

Prime Minister ①

Daily Coal Report - Monday 4 March 1985

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Number

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(i) Working normally	54
(ii) Turning some coal	26
(iii) Some men present	81
(iv) On strike/picketed out	13

A further 1,059 new faces reported today, some 260 of them in Yorkshire, 200 in Scotland and the North East respectively, and 175 in Wales. These figures exceeded the Coal Board's expectations.

Area attendances were as follows:-

			<u>Change on</u> <u>last Monday</u>
Scotland	(24 hr attendance)	6,085	+ 651
North East	(24 hr attendance)	over 10,000	+ 1,000
Yorkshire	(24 hr attendance)	10,828	+ 2,386
North Derbyshire	(24 hr attendance)	6,640	+ 129
Western	(morning shift)	7,013	+ 197
South Wales	(morning shift)	1,739	+ 687
Kent	(morning shift)	237	+ 38

Coal Movements

Again the Coal Board moved just over 1 million tonnes last week.

54 coal trains ran on Friday.

Law and Order

No major disorder, though from various locations there were reports of angry exchanges between those still picketing and

SECRET AND PERSONAL

working miners. There were also angry exchanges outside certain NUM offices between demonstrators and NUM officials.

In the period up to February 26 there were 9,750 arrests of which 7,879 people were subsequently charged. So far 4,112 have been convicted and 1,416 found not guilty. Almost half the charges were for breach of the peace, though 1,015 were people charged with criminal damage and there were 822 cases of violence ranging from assault on the police to grievous bodily harm.

1,391 police officers have been injured during the dispute.

NUM

Although Scargill predictably claimed today that "guerilla warfare" against the Coal Board would continue all the signs are that tomorrow's return to work will take place on a major scale. Although Scotland and Kent areas have voted to remain on strike, Lancashire, Durham and - most significantly - Yorkshire have endorsed yesterday's delegate conference decision for an organised return.

Line to Take

Draw on today's Parliamentary Statement by Secretary of State for Energy - attached.

Distribution: Members of MISC 101, Paymaster General  
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SECRET AND PERSONAL

## THE COAL DISPUTE

With permission, Mr Speaker, I wish to make a statement about recent developments in the coal dispute.

Yesterday, at a delegate conference of the National Union of Mineworkers, a decision was made to end the industrial action which has been conducted by some sections of the NUM over the past year. The conference decided that there should be a return to work tomorrow.

The Government regret that this unjustified dispute, which has taken place without a ballot, has done so much damage to miners, to mining communities and to the coal industry. Without this dispute, the industry would have received £800 million of capital investment during the past year; miners' pay would have been substantially above average industrial earnings; a thousand firms would have been persuaded to convert to coal; export orders would have been obtained; and any miner in a pit facing closure would have been given the opportunity of continuing to work in the industry or of taking advantage of early retirement provisions more generous than those available in any other industry.

The dispute has inflicted heavy damage on the coal industry, and on those companies which supply that industry with plant and machinery.

However, I am pleased to tell the House that during the period of this dispute, industry at large was able to obtain the energy supplies it required. There were no power cuts due to the dispute, and there are still nearly 12 million tonnes of coal stocks at Britain's power stations.

I would like to express the Government's appreciation to all those people whose efforts have ensured that Britain's energy

supplies have continued to be available.

I believe the country would also like to thank the police who, throughout this dispute, have ensured that organised mob picketing did not deprive people of their freedom to go to their place of work. Sadly, during the dispute, 1,391 police officers have been injured.

It is now vital that the coal industry swiftly returns to normal working and recovers from the damage of the past twelve months.

The National Coal Board have stated that obtaining full safety in all pits is their first priority, so that production can be restored.

Both the National Coal Board and the Government hope that the coal industry will now take full advantage of the considerable opportunities available both at home and abroad.