

SECRET AND PERSONAL

Daily Coal Report - Friday 28 September 1984

| | <u>Number</u> | <u>plus on holiday</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| (i) Working normally | 44 | 1 |
| (ii) Turning some coal | 9 | - |
| (iii) Some men present | 21 | - |
| (iv) On strike/picketed out | 99 | - |

Negligible change since yesterday's report in the numbers reporting for work. Attendances in all the major working areas remain good.

Coal Movements

Another good day yesterday. 178,000 tonnes were moved.

43 coal trains ran.

Law and Order

There were serious disturbances this morning at Silverwood in Yorkshire. 20 police officers were ambushed by 500 pickets, and then attacked. 8 policemen were hurt and 2 police vans were overturned. Ambulances coming to fetch the injured were stoned. Later the number of pickets increased to around 3,500. In associated incidents the local police station was stoned.

In North Derbyshire, an NCB van carrying working miners to Whitwell pit was attacked and damaged.

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Court Hearings

Mr Justice Nicholls today gave rulings in two High Court cases involving the dispute.

In an action brought by three North Derbyshire miners he declared the strike to be unlawful and instructed the area NUM not to use the new disciplinary code. The ruling had been delayed until the judge had heard preliminaries in a case involving two Yorkshire miners. The North Derbyshire men had already been granted interim injunctions guaranteeing that no disciplinary action would be taken against them.

An interim judgement was given in the Yorkshire case because the judge yesterday agreed to allow the NUM to present a defence even though technically out of time. The full case will probably be heard next month, at which time the case for instructing the union to hold a national ballot will be argued. The interim order requires the union (Yorkshire area) to hold elections for branch officials, and to hold regular branch meetings. It also instructs them not to use the new disciplinary code.

Scargill reportedly said later that the High Court judgement was the latest in "a series of judicial moves against Britain's working class".

Labour Party Conference

The Conference will debate the coal dispute on Monday.

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Industrial Relations

The pit supervisors union, NACODS, has voted 82.5% in favour of taking strike action. The vote was 11,658 for striking and 2,470 against. Following a meeting of the NACODS Executive this afternoon the General Secretary issued a statement saying that the officers were taking all the necessary steps to give effect to the ballot decision.

However, he also said that before deciding on the timing of the strike NACODS wish to talk to ACAS and the Coal Board. The union is contacting the General Secretary of the TUC and ACAS and is to see the Coal Board next week. Issues to be discussed include the case for a new colliery review procedure.

This statement appears to be designed to build up maximum pressure on the NCB before next week's talks. Those talks might be advanced from Tuesday to Monday

ACAS have announced that they propose to explore in more detail the position of the Board and the NUM. A copy of the announcement is attached. The continuation of these exploratory processes does not represent a major new attempt at conciliation, which would clearly be fruitless so long as the NUM executive maintains its intransigent position.

The power workers unions have failed to reach a joint decision on the NUM's request for supporting action. The CEEGB remain confident about the support of the two major electrical unions. It is encouraging that, so far at any rate, the more militant unions have not announced unilateral action beyond the exhortation to their members of earlier this week.

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Line to Take

- As before, stress key elements of Coal Board offer.
 - generous pay offer
 - guarantee of no compulsory redundancies
 - continuing major investment in the industry

- Condemn violence and intimidation. The ambush of the police at Silverwood is a shocking example of the depths to which the militants have sunk. The country admires those miners who, despite the intimidation, are continuing to work and are seeking to pursue their democratic rights.

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ACAS STATEMENT

Since the latest round of discussions between the NCB and the NUM ended on 14 September, ACAS officials have continued to keep in touch with both sides.

ACAS now intends to explore the position in more detail with each of the parties separately and in confidence. Both the NCB and the NUM have today indicated their readiness to meet ACAS officials when requested to do so.

The purpose of this ACAS initiative is to try and establish whether any basis can be found which would hold out the prospect of progress if joint meetings were later arranged.