

SECRET AND PERSONAL

Daily Coal Report - Wednesday 21 November 1984

	<u>Number</u>	<u>plus on holiday</u>
(i) Working normally	45	-
(ii) Turning some coal	14	-
(iii) Some men present	69	-
(iv) On strike/picketed out	46	-

As at 5.00 pm a further 824 striking miners had returned (compared to 971 last Wednesday). This brings the weekly total to 4,070 and the total since 5 November to 11,285.

In Scotland there were 130 new faces on the morning shift. 755 men reported at Bilston Glen, 160 at Monkton Hall, 98 at Killoch, 63 at Polkemmet. There were men present at 5 other Scottish pits.

In the North East of England there were 207 new faces bringing the total for the week to about 1100. There are now almost 2,000 men working in the area out of a total complement of around 20,000. Attendance again strengthened at the main pits: at Ellington there were 420, Whittle 373, Wearmouth 226, Vane Tempest 117. Men were in at a further 9 pits.

In Yorkshire there were over 100 new faces and a total morning shift of 1894 (down slightly because some men at Shireoaks had been transferred to the afternoon shift for the first time).

In North Derby there were 169 new faces. Attendance at Shirebrook has now risen to 814, Markham 505, Warsop 453, Bolsover 323.

Attendances strengthened marginally in other areas. Attendances in the main working areas (especially Nottingham) were good.

Coal Movements

187,000 tonnes were moved yesterday.

31 coal trains ran.

Law and Order

There were organised and concerted attacks on police and working miners in many parts of Yorkshire and the North East. In one incident a section of railway line was dropped onto a police landrover.

At Blackhall, Co Durham, a petrol bomb exploded in front of a bus carrying working miners. There were no injuries.

Between March 13 and November 16 1,162 have been injured in the dispute.

High Court

It was confirmed today that the NUM have reshuffled the trustees responsible for union funds, substituting Scargill and McGahey for two of the existing three members. This means that the legal action being taken by 16 working miners against the NUM's trustees will now proceed against Scargill, McGahey and Heathfield.

The Ellington NUM official, Jack Cunningham, who was suspended from his union post after returning to work on Monday is reportedly to take legal action against the union.

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Church Leaders meet the NUM

The text of the statement issued by the Church Leaders following today's meeting is attached.

Line to Take

Miners are continuing to vote with their feet. More than 11,000 have now returned to join those of their colleagues who balloted to stay at work. Why is Mr Scargill so afraid to test the grass roots feelings of all miners in a national ballot?

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

Enquiries: Michael Reidy, PS/SOS for Energy, Tel: 211 6070

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STATEMENT READ OUT BY THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK

(21 Nov '84)

Acting in response to a request from the National Union of Mineworkers, a small delegation from the NUM met at Bishop's House, which is my home as Archbishop of York.

We met this morning at about 10.30 am and the meeting lasted about 2 hours. The meeting was convened by myself in consultation with the Archbishop of Canterbury and we invited other church leaders.

Those present at the meeting were myself, the Bishop of Lincoln, the Rt Rev Brian Phipps, Archbishop Tony (?) Warlock, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, and the Rev Brian Thoroughgood, General Secretary of the United Reform Church.

The NUM were represented by their president, Arthur Scargill, their secretary, Peter Heathfield, and the president's personal assistant and secretary.

Our conversation was off the record. We talked in general terms about the dispute and its sad and damaging effects on the community as a whole. Our main concern as churchmen must obviously be a pastoral one as we contemplate the deep divisions and hardship in our society.

Our intention in arranging the meeting was to listen to the representatives of the NUM in order to understand their case.

Let me make it quite clear that we were not negotiating. We have been asked to listen; that is what we did and our reaction comes from having heard only one side of the dispute.

We agreed beforehand that we were free to talk about the general gist of our discussions. So what I am able to say now is necessarily phrased in very general terms.

As we heard about it the dispute centres about the extent to which the document Plan for Coal provides a satisfactory framework for present policies in the industry. We were told at great length about the two phrases on which current interpretation of that document were made.

One of these phrases is acceptable to the NCB but not the NUM, and ^{the} other is acceptable to the NUM but not the NCB.

The verbal difference is very small, but there is a profound difference of view which lies behind their use.

We were also told about a 3rd possible phrase which had been offered to the two parties, and which we understand has not yet been discussed directly between them. It seemed to us that it might offer a way forward and eventually lead on to a further review of the Plan for Coal

But there are grave difficulties and ^{we} were disturbed by the apparent reluctance to discuss the principles on which the Plan for Coal should be implemented.

We were also concerned to explore the NUM attitude to the conduct of the dispute, and we understand that the union does not accept the validity of the TUC guides (sic) on the conduct of disputes.

We believe that to abide by these guidelines, with an equivalent response by the police, would be the best way of reducing violence.

Above all, we want to express again our pastoral concern and the need for all parties to keep in touch with one another so that when the dispute is over the process of healing can begin.

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