

NCB

CORDLE

18th June 1985

Mr Sid Cordle
6 Burnside Avenue
Sheffield
S8 9FR

Many thanks for your letter of 9th June. Thank you, too, for the interest you are taking in the needs and cases of working miners, particularly those who are seeking transfers to other pits.

I have myself recently had meetings with Tony Ellis, Ron Catherall and others, and have got a fairly clear idea of the general and individual problems which exist. I am also quite closely in touch with David Hunt, the Minister concerned at the Department of Energy, and with Mike Eaton, the North Yorkshire NCB Area Director. We are looking carefully at individual cases and doing everything we can to help. The help will include as many transfers as practicable to other pits, e.g. in Selby.

If you have the name and address of an individual working miner who is served notice of compulsory redundancy which he does not want to accept, please let me have these details at once.

Michael Allison

YORKSHIRE AREA CONSERVATIVE TRADE UNIONISTS



6, Burnside Ave.,
Sheffield
S8 9FR

9th June 1985

Dear Michael,

I'm writing to ask for your assistance on behalf of the many working miners in Yorkshire whose life is still hell because they dared to defy the strike. Where only 2 or 3 miners defied the strike transfer have been arranged from that pit. Many pits where 40 or 50 defied the strike nothing has been done by the N.C.B.. There are some cases where transfers have been arranged and agreed subject to N.U.M. approval which of course has left the miner concerned hopelessly exposed.

There is a simple solution and its the solution the working miners want, that is to transfer any who want to to the new Selby coalfield. As I'm sure you're aware there is a strong moderate group there, over 50% defied the strike. Transferring working miners there would guarantee moderation and stability in that coalfield for many years to come and isolate the militants like Ken Capstick that are trying to run the show now. It would also mean that working miners could be together and get the support they need from one another to cope with continued violence.

Information I have comes from Tony Ellis who was the Yorkshire representative on the National Working miners Committee and who is from Barnsley. He has been coming to Sheffield C.T.U. meetings and keeping us informed. We have also been given information by Ron Catherall also a member of the National Working Miners Committee and who sits for Yorkshire on the National C.T.U. Committee. I have also been extensively briefed by Les Firth in my capacity as Yorkshire C.T.U. Area Secretary. We had a long chat only yesterday in Sheffield. He is close to resigning because the working miners are turning on him because of the total lack of co-operation from the N.C.B. who are treating them like lepers. There have been many instances where the N.C.B. have virtually told working miners in Yorkshire to ask for redundancy as they wouldn't get a transfer.

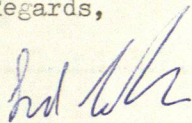
Those concerned are very close to blowing the whole story up in the press again as the only hope of putting pressure on the N.C.B.. So far Les Firth has successfully put pressure on them to be patient arguing that press exposure would make their situation worse, but he is sitting on a cauldron of anger and fear.

Apparently the reason the coal beard are behaving as they are is because they now want to win back the co-operation of the N.U.M. to make sure that there are no further strikes and output is maintained. The way they are behaving, however, is guaranteeing that in Yorkshire no one will have the courage to break a strike again. At one stage they made a promise to Tony Ellis that all working miners would be transferred to Selby within a fortnight, but they then renege on this.

I can only stress that miners have come in large numbers to our C.T.U. meetings, so much so that we organised from Sheffield a delegation which included more than 30 miners to the House of Commons on 22nd March where

they met 13 Yorkshire M.P.s. The response of some like John Osborn was most encouraging, but the response of David Hunt from the Energy D^{pt.} was very poor and made several miners angry. So far nothing has changed. I would please urge you to help out in any way you possibly can as M.P. for Selby and put pressure on the coal board to transfer working miners there.

Regards,



Sid Cordle
Area Secretary.