

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

17th May 1985

*Dear Mike,*

I had a visit in the House of Commons this week from one of the South Yorkshire NUM members who ~~was~~ prominent in organising the "back to work" campaign in South Yorkshire and was himself a working miner. His name is [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]. Barnsley, South Yorkshire. Mr [REDACTED] came to see me with our Yorkshire Area Conservative Agent, Mr Eric Ward.

Mr [REDACTED] raised a couple of points with me. His first was one which applied personally to him. You will see from a photostat of his pay slip which I enclose that he suffered severe financial loss as a result of the terms under which he has been able to resume work in the coal industry. He is particularly hard hit by the loss of any overtime earnings. His difficulties are exacerbated by reason of the fact that he has had to use up all his personal savings on the time he was forced to spend out of work.

More generally, Mr [REDACTED] asked me to make representations on behalf of a number of South Yorkshire miners who returned to work early and who have been moved (to prevent intimidation) to some private houses in the Barnsley area which the NCB maintain for transit purposes, in connection with the problems of subsidence. Mr [REDACTED] tells me that working miners who have been re-located in these NCB houses are having to pay between £27 and £33 per week in rent, exclusive of rates. This comes as quite a severe shock and produces some hardship, when compared to the average rent they would have paid in their earlier places of residence; probably about £20 inclusive of rates.

Is there anything anything that you can do to help both Mr [REDACTED] and those other members about whom he has made representations?

*Yours ever  
Michael*





THE RT. HON. MICHAEL ALISON, M.P.

Ward  
'A'



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Dear Eric,

We have a common acquaintance in the shape of Mr [REDACTED]  
You will know that he is frequently in the news nowadays with  
problems of intimidation affecting working miners now that the  
industry is back at work.

I think it would be a good idea if you and I had a private  
meeting with [REDACTED] to discuss what, if anything, needs  
to be done, particularly in the area of housing flexibility to  
help [REDACTED] and his NUM colleagues who are under pressure.  
The question is whether it would be more advantageous to meet  
in London or in Yorkshire. I wonder if I could trouble you  
to talk to [REDACTED] about this, and then telephone either  
my Constituency Secretary, Miss Anne O'Neill, on Selby 700026,  
or my secretary at Number Ten, Mrs Tessa Gaisman, on 01-930-4433,  
(if the meeting is to be in London) to arrange a meeting.

Yours ever  
Michael

Eric Ward Esq  
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