

Rune Minister

RT 5/10

Daily Coal Report - Friday 5 October 1984

	<u>Number</u>	<u>plus on holiday</u>
(i) Working normally	45	-
(ii) Turning some coal	9	-
(iii) Some men present	23	-
(iv) On strike/picketed out	97	-

Little change since yesterday:-

- good attendances in the main working areas.
- NACODS men are working normally.
- a record 320 reported for work in Scotland, including 187 at Bilston Glen.
- a record 65 in Yorkshire.

However:

- Wearmouth pit in the North East - where 16 men reported - is at risk because of serious flooding.
- a working miner has been killed by a fall of coal at Wolstanton pit, North Staffordshire. Some 50/60% of the workforce have been reporting for duty and the Coal Board are playing down any direct link with the dispute.

Coal Movements

The provisional estimate is that 870,000 tonnes have been moved this week.

44 coal trains ran yesterday

Law and Order

The most serious incidents today were in Yorkshire. At least 7 policemen and 3 pickets were injured. At Kiveton Park 4,000 pickets threw missiles and caused other damage. At Rossington an ambulance was attacked and a car overturned and set on fire in its path. A police horse box was fired on by pickets using a nail gun.

Industrial Relations

At the time of writing the Coal Board have agreed with NACODS to hold further discussions on Sunday morning. The Board have explained that they are legally precluded from delegating management responsibility to an independent tribunal. The talks on Sunday will probably focus on an alternative possibility of some form of advisory body the views of which the Board might take into account in reaching management decisions.

High Court Proceedings

A second contempt action is reportedly being pursued against Mr Scargill by working miners. Both actions are based on alleged breaches of the injunctions granted to Messrs Foulstone and Taylor last Friday.

Line to Take

- As before, stress key elements of Coal Board offer. Significant that those miners who have been able to vote, have voted overwhelmingly to work.
- Condemn violence and intimidation. The stoning of ambulances and use of nail guns shows what sort of people the militants really are.
- The country admires those working miners who are seeking to pursue their democratic rights.

SECRET AND PERSONAL

[See also the letter which the Secretary of State for Energy has today written to the Bishop of Durham. Copy attached].

Distribution: Members of MISC 101, Mr Gregson (Cabinet Office)

Enquiries: Michael Reidy, PS/SOS for Energy, Tel: 211 7214

SECRET AND PERSONAL