

## Daily Coal Report - Monday 25 February 1985

	<u>Number</u>
(i) Working normally	54
(ii) Turning some coal	26
(iii) Some men present	76
(iv) On strike/picketed out	18

Horden (North East) has moved from category (iv) to (iii).

Today's return to work set a new record of 3,807 new faces - real, but unsurprising, evidence that the strike is slipping away from Scargill. 1200 of the new faces were in the North East, 1,157 in Yorkshire, 552 in South Wales (a most encouraging development), 235 in Scotland, 147 in the Western Area and 113 in North Derbyshire.

Area attendances were as follows:-

			<u>Change on</u> <u>last Monday</u>
Scotland	(24 hr attendance)	5,434	+ 419
North East	(24 hr attendance)	9,330	+ 1,485
Yorkshire	(24 hr attendance)	8,442	+ 1,433
North Derbyshire	(24 hr attendance)	6,511	+ 236
Western	(morning shift)	6,816	+ 58
South Wales	(morning shift)	1,052	+ 584
Kent	(morning shift)	199	+ 30

Coal Movements

It seems likely that the Coal Board achieved a record movement of coal last week. The final figure will be confirmed tomorrow.

58 coal trains ran on Friday - the best since June.



SECRET AND PERSONAL

Law and Order

Generally quiet today.

The majority of those arrested in Sunday's demonstration in London were not miners.

NUM

Today's substantial return seemingly rattled Scargill. He claimed this morning that the figures were disastrous and that 124,000 NUM members remained on strike. (The actual number is 95,000. Over 91,000 - some 49 per cent - are now not on strike).

Scargill suffered a further blow when the Nottinghamshire NUM area council decided by a two to one majority to end the overtime ban with immediate effect.

NUM lodge officials at Cynheidre pit, where more than 300 out of the 1100 workforce are now back at work, today urged South Wales miners' leaders to recall the area conference to discuss an organised return to work. NUM branches at Ledstone ~~Lack~~, Allerton and Sharlston in Yorkshire have tabled motions to their area council seeking a return to work without an agreement. A mass meeting at Easington pit in County Durham today voted by a large majority for the NUM delegate conference to be recalled to discuss an organised national return to work.

This afternoon Scargill was meeting the TUC Finance and General Purposes Committee. At the time of writing no report of the meeting was available.

Mr Kinnock today accused the Government of being "foolish and divisive" in seeking to achieve a return "by attrition". Mr Orme was reportedly intent on contacting both sides to arrange further talks.

SECRET AND PERSONAL



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The NUM has now written directly to the Secretary of State for Energy - copy attached. Like today's meeting with the TUC this seems an attempt to pretend that the negotiating ball is still in play.

Line to Take

Today's return to work has set a new record. 49 per cent of NUM members have now returned. The commonsense of the ordinary miner is defeating the violence and political warfare of the extremists. This welcome return to sanity augurs well for the country, for mining communities and for all who depend on the industry. Scargill's grip is now being broken.

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SECRET AND PERSONAL