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SECRET AND PERSONAL

Prime Minister

524

Daily Coal Report - Friday 22 February 1985

	<u>Number</u>
(i) Working normally	54
(ii) Turning some coal	26
(iii) Some men present	75
(iv) On strike/picketed out	19

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By 4.00 pm 456 new faces had reported - the highest Friday total since November. This compares to just 93 last Friday, and augurs well for the week ahead.

Of the 186,064 NUM members more than 87,500 (47 per cent) are no longer on strike.

Area attendances were as follows:-

			<u>Change on last Friday</u>
Scotland	(24 hr attendance)	5,199	+ 263
North East	(24 hr attendance)	8,510	+ 860
Yorkshire	(24 hr attendance)	7,650	+ 619
North Derbyshire	(24 hr attendance)	6,794	+ 258
Western	(24 hr attendance)	12,111	+ 116
South Wales	(morning shift)	509	+ 96
Kent	(morning shift)	154	- 10

Coal Movements

Yesterday was another excellent day: 205,000 tonnes were moved.

54 coal trains ran.

Today's movements were also encouraging, though final figures

will not be known until early next week - and coal is again moving through the North East ports.

Law and Order

Generally quiet.

NUM

Given the prospect that many miners may be tempted to abandon the strike it is more than likely that Scargill will attempt some new diversion over the weekend. However there are signs that the NUM leadership is in some disarray.

McGahey has talked of the union appealing over the heads of the TUC for support from the trade union movement - and is likely to make this a theme of Sunday's rally in London.

Heathfield claimed that the union had not isolated itself from the TUC and hoped the union could meet the TUC's finance and general purposes committee to explain its position and "move forward".

The NUM leadership may be encouraged by today's decision of the South Wales NUM leaders to endorse yesterday's delegate conference decision and stay on strike. However it is not without significance that at Cynheidre pit (sometimes referred to as the Bilston Glen of Wales), where 155 men were present this morning, NACODS men today returned for the first time.

Line to Take

Over the last year the NUM leadership have ruthlessly exploited the traditional loyalty of NUM members. They have turned down the best offer since nationalisation, rejected the ACAS compromise proposal, and slapped the TUC in the face. They have

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done all in their power to prevent NUM members from exercising their democratic rights. They have caused untold misery for mining communities and for individual miners both striking and working. Given half a chance they would keep the conflict going whatever the price to the industry and the country.

Striking miners have already paid too dearly for their loyalty to such a leadership. They must not be exploited further. They can end the misery decisively by returning to work on Monday to join the 47 per cent of NUM members who have already taken this step.

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