yet during the course of the day he reiterated his opposition to uneconomic closures.

Parliamentary Debate

The texts of the statements issued respectively by Mr Kinnock and Mr Walker, following the start of this debate, are attached.

Fire at Scottish Pit

The single face at Frances pit has now been lost. The Scottish area NCB director has blamed the closure, with the loss of 500 jobs, on the local strike committee which failed to respond to management appeals for action that could have saved it.

Welsh Coalfaces

Despite this experience South Wales NUM officials today dismissed Coal Board warnings that another six Welsh coalfaces were now at serious risk as "cheap propaganda".

Line to Take

The number of miners reporting back for work today was a new record. There could be no better evidence that ordinary miners are rejecting the political rhetoric of Mr Scargill and his fellow militants. The reality which even Mr Scargill cannot hide is that the NUM have refused to agree an agenda for negotiations

SECRET AND PERSONAL

which ensures that the question of uneconomic pits can be discussed between the two sides. It is in the NUM's own interest to change its position and enter constructive negotiations to settle the dispute.

Distribution: Members of MISC 101, Paymaster General
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TEXT OF ACAS PRESS NOTICE

NUM officials came in today to give the ACAS Chairman and officials a report of the situation as they see it and asked ACAS officials to communicate their views to the NCB with a view to the reopening of negotiations.

Officials of NACODS also came in following their meeting with the NCB to give us a report of the situation as they saw it today.

ACAS is now getting in touch with the NCB with a view to reporting to it on its meeting with the NUM today.

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STATEMENT FROM RT HON PETER WALKER - 4 FEBRUARY

I made quite clear this afternoon that the Coal Board had done everything possible to agree an agenda upon which the main point of this dispute would be the first item. It is a tragedy that the NUM have refused to agree such an agenda and that this morning, on the radio, Mr Scargill again confirmed - in his capacity as President of the NUM - that he was unwilling to agree to the closure of pits on economic grounds.

If Mr Kinnock or the TUC can persuade him to accept an agenda that deals with the issue which Mr Scargill has made the main issue of the dispute and accept the reality of the situation, then this dispute can be quickly ended as it could have been last October, last July and indeed last March before the dispute started.

STATEMENT FROM NEIL KINNOCK - 4 FEBRUARY

The National Coal Board has never directly or indirectly withdrawn the demand which it made on 24 January for a written undertaking from the NUM in advance of negotiations.

If, however, the statement by the Secretary of State to the House of Commons this afternoon indicates a shift towards greater realism on the part of the Government, we would encourage further movement in that direction. Since we believe that there must be negotiations without pre-conditions in order to settle this dispute and have worked towards that end for many months.