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Reported by telephone to
Ian McGregor on GTM no.

2524 4014

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NOTE OF POINTS MADE BY WORKING MINERS AT A DINNER AT
SIR WOODROW WYATT'S HOUSE ON SUNDAY 31 MARCH 1985

1. A list of those present is annexed.
2. The situation had become in many ways more difficult since the strike had ended. Since the militant union officers had returned, they had taken over as if nothing had happened. Some managers, out of a desire to conciliate the militants, were failing to protect the working miners. Many distressing letters had been received from working miners. Apathy was already apparent among the rank and file. Smear campaigns were being run against non-striking branch officials which had resulted in Mr. Ellis being voted out as branch secretary in a Staffordshire pit which had worked throughout the strike. There was already evidence that the militants were preparing for another strike.
3. Three members of the Committee - Colin Clark, Tony Morris and Tony Ellis - had met the Chairman of the NCB on Thursday and shown him the letters they had received. They had been reassured by his response. He had told them that he would meet them again in ten days and tell them what action had been taken. All those present spoke highly of their confidence in Mr. MacGregor and paid a special tribute to Mr. Tony Hart. Mr. Clark said that he had been so strongly opposed to meeting the Prime Minister - lest it appeared to go over the head of Mr. MacGregor - that it had almost split the Committee.
4. They said that transfers to other pits for those being victimised were not generally the answer. But if those who had been loyal to the NCB throughout the strike felt that they could no longer take the victimisation, it was owed to them that they should be helped to move and not be financially worse off as a result. The moderate areas should not be swamped by incomers: they wanted jobs for their sons.

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5. The point made by Mr. Ellis was that there were cases where miners should be helped to move house, though remaining at the same pit. It would be helpful if miners could be given houses on mixed estates not entirely composed of the mining community.

6. There were divided views on a suggestion that the moderate rank and file would have more influence if union meetings were held in the employers' time. Mr. Clark was worried that they would think that they were being bought. Others saw that it would not stop the militants from extending the meetings and ensuring that decisions were taken when the allocated time had run out and the rank and file had left.

7. The majority were in favour of transfers which would concentrate moderates in the pits with the best futures and militants elsewhere (this was not wholly consistent with the view recorded earlier that transfers were not the answer).

8. All agreed that the political message which needed to be conveyed was to remind people constantly of the violence and intimidation used during the strike so that it was not forgotten.

9. Mr. Clark was in favour of allowing individuals and groups in other areas which wanted to break away from the NUM, or were expelled, to join the Nottinghamshire area for the purposes of negotiating with the NCB. They said that many groups were considering this, in Warwickshire, North Wales, Lancashire and some in Yorkshire and South Wales. 600 craftsmen and allied workers in the North East were also likely to join the Nottinghamshire union. The NCB would only have to abrogate one agreement with the NUM in order to negotiate with Notts.

10. There was little response to the Prime Minister's suggestion that NUM members should be allowed to undertake open cast mining.

11. The general feeling round the table was that if Mr. Scargill were to stand for re-election now, he would be overwhelmingly elected.

12. It was suggested that Government money should not be given to union schools. Such money was designed to promote responsible trade unionism, but the schools taught militancy.

F.R.B.

2 April 1985

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

28th March 1985

1. 7.30 p.m. There will be a cold help yourself buffet with no staff present so as not to impede conversation.
2. Colin Clark, President of Working Miners (Notts)
John Blessington, Secretary/Treasurer (Notts)
Tony Ellis, Vice President (Yorks)
Tony Morris, Press & Media Officer (Staffs)
Roland Taylor, (N. Derbys)
John Liptrott, (Notts)
Terry Hackett, (Stoke on Trent)
T. Holdman, (S. Wales)
Ewan Thomas, (S. Wales)