

Flying policemen versus flying pickets



Dropping in: One hundred and twenty seven policemen from Hampshire on board a chartered Boeing 737 aircraft before taking off from Hurn airport in Bournemouth yesterday and (right) disembarking at East Midlands airport. They will go on duty today in Nottinghamshire, where heavy picketing is expected by miners.

Chief Constable John Dukes said: "The whole operation is

cost-effective. It means we can get the men there far quicker than by any other means. They will be more fresh and ready for work immediately". Chief Inspector Peter Manns, heading the police contingent, said: "We do not know what our duties will be before we get there. But we will be sleeping in Nissan huts not far from the picket lines". More flying policemen are expected to join the contingent on Monday.

Miners say port picket to continue

From our Correspondent Colchester

A further 38 people were arrested in the miners' picket line in Wivenhoe, north-east Essex, yesterday, bringing the total in the two days to more than 100. The largest picket to date at the port entrance attracted more than 250 miners and students yesterday.

The miners say they intend to keep up the pressure on what they regard as a running sore. Local residents who have been complaining for months about the passage of heavy lorries along the narrow streets are becoming incensed at the stepping up of imported European coal since the start of the miners' strike.

● A total of 41 miners appeared before a special court in south Derbyshire yesterday charged with obstructing the highway. The men, most of whom live in the Sheffield and Chesterfield areas and whose ages range from 18 to 52, were on their way home after picketing the Cadley Hill colliery, near Swadlincote.

They are alleged to have driven between 7.00 and 7.15 am on March 28 at 2 mph on the A38 at Mickleover, near Derby, and to have stopped on the carriageway. Four admitted the offence and had their cases adjourned until May 16 for sentence. They are allowed bail.

The remainder pleaded not guilty and their cases were adjourned to a date to be fixed.

8,000 join biggest pit picket

By Craig Seton

Between 8,000 and 10,000 flying pickets from south Yorkshire descended on Harworth colliery, near Retford in Nottinghamshire yesterday in the largest single mass picket of the miners' dispute. Twenty-one miners were arrested in clashes with the police.

The pickets abandoned their vehicles in south Yorkshire and walked across the border to the colliery, using fields and minor roads to evade police road blocks in a new manoeuvre to put increasing pressure on miners still working in the traditionally moderate Nottinghamshire coalfield.

The National Coal Board estimated that about 8,000 pickets were involved, but Nottinghamshire police said "unprecedented numbers," reaching more than 10,000 had arrived.

Stones were thrown and scuffles broke out but the police said their presence was sufficient to allow the great majority of those miners who wanted to work to get into the pit.

Attendances at Nottinghamshire pits yesterday were reported to be at their usual high level - between 85 and 90 per cent. More than 250 pickets were reported at Wellbeck colliery, another 120 at Thoresby, and a further 100 at Sherwood colliery



Flying policemen versus flying pickets.

From our Correspondent.

The Times (London, England), Thursday, May 03, 1984; pg. 2; Issue 61821. (547 words)

Category: News

© Times Newspapers Limited

Gale Document Number:CS34573987