

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

COAL

This meeting is to be attended by Mr. Walker, the Chancellor, Mr. Younger, Mr. Hurd and Mr. Tebbit.

Two other points.

Paragraph 6 of Brian Unwin's brief refers to further questions about lessons of the miners' strike. There were two others which you agreed to leave over until other Ministers had commented on the Cabinet Office report. These were:

- the report refers to the problems caused by multi-issue ballots and questions NACODS' of September 1984, but argues that this has been the only such case. But why should it not be done again deliberately and action be taken to stop it?
- It says that the Widdicombe inquiry is expected to report in late spring 1986 on matters relevant to local authorities' scope for providing financial assistance to strikers and their families. Should the Government anyway be looking towards legislation on this early in the 1986/87 session?

The Ministers concerned with these questions will not be at the meeting. If the occasion arises you could mention them, to be taken up by the Cabinet Office. Otherwise I shall minute them out.

Secondly, Department of Energy and Treasury have been wrangling about the terms of the redundant mineworkers payment scheme next year. Department of Energy intend to announce tomorrow afternoon that it will be extended, but without giving details. This is something they need to sort out between them, at least initially.

*Julie Bowers*

PP DAVID NORGROVE

17 December 1985

VC3AJB

CONFIDENTIAL