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PRESS ASSOCIATION NEWS AT 2 PM

...UNEMPLOYMENT FELL BY 17,282 IN FEBRUARY TO STAND AT 3,323,676 OR 13.7 PER CENT OF THE WORKFORCE - BUT AFTER SEASONAL ADJUSTMENTS THE UNDERLYING TREND CONTINUED TO RISE.

...SHADOW EMPLOYMENT SECRETARY JOHN PRESCOTT SAID THE JOBLESS FIGURES WOULD 'HAUNT THE CHANCELLOR' AND HE SHOULD PRODUCE 'A BUDGET FOR CREATING JOBS, NOT DESTROYING THEM'.

...NUM EXECUTIVE HAS DECIDED TO CONTINUE THE PIT OVERTIME BAN, TO PRESS FOR AN AMNESTY FOR SACKED MINERS AND TO CARRY ON WITH THE FIGHT TO SAVE PITS.

...LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTER KENNETH BAKER HAS URGED THE GREATER LONDON COUNCIL AND SIX METROPOLITAN COUNCILS 'TO FACE FACTS' AND REALISE THEY ONLY HAD 389 DAYS BEFORE THEY WERE ABOLISHED.

...AUSTRIAN POLICE HAVE BLAMED LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS FOR A SERIES OF ROBBERIES AND VIOLENT INCIDENTS WHICH HAVE OCCURED IN VIENNA SINCE TUESDAY.

...A YOUTH ACCUSED OF MURDERING THREE OF THE NINE RUC OFFICERS KILLED IN A MORTAR ATTACK ON NEWRY POLICE STATION HAS BEEN REFUSED BAIL BY A BELFAST JUDGE.

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Prime Minister ①

Daily Coal Report - Thursday 7 March 1985

Return to Work

Over 96 per cent of NUM men are now not on strike; fewer than 7,000 are still on strike. Detailed round-up attached.

NACODS leaders in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire have agreed to supervise NUM members wishing to work overtime from this weekend.

NUM

Today's meeting of the NUM executive agreed to "continue, intensify and broaden the campaign to save pits and jobs". It also agreed to continue the overtime ban, to press for an amnesty and to continue the dispute until every dismissed member gets his job back.

The union is to hold a pithead ballot on the proposition that members should pay 50p a week into a hardship fund for those sacked during the dispute.

Coal Movements

255,000 tonnes were moved yesterday.

105 coal trains ran.

Law and Order

Still skirmishing in some areas.

Line to Take

As yesterday.

Distribution: Members of MISC 101, Paymaster General
Sir Robert Armstrong, Mr Gregson (Cabinet Office)

Enquiries: Michael Reidy, PS/SOS for Energy, Tel: 211 6070

SCOTLAND

About 2,400 strikers remain at Longannet, Bogside, Castlehill, Solsgirth and Comrie. Some 70 men returned to work at these pits this morning.

All remaining strikers at other pits returned today.

NACODS are now working normally at all pits except Solsgirth, where partial cover is being provided.

NORTH EAST

All pits are now fully manned and there are no reports of any incidents today.

YORKSHIRE

Some 1,300 men are still on strike at Markham, but at a meeting today they voted to return to work on Monday. It is understood they will hold a rally tomorrow.

Around 300 men are still on strike at Manton over the dismissal of a colleague.

NACODS are working normally at all Yorkshire pits except Markham.

NOTTINGHAM

The Midlands area of NACODS today decided to rescind their previous decision and agreed to supervise overtime working.

KENT

There are still around 1,700 men on strike; only 4 new faces reported today.

NACODS are in today at all three pits and have gone underground with NUM men for the first time.

WESTERN

Everything is normal with no reported incidents.

SOUTH WALES

Although the morning shift at Garw struck over working with a blacklisted firm, the afternoon shift worked normally.

All other pits and workshops are now working normally and no strikers are left in the area.

COAL PRODUCTS

All plants normal and no reported incidents.