

Pam Minister

① Whitelaw Meeting

The meeting decided to pursue the option which defers the increased contribution to fees so that in year I people pay £150 and in year II the full £520. This would cost £13 million.

Keith Joseph will find £10 million by slowing down transfer of funds to science and by other economies. To meet the remaining gap of £3 million, George Younger has agreed to look for savings in his programmes. He will report back this afternoon.

If this falls into place:

(a) Keith Joseph will say at questions this afternoon that he appreciates the strength of feelings and will consider what can be done.

(b) at the Backbenchers' meeting he will go further by offering an oral statement tomorrow.

(c) you will probably NOT need a meeting when you return this evening.

/P.T.O.

② Coal Strike

Peter Walker has had a phone call from Norman Willis. The TUC will have an internal meeting on this evening and meet the NUM on Tuesday. Willis clearly has no idea what to do. He said that one outcome might be for the TUC to seek a meeting with PW. Would he agree? PW said that he was always willing to meet the TUC publicly or privately. Willis asked about the basis for a meeting. Could not the NCB agree to keep the famous five pits open to make good the shortfall? Could there not be a return to work on the basis of readiness to discuss a new plan for coal?

PW said that the NCB had already promised to take the 5 pits to the review procedure. There was no point in talking about a new plan for coal without movement by the NUM on uneconomic pits. Otherwise Scargill would simply block all future closures pending talks. Willis will reflect.

③ BT shares at 94.7p. £ at ~~1.20/24~~ 1.2024. CDP.