

/ 64

Daily Coal Report - Wednesday 16 January 1985

	<u>Number</u>
(i) Working normally	47
(ii) Turning some coal	24
(iii) Some men present	75
(iv) On strike/picketed out	28

8 men reported at Bedwas in South Wales this morning so this pit has now moved into the "some men present" category.

368 new faces reported today. This compares with 305 last Wednesday. This week's total so far is now 2,317 new faces, and the 1985 figure is 5,394.

Western area had an average attendance of 81 per cent in the last 24 hour period, a record since the dispute started.

			<u>Change on yesterday</u>
Scotland	(24 hr attendance)	3,320	+ 63
North East	(24 hr attendance)	4,667	+ 100
Yorkshire	(24 hr attendance)	4,081	+ 40
North Derbyshire	(24 hr attendance)	6,084	+ 126
Western	(24 hr attendance)	11,419	+ 430
South Wales	(morning shift)	234	+ 20

Coal Movements

Just under 180,000 tonnes were moved yesterday. This is a small reduction on last week.

34 coal trains ran.

SECRET AND PERSONAL

The rail unions are still meeting to consider their threatened strike tomorrow. Although at most patchy support is expected, train movements tomorrow may well be chaotic. - see attached report

Law and Order

Although incidents of intimidation and vandalism continue, no serious trouble has been reported.

800 pickets gathered at Killoch colliery in Scotland yesterday lunchtime; 12 were arrested and two policemen injured.

Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation

As foreshadowed in yesterday's report, Messrs Scargill, MacGahey and Heathfield attended this meeting today. Afterwards they explained that they had only discussed welfare issues, but added that the NUM was always available for talks.

High Court Reinstatement of Henry Richardson

Mr Henry Richardson, who was suspended as Nottinghamshire's NUM general secretary on Saturday, has now won a High Court injunction to reinstate him, but see attached report on subsequent developments.

Line to Take

More and more miners are recognising the futility of continuing Scargill's strike. Over 5,000 have already resumed work this year.

Distribution: Members of MISC 101, Paymaster General
Sir Robert Armstrong, Mr Gregson (Cabinet Office)

Enquiries: John Neilson, SOS/for Energy's office (01-211 6070)

SECRET AND PERSONAL

NI3678 3 XXX 240

RAIL STRIKE CHAOS THREATENED

TOMORROW'S TRAIN STRIKE IS TO GO AHEAD IN THE FACE OF BRITISH RAIL WARNINGS THAT IT MAY SUE THE TWO RAIL UNIONS FOR DAMAGES.

SHORTLY AFTER BR ISSUED A THREAT TO CONSIDER USING GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION TO CLAIM COMPENSATION FOR LOST BUSINESS, UNION LEADERS ANNOUNCED THAT THE STRIKE WAS ON.

BR DENIED ITS MOVE WAS PROVOCATIVE IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE UNIONS, WHO HAD BEEN WIDELY EXPECTED TO CALL OFF THE THREATENED ACTION, WERE STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF A MEETING.

THE STRIKE, BY 5,000 MIDLANDS RAILMEN, IN PROTEST AGAINST 'VICTIMISATION AND HARASSMENT' OVER THEIR SUPPORT ACTION FOR THE MINERS, WILL HIT INTER CITY AND LOCAL SERVICES ON THE EASTERN AND LONDON MIDLAND LINES.

RAIL UNION LEADERS SAID LATER THAT BR'S THREAT OF LEGAL ACTION COULD PROVOKE FURTHER, UNOFFICIAL STRIKES TOMORROW AT LONDON MAINLINE TERMINI.

ASLEF GENERAL SECRETARY RAY BUCKTON SAID 'IT IS GOING TO PROVOKE STRONG FEELING AND MAKE IT WORSE'.

NUR'S JIMMY KNAPP DESCRIBED THE THREAT TO SUE AS THE 'HEIGHT OF FOLLY, PROVOCATIVE AND DISCOURTEOUS'.

BRITISH RAIL'S SURPRISE STATEMENT THAT 'THE BOARD WOULD BE COLLECTING EVIDENCE OF LOSS OF BUSINESS ON JANUARY 17 TO ASSESS WHETHER TO CLAIM COMPENSATION FROM THE UNIONS' IF THE STRIKE WENT AHEAD CAME AS UNION LEADERS HAD BEEN MEETING FOR MORE THAN TWO HOURS.

IT EXPRESSED 'SERIOUS CONCERN' THAT THE STRIKE HAD NOT BEEN CALLED OFF.

--

161914 JAN 85

NI 77 4 XXX 147

MINERS' SECRETARY TO CARRY ON:

BY DOUGLAS BROOM, PA HIGH COURT REPORTER.

SUSPENDED NOTTINGHAM MINERS' SECRETARY HENRY RICHARDSON TONIGHT FAILED TO WIN AN EXTENSION OF A HIGH COURT INJUNCTION WHICH TEMPORARILY GAVE HIM HIS JOB BACK.

AT THE END OF A THREE-HOUR PRIVATE HEARING AT THE LAW COURTS IN LONDON, MR JUSTICE WOOLF REFUSED TO RENEW THE INJUNCTION HE HAD GRANTED IN PRIVATE YESTERDAY.

BUT HE ACCEPTED AN UNDERTAKING FROM THE AREA COUNCIL THAT MR RICHARDSON, ALTHOUGH REMAINING SUSPENDED AS GENERAL SECRETARY, COULD CONTINUE TO USE HIS OFFICE AT THE UNION'S MANSFIELD HEADQUARTERS AND ACT AS AREA AGENT.

MR RICHARDSON, WHO WAS SUSPENDED ON SATURDAY BY THE AREA COUNCIL, SAID: "I REGARD MYSELF STILL AS THE GENERAL SECRETARY."

HE SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE TO ACT AS GENERAL SECRETARY, WORKING FROM HOME, REGARDLESS OF THE AREA COUNCIL'S RULING.

--

161856 JAN 85